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One Hundred Eighteenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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December 13, 2023

Northampton County Board of Elections
669 Washington Street
Easton, PA 18042-7475

Board Members:

As Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections,¹ I write today to express my deep concern over reports that voting machines in Northampton County appeared to reflect inaccurately the judicial candidate selections made by voters in the recent election.² For voters to have confidence in our elections, they must have reason to believe that their vote will be recorded accurately and counted according to law. Unfortunately, reports like this threaten voters' confidence in the system.³

Despite a state requirement that all voting equipment used in Northampton County be tested and certified complaint with prevailing standards for operation and accuracy,⁴ voters themselves discovered that their printed voting record was different from what was displayed on equipment's touchscreen. As we approach a federal primary and general election next year, voters need the confidence that this error will not repeat itself should the same machines be used.

Please detail what steps your office has taken to:

- (i) investigate this voting machine error;
- (ii) release your findings to the public;
- (iii) ensure this voting machine malfunction does not repeat itself during next year's federal elections;
and
- (iv) restore trust with Pennsylvania voters that their ballot will be counted accurately and according to law.

¹ Rules of the United States House of Representatives, Rule X(k)(12),

<https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>.

² Michael Rubinkam, *Pennsylvania county promises accurate tally after clerical error appears to flip votes for judges*, ABC News (Nov. 7, 2023), <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/voting-machines-pennsylvania-county-flip-votes-judges-error-104700241>.

³ See 2022 Midterms Look Back Series: Government Voter Suppression in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania: Hearing Before the Committee on House Administration, 118th Cong. (2023). <https://cha.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/2022-midterms-look-back-seriesgovernment-voter-suppression-luzerne>; see also Letter from Bryan Steil, Chairman, Comm. on House Admin., to Al Schmidt, Acting Sec'y, Pa. (May. 1, 2023) (on file with the Comm. on House Admin.).

⁴ Pennsylvania Voting Systems, Department of State Voting & Election Information (last visited Nov. 20, 2023), <https://www.vote.pa.gov/About-Elections/Pages/New-Voting-Systems.aspx>. See also Attachment E to the Directive for Electronic Voting Systems, PA Voting System Security Standard, Pennsylvania Department of State, <https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Documents/Voting%20Systems/Directives/Conduct%20Directive%20Att%20E%20-%20PA%20Voting%20System%20Security%20Standard%20v06122018.pdf>.

The Hon. Al Schmidt
Dec. 13, 2023
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Please send your response and any questions you may have by January 3, 2024, to Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Steil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized "B".

Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration

cc: The Hon. Al Schmidt, Secretary of the Commonwealth

BGS/bf