# STATEMENT BY KEN TIMMERMAN, FORMER REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR U.S. CONGRESS (MD -8), PROPOSING CHANGES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTION PROCEDURES

## --EMBARGOED UNTIL 2:30 PM EASTERN, MAY 20, 2013--

Where: Montgomery County Board of Elections, Gaithersburg, MD
When: Monday, May 20, 2013, 2:30 PM

I thank the Board for allowing me to address you on an important issue of election integrity.

Following reports from Montgomery County and Carroll County on irregularities at the polls on November 6, I conducted an independent investigation in an attempt to see if these reports indicated a systematic problem, or were just anecdotal.

I was assisted by two attorneys who specialize in election issues; several software engineers, and numerous volunteers. Carroll County Commissioner Richard Rothschild and Frederick County delegate Kathy Afzali came to some of the meetings I conducted with your staff and their colleagues in Carroll County.

My investigation included pulling the voter identification cards on one machine that was the subject of multiple incident reports, and calling voters to see if we could duplicate the results on the machine tapes.

We could not.

I believe that those results, which I am happy to share, indicate that <u>a much broader investigation is required.</u>

We uncovered systematic problems with the Diebold Touchscreen voting systems and their software. We found that they are vulnerable to a variety of attacks, from the introduction of malicious code hidden from the checksum, to manipulation of the vote tabulation process.

Investigations by a wide variety of organizations – including the Secretary of State for Texas, Princeton University, and the Argonne National Lab – also have found inherent vulnerabilities in the Diebold systems that have not been remediated.

I would commend to you and to the State Board the October 2011 study by the Argonne National Laboratory's "Vulnerability Assessment Team." http://www.ne.anl.gov/capabilities/vat/pdfs/SuggestionsforBetterElectionSecurity.pdf

Simply put, the software in these systems is not secure, and cannot be secured. Without a paper trail audit, voting on these machines amounts to casting your ballot down a black hole. There is no way an individual voter can ensure that their vote gets counted as they cast it.

Until new voting machines are in place or the state adopts universal Voter ID, as many other states have done, I would like to suggest a few common sense reforms you can take at the County level to enhance voter confidence in the security of our elections.

**1) Timely deployment of voting machines**

- Require that the machines be delivered to precincts no earlier than 24 hours before the start of voting, and that they be placed in a locked storage facility ideally equipped with video surveillance. From your staff, I learned that Montgomery County delivers the machines as much as 1 week ahead of time, where you have no control over who can access them. This is an invitation to mischief. Most other counties deliver them the day before the election, as do most states.

**2) Require positive ID by ALL voters at the polling place; anyone unable to positively identify themselves should be required to vote provisional**

Too many voters came to the polls last year without knowing their name or their address. Some "remembered" when prompted by sympathetic poll-workers. Others actually pulled papers out of their pockets with "their" name and address, or consulted their cellphones to retrieve the information. <u>Since this is already against the law, I am asking you to guarantee better enforcement by election judges.</u>

All voters want to have confidence that their vote gets counted exactly as they cast it. And I am sure that you do, too. These are simple steps I urge you to take before the 2014 election to reassure all of us that our votes count and will be counted accurately.

Thank-you.

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