Commissioner candidates' positions about new voting systems, as of May 2019 (responding to League of Women Voters-Bucks County voter guide question)

Robert G. Loughery: Prior to the end of 2019, the county will purchase and secure new voting machines and related equipment that will meet the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's mandate to provide a paper record that meet the highest standards of security, auditability and accessibility. With currently 5 systems certified by the PA Department of State, the county will host public meetings and invite public comment throughout the summer of 2019 reviewing selected certified systems. Based on public input and discussion, as well as the assessment of my fellow Commissioner colleagues and the Board of Elections, we will make a choice between equipment that either uses paper ballots or prints a paper record so voters can verify their vote. This selection will be in place by the fall of 2019, allowing the Board to officially select and acquire new equipment prior to the end of 2019 and prepare for the 2020 Primary election.

Diane Ellis-Marseglia: The State of Pennsylvania recently completed their review and certification of potential voting systems. The federal and state requirement is for systems to have a back-up that allows for an audit and a recount, if necessary. Worthy system will need to have a paper trail and not rely on electronic or web-based voting systems. Now that the state has approved these systems, and they are on their bid list, I am ready to approve a contract. I am supportive of a voting system where people make choices on a paper ballot which is inserted into a scanning machine. The scanner will read and tally the selections BUT the paper copy will be kept as a back up to verify votes or perform recounts. I am fully prepared to move ahead on this important purchase.

Robert Harvie (Democratic commissioner candidate): I have never been impressed with the current voting machine we have been using since the aftermath of the 2000 election. In addition to the lack of a verifiable paper ballot, I know from my experience as a committee person that the location of the green "Vote" button leads to uncounted votes every election from people who don't push the "Vote" button. I believe the County should already have evaluated available systems and machines which use hand-marked paper ballots, in anticipation of the State certification. We also should, by now, have developed contingency plans for how to purchase the machines once we know what level of funding the state and federal governments are providing. There is nothing as important as guaranteeing the integrity of our election process.

Gene DiGirolamo (Republican commissioner candidate): I strongly am in favor of machines that will provide voter verifiable paper records to ensure our election and votes are secure. Since this is a mandate, I believe that all possible state and federal funding be secured to help pay for them.