PROBLEM:

"You don’t need a Ph.D. in computer science to understand the basic problem with computerized voting [touch-screen machines or DREs]. Computer systems are so complex that no one really knows what goes on inside them. We don’t know how to find all the errors in a computer system; . . . and we don’t know how to ensure that the systems in use are running the software they are supposed to be running. “The basic problem of e-voting [touch-screen machines or DREs] can be understood without an in-depth knowledge of computer technology. Here is a helpful analogy: Suppose voters dictated their votes, privately and anonymously, to human scribes, and that the voters were prevented from inspecting the work of the scribes. Obviously, the scribes could accidentally or intentionally mis-record the votes with no consequences. Few would accept such a system, on simple commonsense grounds. . . .”*

*David L. Dill, Professor of Computer Science, Stanford University
Testimony before Senate Committee on Rules & Administration, 6/21/05
Hearing on Voter Verification in the Federal Election Process

SOLUTION:

Hand-Marked Paper Ballots counted by
In-Precinct Optical Scanner with access for disabled voters through
Ballot-Marking Device
(See illustrations below.)

STEP 1. (Sample) Hand-Marked Paper Ballot
On Election Day ballots are marked in the privacy of booths, carried to the optical scanner by the voter inside a privacy sleeve. ALL ballots are exactly the same for all voters – in-precinct, absentee, military, disabled, provisional.

STEP 2. (Sample) Precinct-based Optical Scanner
Scans the marked ballot to count the votes. Gives voter feedback. Completed ballot drops into locked box at base. The ballot marked by the voter is safely stored & available for possible recounts.

ALTERATE STEP 1 (Sample) Ballot Marking Device (for disabled accessibility)
Disabled voter places paper ballot into the marking device. The visually impaired rely on a recorded reading of the ballot (note earphones) or use magnification whereas quadriplegics may vote using a “sip & puff” method. Operating buttons are also marked in Braille. Ballot is taken in a privacy sleeve to the scanner to be counted.