



November 3, 2015

Sherry L. Poland  
Director, Hamilton County Board of Elections  
824 Broadway Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

RE: Electronic Poll Book Problems

Dear Director Poland:

We are aware through news reports and contact with Hamilton County voters that there have been some issues with the implementation of electronic poll books in some polling locations throughout the county. Given the importance of ensuring that every voter is able to cast her ballot, we hope that you will address the following problems immediately:

- **Registered voters are not appearing in the electronic poll books.** If a person is a duly registered voter and is not appearing in the electronic poll books, election officials should have paper versions of the poll books to cross reference. At the very least, no voter should leave the polling location without casting a provisional ballot.
- **Provisional ballots are not available in some polling locations.** Some voters who were not found in the electronic poll books report being told by election officials that they did not have provisional ballots on hand. This is unacceptable, and there must be provisional ballots available at every polling location and poll workers should be familiar with all procedures involving provisional ballots.
- **Long wait times have forced some voters to leave the polling place.** As a result of the delays with the electronic poll books, many voters have reported waiting in excess of an hour at their polling location. This has caused some voters to leave and many to report they will be unable to return before 7:30 p.m. today. The right to vote is fundamental, and these voters have effectively been disenfranchised because of technical errors. We urge the Hamilton County Board of Elections to consider extending voting hours to provide an opportunity to working voters who attempted to cast their ballot earlier today.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience by email or by phone at (216)472-2220.

Sincerely,

Mike Brickner  
Senior Policy Director

cc: Jon Husted, Ohio Secretary of State

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