

I called Susan Bysiewicz's office requesting a formal statement about why she chose optical vs touch-screen. My call was forwarded to the states lawyer Ted Bromley. He said that UConn in conjunction with Kennesaw State in GA. felt that voting results could be manipulated after the votes were placed. I told him that I used the touch screen in GA. He said that GA is getting rid of that in favor of optical scanning.

I called GA and spoke with Anne Hicks, Assistant Director of Elections Division, 404-656-2871. She told me that this was news to her. GA only uses optical scanning for absentee ballots. She explained that once the memory card has been removed from voting units they are then taken to a central count location. They are secured in transport. At the central count location each memory card is uploaded to obtain results with the utmost in security in place.

I have spoken with information technology experts who attest to the accuracy and efficiency of the touch screen. Also our military uses digital encryption cards to access and deliver information. This technology is commonplace in our airports. The debate revolves around data input. Once the data has been entered either via a touch screen or paper ballot the information is converted to electronic format thus both methods are exposed to the same mischief and manipulations. The real question is what form of data entry is most secure? Touch screen ballots can use the same form of security as used in airport kiosks thus preventing unauthorized voting. Paper ballots on the other hand offer only the security of the voting place personnel. With paper ballots there is nothing to stop dishonest polling workers from filling out and scanning additional unauthorized ballots. With touch screen voting each voters identity would be verified electronically prior to casting his ballot.

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