

SCOTT LEIENDECKER

U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Hearing on Election Security Preparations: Vendor Perspective

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and members of the Committee, thank you for today's opportunity to be with you today. I'm grateful for your willingness to engage and take into consideration the vendor perspective. I'm truly honored to be part of this discussion and hope that my testimony will be constructive and helpful.

It seems concerns about election security over the past 14 months has hit an all-time high. I cannot talk about what outsiders or so called hackers are trying to do to disrupt our most sacred process. What I can speak with you about today are the initiatives companies like mine are doing to prevent, detect and defend against any such attacks so we can effectively preserve the security and integrity of American elections.

The Congress and Presidents in both parties have recognized the need more efficient and accessible elections. President Bush signed the bipartisan Help American Vote Act in 2002 to help improve voter access and voting systems. In his 2013 State of the Union Address, President Obama highlighted a 102-year-old North Miami woman who had to wait six hours to vote. Unacceptable.

I served at the St. Louis Board of Elections for six years. At that time, I saw how emerging technologies could help make the voting process easier for everyone. Unfortunately, few products were available to election officials like me and the products that were available were seemingly outmoded as soon as we brought them online.

When I founded my business, I wanted to leverage technology to make our election process better for voters, election officials and taxpayers. To start, I wanted to create a solution to the outmoded, outdated paper poll books that have often been responsible for long lines at the polls, especially during peak voting hours.

The technology we use in our signature product, the Poll Pad, is an iPad-based system that eliminates paper poll books and the A through K lines, allowing voters to check in to their polling place in just a few short steps, reducing wait times and keeping voting lines moving more swiftly. After an election, our technology allows election officials to easily catalog the information from election day instead of the old way of transferring information from paper books to electronic systems. These efficiencies are better for election workers and taxpayers.

Like the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice and others in the federal government that use iPads in special use cases, we selected the iPad platform because of the security baked into these devices within the IOS

operating system. We harden the iPads by following strict guidelines to help set them up in a secure manner. We use security features like two-factor authentication and a secure hosting environment using encryption algorithms approved by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This prevents sensitive data from not only being exposed where it shouldn't but also prevents it being manipulated by third parties. In short, we rely on security experts and the latest technologies to create a strong security infrastructure for our products.

In order to continue innovating and providing stronger security initiatives, we hope the federal government will consider us a partner.

We hope today's hearing is just the beginning of a new conversation this committee and the federal government will have with election vendors. Together with local election officials we are on the front lines on election day and throughout the elections process. We want to offer this committee and others in the federal government our assistance to help shape public policy to ensure the integrity of our most sacred process.

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