To fix our election process, here is

*The Magic Phrase*

“Voter-verified paper record of every ballot cast”

*Here’s why it’s so important…*

- **To ensure voter confidence.** Voters must have confidence their vote was accurately recorded. Losers must trust the results, even when elections are very close.

- **To ensure there is a reliable audit trail** back to every ballot cast – no reliable digital system exists – it must be done with paper.

- **To comply with HAVA** (the Help America Vote Act of 2002). This is federal law with which we do not currently comply. It requires a paper audit trail.

- **To stop fraud and corruption,** whether intentional or not. Software can be hacked and corrupted from insiders and outsiders. A paper audit trail is the most reliable safeguard.

- **Scientists and activists agree.** Nationwide, this is the standard being demanded and adopted. All major vendors now offer paper record electronic voting machines.

- **Because we can:** Our vendor, ES&S, has completed work on their prototype to retro-fit our machines. They will source their components and have price and availability for our consideration shortly.

- **The money must be found.** We spent $25 million on the machines. We spent $8-10 million on the November 2002 election alone (because the September primary went so badly) Upgrading all 7,200 of our machines will cost only a fraction of either of those. We must complete the job.
Here’s how we get it done together:

- **Advocate for the more than half of Miami-Dade County that we in the Miami-Dade League of Cities represent.** They’re depending on us.

- **Pass similar resolutions to South Miami’s** and send them to each County Commissioner and the County Manager. Do it right away so the message arrives as you...

- **Lobby for Commissioner Morales’ September 9th resolution** requiring county compliance with HAVA. Let’s lean on our friends on the BCC to get this done. Don’t forget to smile.

- **Demand the upgrades be in place for the November 2004 general election process.** You know how it goes without a time frame.

- **Support the MDERC petition** as a message from your city to the county that you want a sound election process. It addresses fixes for several other significant elections deficiencies.

- **Tell your constituents** that you’re fighting for them. The next vote they cast might be for you. Let’s make sure it’s counted accurately.

**Contact info:**

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City of South Miami  
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