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Voting Machine Maker Could Be Suspended for Five Years
 MicroVote calls proposed punishment for missed certification in 2006 too harsh
 By Eric Berman
 4/4/2008

A judge has thrown out a voting-machine company's appeal of a 360-thousand-dollar fine imposed by the secretary of state. The Marion Circuit Court says MicroVote missed a filing deadline to challenge a fine for selling uncertified equipment. The Indianapolis company didn't get its machines recertified until a week before the 2006 primary.

"We just can't tolerate vendors that have this lackadaisical attitude toward proper certification and say, 'Well, nothing bad really happened, so there's no reason to go after us like this,'" says Deputy Secretary of State Matt Tusing. "We simply enforce the laws that are currently in place."

MicroVote attorney John R. Price argues the decertification wasn't MicroVote's fault. In 2005, Congress required all voting-machine manufacturers to be recertified.

An administrative law judge recommended last week that MicroVote be banned from selling machines in Indiana for five years. The Indiana Election Commission must decide whether to follow that recommendation, which Price warns would put the company out of business.

MicroVote supplies voting machines to 49 of Indiana's 92 counties.

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