Honorable Members of the Luzerne County Council:

Please vote against getting the ballot scanner.

This is an agenda item for this evening's (August 29, 2022) special meeting of the Luzerne County Council.

Ask yourselves why this scanner is being pushed by the newly appointed assistant head of the election bureau. Does this have anything to do with the Pa Department of State changing the voter registration form on August 19, 2022 to include a request for a mail in ballot on the same form used to register to vote?

Why was there no vote by the Board of elections regarding this purchase?

Why is such an expensive item ($491,000) not being bid, in violation of laws to the contrary? There are machines available at one tenth of the cost.

Why have such machines cost less in Texas? Why less for Lancaster and Lehigh Counties in Pennsylvania?

There is no grant money as yet guaranteed for the purchase of a ballot scanner.

Will this be like the Dominion Machines where only a portion was given to the County by the Governor and the rest had to be financed?

What are the problems with this scanner? I understand that it has a history of shredding ballots.

Is Pa Act 88 (signed into law on July 21, 2022) which wants mail in ballots to be counted by Midnight on election day, the excuse used for rushing this purchase? Wouldn't the use of temporary workers be less expensive? In the past Luzerne County had no problems with getting the results in a timely manner.

Most importantly, Like Dominion, Runbeck uses "PROPRIETARY" software, which means that our elected officials would have no way of independently checking whether an election had been manipulated or not. They would be compelled to trust the company.

No election process should ever involve proprietary software. It takes away the trust of the electorate; it could be used to destroy the integrity of elections.

Also it is my understanding that these machines have the capability of "ballot replication software." Like fractional vote tallies and broadcasting results out of the County before they are tabulated, this has no place in free elections.

Please vote against using these machines to count votes in Luzerne County.

There are too many problems and potential problems with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Polidora M.D.

Drums, Pa