

# Registrar refuses to follow law

There was a time, not long ago, when everybody voted on paper ballots and election officials followed



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the law and complied with state election codes that dictated how elections were held. That time has passed with the magic of electronic voting that lets election officials play by rules

that they make up as they go along.

If we can't believe Registrar of Voters Barbara Dunmore, then how can we possibly trust the election results coming from that office? How does the Riverside County Board of Supervisors justify the continued employment of a devious election official who chronically contradicts herself? This is not Oz and Dunmore is not the wizard, though she seems to have a lot of people fooled.

On its face, it is obvious that election codes 19370-19371 and 19380-19386 were written to afford the public the ability to compare individual precinct results with official election results. What other possible reason is there to require posting end-of-day results at each precinct?

Does the intent of the registrar now supersede the intent of the law? If elections are removed from the watchful eye of the public and we must take the word of a county official who is beholden to private voting machine vendors, then this democracy is finished.

This January, Dunmore got the Board of Supervisors to purchase \$15 million worth of voting machines with printers that she knew did not fully comply with state election law. One year earlier, she had written the secretary of state urging that office

not to certify the printers because they failed to ensure voter privacy and are impractical when it comes to manually counting the paper record for audits and recounts.

She never mentioned these shortcomings when she misrepresented to the board that the Sequoia Edge II machines with printers were the only machines certified for use in California. In fact, they were not certified at the time of purchase, although a machine from another manufacturer was.

During a hearing before the supervisors, Dunmore admitted ignorance of the other qualified voting equipment and unfamiliarity with recently passed election law. She had to be directed to include performance language into the contract to proceed with buying uncertified equipment that has since received certification. Heck of a job.

Dunmore told the board that she would look into posting precinct results, but was insincere and never followed through. Predictably, she decrees that all data will come from the main tallying center and be made available on the Internet. She refuses to post or have poll workers verbally report end-of-day precinct reports as provided for by law. The election codes be damned, nobody will independently verify or compare precinct results with county totals while Dunmore rules Oz.

Now that the voting machines have printers, the registrar has a list of idiotic reasons why she will not comply and post end-of-day precinct results: They could blow away; the posts will attract strangers around polling places and merely using the print function contained within the touch-screen voting units could compromise voter anonymity.

None of these excuses justify flouting the law. Dunmore's job is to run elections within the confines of established election law. Failing that, and for buying machines that don't meet legal requirements, she should be fired.

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