

**Statement from Marilyn Marks, Executive Director of Coalition for Good Governance, regarding Judge Totenberg's ruling today, Thursday, August 15, 2019**

Coalition Plaintiffs (Coalition for Good Governance and associated four individual voter plaintiffs) are very pleased that the voters of Georgia will see an end to the unconstitutional touchscreen DRE voting system plaguing their elections for 17 years. Accountable elections with paper ballots will soon come to Georgia, although the specific path requires further work. Just as important as the required transition to auditable paper ballots is the Court's order that Georgia's inaccurate electronic pollbooks must be corrected to stop the disenfranchisement of eligible voters, and that paper pollbook backups be available for elections beginning in 2020.

Importantly, the Court recognized Plaintiffs concerns about the State's plan to move to another form of electronic voting---electronic ballot marking devices ("BMDs"). Coalition Plaintiffs will promptly file a legal challenge to the State's decision to adopt this new touchscreen electronic voting system that is just as insecure and un-auditable as the current system. It is essential that Georgia voters' rights to accountable elections be honored with hand marked paper ballots, counted by optical scanners, with thoroughly audited results. Georgia still has a long way to go to achieve this basic democratic principle. However this thorough and detailed Court ruling lights the way, and the State should take the Court's admonitions very seriously.

**Marilyn Marks, Executive Director Coalition for Good Governance**