

August 13, 2018

The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman
Legislative Oversight Committee
South Carolina House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: July 30, 2018 request for voting system security update

Dear Representative Newton:

The South Carolina State Election Commission (SEC) continues to take all reasonable measures to protect the State's election infrastructure. The constantly evolving nature of the current threat environment demands proactive and robust security measures. To meet these demands, the SEC continues to harden this State's election security posture through enhanced security measures and controls, vulnerability assessments and risk mitigation, incident response planning, and information sharing. The SEC receives support and additional resources in these areas through strategic partnerships with federal, state, and private organizations including the Department of Homeland Security, the South Carolina Department of Administration, the State Law Enforcement Division, and private cybersecurity consultants.

As for your specific concerns regarding recent media reports, remote-access software is not installed or loaded on any election management system computer in the state. Just earlier this year, the election management systems in each county were replaced with new computers and election management software, all of which were purchased and configured by the SEC. These systems are free of any remote-access software, and the statewide voting system vendor and county boards of voter registration and elections are not authorized to load any software on these systems. We are likewise not aware of any instance in which remote-access software has ever been used in this state. The South Carolina National Guard did not find remote-access software on election management systems when it conducted its security assessment on the State's election infrastructure in 2016.

To further protect the statewide voting system, secure end points have been installed to transfer election definitions and results. The SEC configured or hardened these workstations with limited software applications and to prevent the installation of additional software, thereby reducing the vulnerabilities associated with the use of such workstations.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions concerning the security of the State's election infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Marci Andino

/mba

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