Bucks to use old machines for voting in May primary

Despite a federal law requiring counties to replace their outdated voting machines, Bucks County will roll out its fleet of lever machines for the May 16 primary.

David Sanko, the county's chief operating officer, announced yesterday that no electronic machines would be used for casting ballots in the primary. Paper provisional ballots will be offered to handicapped voters in an attempt to comply with the 2002 Help America Vote Act.

The commissioners voted last month to spend $5 million on 744 electronic machines made by Washington-based Danaher Corp., but the county was unable to secure enough of them for delivery by the primary. At risk is about $985,000 of a $3.1 million federal grant.

Sanko said U.S. Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (R., Pa.) is still trying to push legislation that would grant a waiver from the deadline to counties that have shown a good-faith effort to replace the machines.

Dana Reddington

© 2006 Philadelphia Inquirer and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved.
http://www.philly.com