To the San Francisco Voting Systems Task Force:

I understand that Barbara Simons, Ph.D. has suggested a revision to your June 1 draft report in the section on page 25 that addresses remote digital voting (2.2.3.2). I strongly urge you to incorporate the changes she has recommended.

For those unfamiliar with her background, here are just a few of Dr. Simons' many credentials. As a recognized expert on electronic voting, she currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. In 2003, she participated in a Security Peer Review Group convened by the US Department of Defense to evaluate its Internet voting project (known as "SERVE") and co-authored the report that led the DoD to cancel SERVE because of security concerns.

Dr. Simons earned her Ph.D. in computer science from UC Berkeley and worked for many years as a researcher for IBM where she became the Senior Technology Advisor for IBM Global Services. From 1998 to 2000, she was President of the ACM, the oldest and largest educational and scientific society for computing professionals.

Given Dr. Simons' considerable experience and expertise in the issues surrounding electronic voting, and Internet voting in particular, I urge the Task Force to consider very seriously her assessment of the dangers inherent in the electronic return of voted ballots, and to revise its report to reflect these concerns. As a citizen concerned about the integrity of our elections, I firmly believe that these dangers should not be ignored.

Thank you.

Meg Holmberg
Member and former co-chair
Voting Rights Task Force