

Request to the Legislature for an Appropriation for Voting Technology

“Computerized voting equipment is inherently subject to programming error, equipment malfunction, and malicious tampering.” - Verified Voting



It is critical that there be a **voter verified paper ballot** to recount or audit. We urge the NJ Legislature pass an Appropriations bill to fund the purchase of **precinct-based optical scan voting technology**, which would effectively implement the existing laws requiring a voter verified paper audit trail and an audit.

- NJ is one of just five remaining states (along with Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, and Delaware) that still uses paperless electronic voting machines (DREs), even though they have been judged to be insecure and unreliable.
- In 2005 the Legislature passed the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail Act that requires a voter verified paper ballot to be the ballot of record. However, implementation of the law was postponed until Federal or State monies become available.
- In 2009 the Legislature passed a law requiring a random audit of election results. Since this can only be done effectively with paper ballots, this too has not been implemented.
- The DRE voting machines are at least 20 years old and are no longer made. Sequoia, the manufacturer of most of the DREs in NJ, no longer exists as it merged with Dominion.
- Replacement of DREs with precinct base optical scan machines would ultimately save NJ money as fewer machines are needed, they are smaller to store, and easier to transport.
- The integrity of the vote has become an important public issue, following the 2016 election. Numerous studies have documented the failures and weaknesses of DREs, and Princeton Professor Andrew Appel demonstrated in NJ Superior Court the ease of hacking a DRE to flip election results without detection.
- In 2013 the results of a local election in Cumberland County were reversed in a repeat election when it was shown that the machines had flipped the votes due to human error.

Therefore, we request the Legislature to pass an **Appropriations bill** that will fund the mandate for voter verified paper ballots and election audits.

