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ANALYSIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S 2018 ELECTION SHOWS CONTINUED VOTING TECHNOLOGY DEFICIENCIES

An analysis of South Carolina's voting technology shows continued software deficiencies in the Election Systems and Security (ES&S) technology used in the state.

Dr. Duncan Buell has been analyzing South Carolina election data since 2010 on behalf of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina and more generally the citizens of South Carolina. His analysis of the 6 November 2018 General Election is now available in a report on-line at www.lwvsc.org.

The study shows continued software deficiencies in the Election Systems and Security (ES&S) voting systems used in the state, leading to significant errors that can damage election integrity and voter confidence.

The problems that have been detected with the voting computers are the responsibility of the manufacturer, not the SC State Elections Commission, which has upgraded the computers as instructed by the manufacturer.

The voting computers used in South Carolina have miscounted the vote in recent elections. Although the manufacturer has recently upgraded the software, Buell found that several hundred votes were miscounted in the 12 June First Primary and the November 2018 General Elections.

These discoveries highlight the problem of using computers for elections when there is no backup capability and insufficient enforcement of computer-related technical standards.

The League supports the use of a modern system of hand-marked paper ballots, which count and recount the vote reliably. Buell says that this report documents the need for a more secure, more efficient, and more cost effective solution for South Carolina when the General Assembly funds a new system for 2020.

Lynn Teague and Duncan Buell are available to provide further information on the report and League recommendations for the future. They can be reached at the above cell numbers and email addresses.