

# Interim Joint Committee on State Government

## OVERVIEW OF ELECTION SECURITY

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# Security Improvements Under Sec. Adams

- Photo ID to Vote
- Cleaned-Up Voter Rolls – Over 125,000 dead voters removed
- Absentee Ballot Tracking
- Enhanced Signature Verification
- Ban on Ballot Harvesting
- Move to Paper Ballots
- Video Surveillance of Voting Machines (when not in use)
- Expanded Audit Process

# Do Kentucky's Voting Machines Connect to the Internet?

- **No Kentucky voting equipment is ever connected to the Internet.** Votes are tabulated by the County Board of Elections using a calculator. No Kentucky voting machine contains a modem -- it is not allowed by Kentucky law or certification rules. (Also, why would we do that?)
- By law, the County Board of Elections is the Sheriff (or Sheriff's designee if Sheriff is on the ballot), the County Clerk, and one Democrat and one Republican appointed by the State Board of Elections with input from the County's Democratic and Republican Parties. Thus there are checks and balances – just like on the State Board of Elections.

# Official vs. Unofficial Results

- **Only official results are used to certify winners of elections.** This process take several weeks.
- As a convenience for the public, **unofficial** results are provided on election night. These are not uploaded by the machines, but uploaded manually by the County Clerks. Again, **these results are not used to judge who won and lost.**



# Is Hand-Counting the Most Secure Way to Count Ballots?

- **No, hand-counting ballots would result in fraud and would delay the results by weeks.** In 1940, Kentucky voters amended our state constitution to allow for voting machines to be used after experiencing fraud from hand-counting. Returning to hand-count would lead to **more** fraud, and weeks would be needed to count millions of ballots.

# Are Kentucky's Voting Machines Tested for Accuracy?

- County Boards of Elections appoint an Accuracy Board to test every voting machine used in an election. The Accuracy Board certifies that the voting machines work as intended and accurately report votes cast. [31 KAR 2:020](#)
- The County Clerk, County Board of Elections and Precinct Election Officers maintain additional safeguards by documenting the chain of custody of machines. This includes verifying serial numbers of machines, verifying seals placed on the machines, checking counter numbers of the machines at the beginning of an election, and checking counter numbers of the machines at the end of the election. Further, the public are invited to a public examination of the machines. [KRS 117.165](#).

# Does Kentucky Use Paper Ballots?

- **Yes**, in 2022, the General Assembly mandated all counties must update their election equipment to allow for use of voter-verified paper ballots by 2024. Using federal funds procured by the Secretary of State, and an additional \$25 million you appropriated in the 2022 session, **counties have updated nearly all of their voting machines to accommodate paper ballots**. Having a voter-verified paper trail allows jurisdictions to perform audits and ensures that every ballot is counted as cast.



# Expanded Audit Process

- **Because of legislation you passed, Kentucky will have risk-limiting audits after every election.**
- “Risk-limiting audit” means comparing a hand-count of paper ballots against the machine’s count. This is a good idea, but must be done randomly and apolitically, like the Attorney General’s existing audit process.
- Selective, self-serving use of the recount process by one fringe of one political party, and only in elections that they lost, does not serve the goal of the audit process, which is an objective, non-political review of the election process.



# What are the Barcodes on the Ballots Used For?

- **The bar scans on ballots are not connected to the voter.** The bar codes on ballots ensure that the scanners recognize the ballot style and contests to be tabulated. The grids on a paper ballot ensure the ballots are entered into the scanner correctly and allow for confirmation of the voter's intent by lining up their selections. Each of these processes goes through Logic and Accuracy testing by the County Board of Elections or 2 persons appointed by the County Board of Elections to ensure the voter's intent is captured.

# Can Kentucky's Voting Machines be Easily Tampered with?

- **No,** voting systems used in the Commonwealth of Kentucky are designed to protect against tampering, including during system storage, transport and voting. Each machine uses physical and system access controls, including lockable doors, tamper-evident seals and access codes.

# What Safeguards are in Place to Protect the Integrity of the Ballot?

- County Clerks are required to maintain a record of the number of ballots issued to each precinct and must create a ballot accountability statement. An accounting of the total number of ballots used, unused and spoiled on election day is required and attested to by the Precinct Election Officers. [31 KAR 2:010](#)
- County Boards of Elections and Precinct Election Officers are required to provide attested forms for the following:
  - Certification Official County and Record of Election Totals – [KRS 118.425](#). This is faxed to the Secretary of State's Office and signed by all members of the County Board of Elections.
  - Precinct Election Sheriff's Post-Election Report – Provided to the Grand Jury and the County Clerk.

# Continued . . . What Safeguards are in Place to Protect the Integrity of the Ballot?

- All Voter Assistance Forms are provided to the Grand Jury.
- All Oath of Voter forms are provided to the Commonwealth's Attorney.
- List of voters issued absentee ballots is sent to the State Board of Elections. [KRS 117.086](#).
- Absentee Ballots Grand Totals Report is sent to the State Board of Elections.
- Number of Rejected Absentee Ballots & Reasons for Rejected Ballots is sent to the State Board of Elections.
- County Board of Election Post-Election Report is sent to the Grand Jury and the State Board of Elections.

# Are Kentucky Voting Machines Certified?

- Yes, election equipment is certified by the [Election Assistance Commission](#) (EAC) and then the [State Board of Elections](#) certifies equipment from the list approved by the EAC. Currently, the State Board of Elections has only certified the following election vendors to sell their equipment: ES&S, Hart Intercivic and Microvote. **Election equipment is purchased by the legislative body of each county**, not by Mark Zuckerberg. [KRS 117.105](#). The EAC and SBE are agencies that contain members from the Democratic and Republican Parties.
- Certification is important because it ensures that all voting systems used in Kentucky meet rigorous standards set for accuracy, security, reliability and accessibility. In fact, voting systems tested by the EAC require that systems be able to tabulate 1.5 million votes without error.



# Who is the Best Source for Questions on Elections?

- **Election officials, not YouTube celebrities, are the best source for accurate and up-to-date information about our elections.** Any questions or concerns about the integrity of Kentucky elections should be directed to County Clerks, the State Board of Elections, or the Secretary of State.



# Questions? Concerns?

## Contact us

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