

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW
SECTION OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW
SECTION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LAW**

**ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
August 2010**

RECOMMENDATION

1 RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports State and Federal initiatives
2 to modernize and improve voter registration practices, databases, and networks.

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports State and Federal
4 legislative and administrative efforts to achieve ongoing improvements to the statewide
5 voter registration systems, including databases, network connections, and related
6 operational practices that include the following elements:

- 7 • Delegation to a federal agency with expertise in technical standards the duty to
8 specify minimum, uniform technical, security – including defense-in-depth, and
9 privacy standards and reporting for statewide voter registration systems,
10 including the certification of database software, provided that a State may exceed
11 such minimum standards.
- 12 • Periodic independent technical and security assessments of all Statewide voter
13 registration systems conducted by highly qualified technical auditors and
14 researchers who are not employees of the administrative entity supervising the
15 State's voter registration system, and who report a summary of their findings
16 publicly without providing information that could compromise the security of the
17 system.

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That an independent technical and security assessment of a
19 diverse sampling of statewide voter registration databases should be conducted under
20 the auspices of a federal technical standards-setting or research entity as soon as
21 feasible. Such evaluation should focus on security – including defense-in-depth,
22 reliability, accuracy, privacy, usability, auditability and mechanisms for updating or
23 synchronizing with other government databases.