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Letters to the Editor
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To the editor,

In opposing SB 370 on your opinion page, Secretary McPherson makes the absurd argument that counting voter-verified records is unfair to voters with disabilities. Instead, he would allow the following procedure for conducting California's mandatory manual count of 1% of the precincts: county election officials could IGNORE voter-verified records, and, instead, print and count a SECOND COPY of each vote from the unverifiable electronic records. Vetoing SB 370 would do nothing to help voters with disabilities, but it would effectively gut our paper trail law and the 1% manual count, which was intended to double-check electronic votes.

Secretary McPherson suggests that "parallel monitoring" of voting machines is a substitute for counting voter-verified records. Parallel monitoring is a good procedure, but I know of several ways to commit electronic vote fraud that it cannot detect. That's why we still have requirements for voter-verified paper records and a 1% manual count.

David L. Dill
Professor of Computer Science, Stanford University