

Laurie Nicholson
Director of Elections, Chief Registrar
Public Service Building
22 E. Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401



Dear Fayette County Voter:

After careful review, we have selected a new voting system for our voters. Beginning with the Primary Election in May 2006, the Hart Voting System will replace our lever voting machines. If you are an absentee voter, you will vote on a paper ballot. If you vote in person, you will vote on a state-of-the-art voting system on which millions of votes have been cast accurately and securely.

The purchase of this new system is necessary to comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) signed into law by the President on October 29, 2002. This law requires voting systems to be accessible so that all voters can cast a vote privately and independently, including those who are blind or who have mobility impairments. It also requires second-chance voting, giving voters a chance to review and change a vote or correct a ballot where an incorrect mark may have been made. Through HAVA, the federal government has appropriated funds to assist with the purchase of new systems. Federal funds will pay for approximately \$1.1 million of the approximate \$1.25 million cost.

I want to take this opportunity to share some information with you and provide simple instructions on using the new system as detailed on the enclosed flier.

Our system is secure. From the generation of the ballot to the tabulation of votes, security measures are in place to ensure no unauthorized individual has access to the system. Neither the vote tabulation program nor any other component of the Hart Voting System is ever connected to the Internet or a network.

Our system is accurate. The Hart Voting System's eSlate uses a state-of-the-art optical encoder, called the SELECT wheel to navigate through the ballot. This technology provides 100% positional accuracy at all times.

Our system is durable. Because the eSlate component is not a touch screen, it is extremely durable, withstanding most harm from rough treatment and extreme temperatures thus eliminating costly repairs.

Our system is easy to use. Whether voting on an absentee paper ballot or on the eSlate, the system is easy to use. You simply use a blue or black pen to completely fill the box next to your choice on the paper ballot or turn the SELECT wheel to highlight your choice on the eSlate and then mark that choice by pressing the large ENTER button.

Visit www.fayettevotes.org to learn more about the system or obtain other election information. If you have questions about the new system or would like to find out more about becoming a poll worker, please call the Election Bureau at 724-430-1289.

Sincerely,

Laurie Nicholson
Director of Elections, Chief Registrar