Written Testimony Submitted to the State Government Committee March 22, 2019

Commissioner Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr.

Vice Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

Senator Folmer, Senator Williams, and members of the State Government Committee, I thank you for holding this hearing and allowing discussion on this important issue. I write as the Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, member of the non-partisan Blue Ribbon Commission on Pennsylvania's Election Security, and former Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

In December, my fellow commissioners and I approved a $5.8 million contract with Dominion Voting Systems to purchase a new voter-marked paper balloting system. In Montgomery County, we fortunately had a head start in purchasing a new system. We have allocated funds to allow for this significant expenditure in our budget for a number of years. We knew it would be critical to replace our previous system, which was purchased by the county in 1996 and was nearing the end of its useful life. The new system will have a verifiable paper trail which can be audited to ensure votes are being counted accurately. We are working hard to implement this new voting system for the primary election in May and have developed an extensive public outreach campaign to raise awareness of the new machines and to educate voters on how to use them before Election Day.

The purchase of a new voting system was something that our constituents were vocal about, and we wanted to ensure that they were able to get involved in the process of selecting a new voting system. In February 2018, Montgomery County held a Voting Machine Open House where over 300 residents were given an opportunity to view, test and provide feedback on voting systems and machines from a variety of vendors.

The county's Request for Proposals for a new voting system was announced in March 2018. The RFP was accessed by 14 vendors, and three responses were received in June 2018. The three vendors were evaluated by a review committee who participated in interviews and demonstrations of each system. Each member of the committee completed evaluation forms and their responses were combined to create a Voting System Analysis document used to compare what each system offered. One respondent was eliminated from consideration because their system would not be certified in time for the 2019 primary election, which was a priority for us. The remaining two respondents, ES&S and Dominion Voting, were asked to provide additional technical detail in order for the committee to make complete comparisons.

At the conclusion of this process, the review committee selected Dominion Voting Systems. Dominion received the highest marks because of the ease of use, accessibility for voters with disabilities, the variety of options in developing ballots and maintaining machines, the ability for the county to easily obtain replacement parts, ballot printing options, training protocols, and compatibility with existing county technology.

The new system will allow voters to use a pen to fill out a paper ballot. They will then have an opportunity to check it for accuracy before putting the ballot into a scanner that will tabulate the votes and keep the ballots in a secure container for audits or recounts. Each of the 426 polling locations in Montgomery County will also have an accessible voting device that can be used to fill out their ballot. When the voter is done filling out the ballot with the touch screen or other ADA components, the touchscreen machine will print out a paper ballot that the voter can verify before submitting it into the scanner. The ballot will go into the same secure container as the rest of the ballots.

The county took the additional step of making this year's poll worker training mandatory for all poll workers and judges of elections. The trainings will be held at several different times and locations throughout the county to ensure that our poll workers are familiar with the new system well before the primary election.

We are also implementing a public outreach campaign to ensure that our voters are familiar with the new voting system. We will be holding an open house on April 6 where members of the public will be able to try out the new voter-marked paper ballot system at various "mock" election polling stations and become familiar with how it will work. We will also have opportunities for voters to view the new system in their own communities at our annual Conversations with Commissioners Town Hall series which will be held at four locations throughout our county this spring. We are also circulating outreach materials to all of our county program offices, libraries, senior centers, municipalities, and legislative offices. These videos and printed materials will also be available at www.montcopa.org/votingsystem.

We have carefully planned each step to ensure the safety and accuracy of our upcoming primary election for our resident of Montgomery County, and to make sure that every voter's voice is heard on Election Day.