



STANDARDS for SECURE, TRANSPARENT, IMPARTIAL, and VERIFIED ELECTIONS

How does _____'s election system measure up?

Standards Criteria	_____ 's System	
	Yes	No
1. Secretary of State elected by the people rather than appointed by Governor		
2. County Clerks elected by the people rather than appointed		
3. Conscientious election officials with strong sense of ethics and integrity		
4. Unionized election workers who can't be fired for partisan reasons		
5. Election system protects against voter suppression and disenfranchisement (Vote-by-Mail)		
6. Extended voting period encourages higher voter participation		
7. Paper ballots hand-marked by the voters		
8. Original marked paper ballots are the legal ballots of record		
9. Secure chain of custody of all completed paper ballots after drop-off		
10. Signatures on all paper ballot envelopes checked & forensically matched to voter registration signature before ballot is processed		
11. "Voter intent" governs with questionable marked votes		
12. Computer ballot definition files (BDFs) created by in-house county IT staff rather than being out-sourced (requires adequate budget and staff)		
13. Logic-and-accuracy certification test administered by County Clerks to ensure scanners and tabulators read the BDFs and count ballots accurately		
14. Paper ballots read by optical scanners and tabulated using transparent, non-proprietary software (i.e., transparent vote-tallying)		
15. Certification tests done on scanners and tabulators to ensure faulty or malicious code does not exist in scanner and tabulator software		
16. Strict security control measures to restrict access by private vendors to scanners, tabulators, and ballot definition / election computer files		
17. Verification of machine-tallied results by a hand-counted random sample of paper ballots at the state or county level, before election is certified		
18. Grace period after election for voters to resolve certain ballot problems		
19. Public observation permitted at all stages of election process		

WHAT THE PEOPLE NEED TO DEMAND IN PUBLIC ELECTIONS

Current Situation:

1. National, state, and county certification tests for electronic election systems only confirm the abilities of the electronic counters to count.
2. The certification tests do not check for faulty or malicious software code that can change the compiled, machine-tallied election results. Therefore, the compiled results cannot be checked for accuracy without a hand-counting of a sample of the paper ballots.
3. While public elections should be the most transparent of all government activities, electronic election system vendors consider their software to be proprietary trade secrets and have strongly resisted any attempts to publically disclose and discuss their designs. The result is secret vote-counting of our elections.
4. Computer software at every stage in the election process could contain undetected malicious or inaccurate code.

Therefore:

1. Election results at the highest level, the state or county level, must be tested for a trustable outcome.
2. Under a scientifically designed verification procedure, the original paper ballots would be randomly sampled at the state or county level, as appropriate for the particular election, hand-counted, and the results compared to the machine-tallied results before an election is certified.
3. The machine-tallied results at the state or county level must be corrected to match hand-counted results before final certification of the election results.



For additional information, see:

1. The Brennan Center for Justice (NYU School of Law) report, "The Machinery of Democracy: Protecting Elections in an Electronic World," (June 2006):
[Summary:](http://www.brennancenter.org/programs/downloads/Executive%20Summary.pdf) <www.brennancenter.org/programs/downloads/Executive%20Summary.pdf>
[Full report:](http://www.brennancenter.org/programs/downloads/SecurityFull7-3Reduced.pdf) <www.brennancenter.org/programs/downloads/SecurityFull7-3Reduced.pdf>
2. The GAO report, "Federal Efforts to Improve Security and Reliability of Electronic Voting Systems Are Underway, But Key Activities Need to be Completed," (Sept. 2005):
[Summary:](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2005/102105Q.shtml) <www.truthout.org/docs_2005/102105Q.shtml>
[Full report:](http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov/Documents/20051021122225-53143.pdf) <www.democrats.reform.house.gov/Documents/20051021122225-53143.pdf>
3. Congressman John Conyers' report, "What Went Wrong in Ohio – Status Report of the House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff," (Jan. 5, 2005):
[Summary:](http://www.truthout.org/docs_05/010605Y.shtml) <www.truthout.org/docs_05/010605Y.shtml>
[Full report:](http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/ohiostatusrept1505.pdf) <www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/ohiostatusrept1505.pdf>

It's not the voting that's democracy, it's the counting. ~Tom Stoppard, 1972