

Andrea Gyger

From: Mark Beaty [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2015 11:04 AM
To: SoS Rulemaking
Subject: Internet/email voting

Hello,

In response to draft proposed Rule 16.2.1 (c), I object to any ambiguous wording in the rule that would permit a voter to use email voting except in truly hardship circumstances where postal mail ballot return or telephone facsimile return is not available. These hardship cases should be extremely limited to special circumstances and situations in which the voter (for example, a member of the military operating overseas) cannot expect a paper ballot to be received by the clerk within 8 days after election day if the voter returns his ballot by postal mail on the day he receives it, and there is no telephone facsimile return available.

As a Computer and Software Engineer, i am greatly concerned about the trend towards Internet and email voting. Of the two, email is, in my opinion, and based on my knowledge, the least secure. Yes, encryption can be applied, but reliable email encryption is not available to or used by the general population. Internet and email voting are very prone to sophisticated hacking techniques, and would compromise our already fragile election processes, as well as open up serious privacy concerns for voters. Election integrity is vital to maintain. Technology is not to the point where we can depend on it to enhance the integrity of our voting systems. Mass implementation, beyond very limited special circumstances, of Internet and/or email voting, will only lessen it.

Sincerely,

Mark Beaty, [REDACTED]