



NASS Summer Conference

August 2025



ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS



VOTERS

About the EAC



Independent, bipartisan Commission established by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).



Develops guidance to meet HAVA requirements.



Adopts voluntary voting system guidelines, certifies voting systems and accredits testing laboratories.



Serves as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration.



Audits the use of HAVA funds.



Maintains the National Mail Voter Registration Form.






On July 7, 2025, the EAC certified the nation's first 2.0 system, marking a new milestone for election technologies in our nation's history!



Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0



United States Election Assistance Commission
Certificate of Conformance



Hart Verity Vanguard 1.0

The voting system identified on this certificate has been evaluated at an accredited voting system testing laboratory for conformance to the *Voluntary Voting System Guidelines Version 2.0 (VMSG 2.0)*. Components evaluated for this certification are detailed in the attached Scope of Certification document. This certificate applies only to the specific version and release of the product in its evaluated configuration. The evaluation has been verified by the EAC in accordance with the provisions of the *EAC Voting System Testing and Certification Program Manual* and the conclusions of the testing laboratory in the test report are consistent with the evidence adduced. This certificate is not an endorsement of the product by any agency of the U.S. Government and no warranty of the product is either expressed or implied.

Product Name: Verity Vanguard
Model or Version: 1.0
Name of VSTL: SLI Compliance
EAC Certification Number: HRT-VV-1.0
Date Issued: July 7, 2025



Brianna Schletz, Executive Director
Scope of Certification Attached

1200
Requirements
6000 Hours
1 year

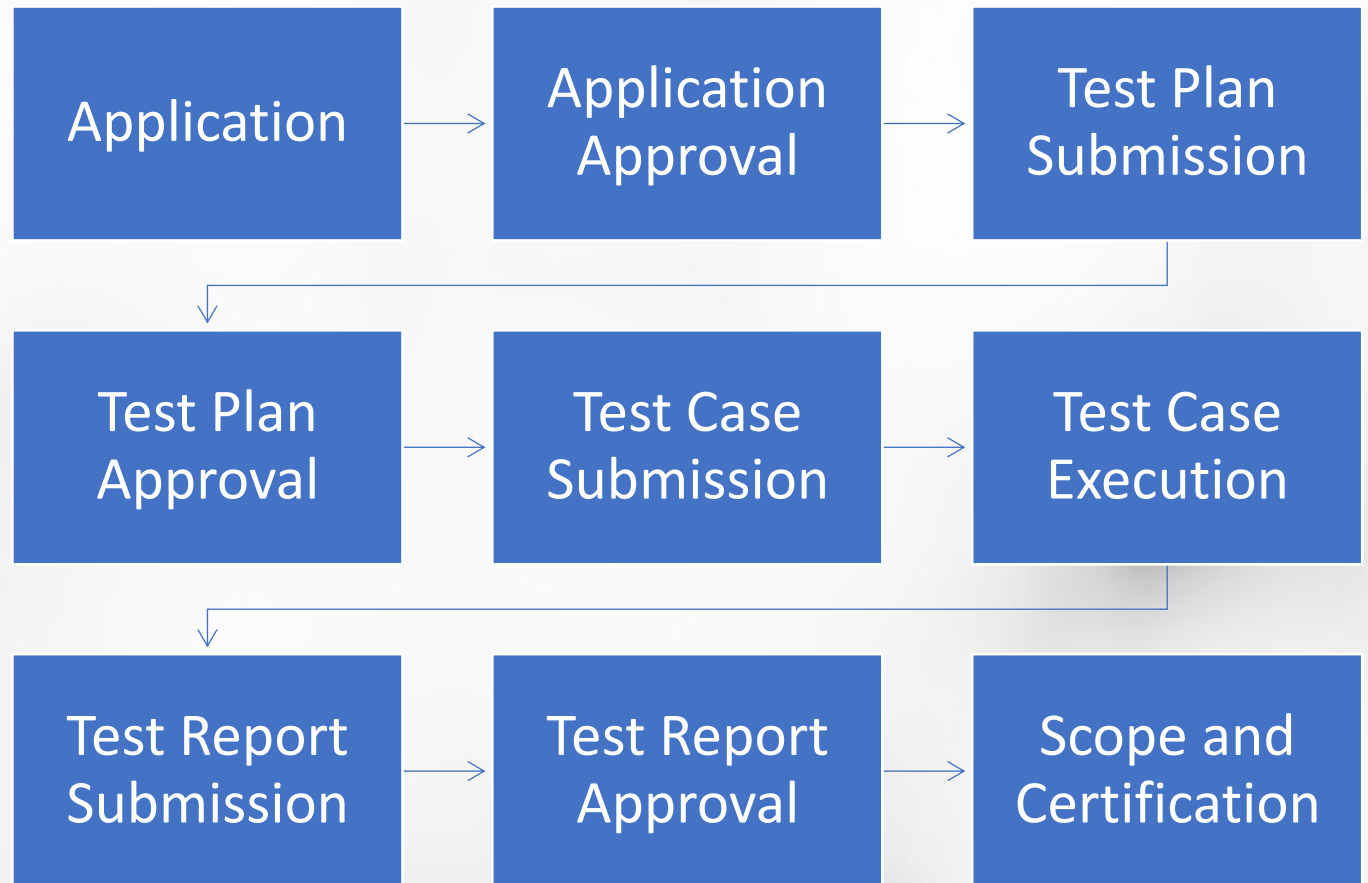


Current Systems Under Test

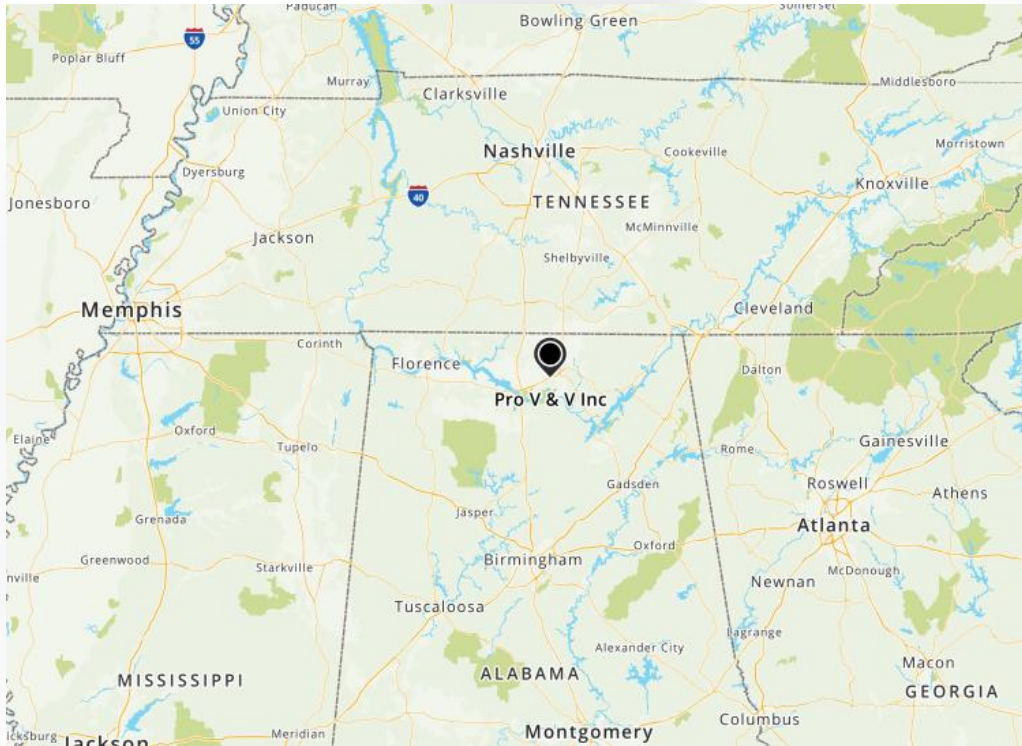
Two Systems in Test:

- Smartmatic VSR1 2.1
- VotingWorks VxSuite 4.0

Other systems expected to enter soon!

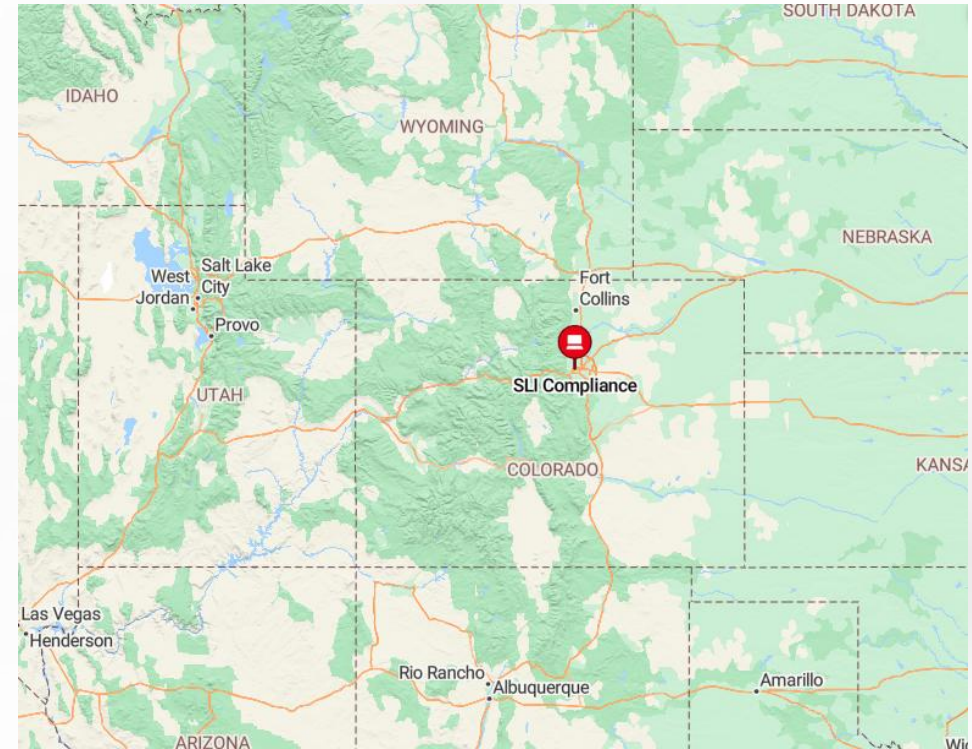


Voting System Test Laboratories



Pro V&V

Huntsville, Alabama



SLI Compliance

Wheat Ridge, Colorado



Test Readiness and Review





Learn the differences between the EAC's Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)

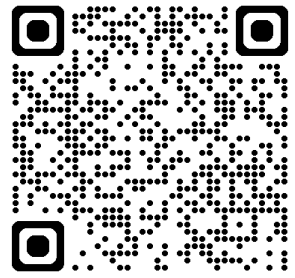


VVSG 1.0



VVSG 2.0

VVSG 1.0 vs 2.0 Enhancements



	VVSG 1.0	VVSG 2.0
Structure	Two-volume technical document with prescriptive requirements	15 high-level principles and 56 guidelines
Auditability	Baseline audit trail requirements	Durable records, unique tracking numbers, greater transparency
Cyber & Physical Security	Baseline physical and cybersecurity requirements (limited access controls, physical protections, audit logs)	Robust cybersecurity (air gapped systems, integrity checks, MFA, secure updates), improved physical security
Accessibility	Early standards for accessibility	Human-centered design, clear performance benchmarks for independent and private voting
Technology	Device-level requirements, encouraged but did not require voter-verifiable paper record	System-level requirements for flexible, secure, paper-based systems
Interoperability	Focused on complete integrated systems	Introduces interoperability, common data formats, component-based systems
Software Independence	Allowed but did not require software independence	Requires software independence (e.g., paper-based auditable systems)

VVSG Migration Communications

Resources to help communicate VVSG Migration to voters:



Secure Elections Toolkit



Election security videos



EAC Testing and Certification
Factsheet



What does EAC certification mean?

An EAC certified voting system has been tested by a federally accredited test laboratory and has successfully met the requirements of the VVSG and any other claims made by the voting system manufacturer.



View the [EAC's Voting Equipment FAQs](#) for more information

Communications on 1.0 > 2.0

Now is the time to start preparing law makers and voters to on how the new VVSG 2.0 standard can be accommodated.

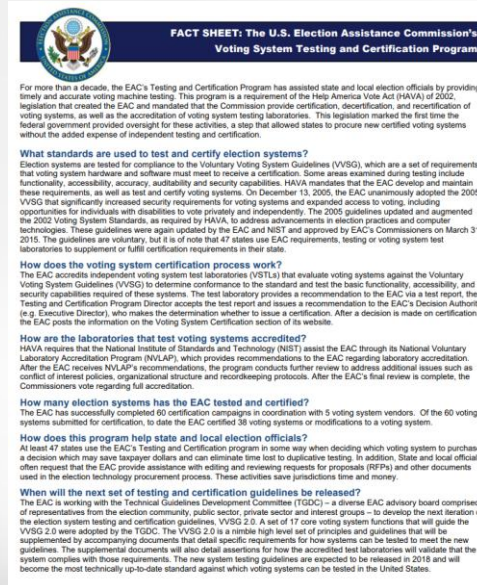


Securing Election Technology

Election officials use many security measures to make sure that each piece of the voting process is secure. This includes using tools and procedures to secure voting systems and technology.



To learn more, visit eac.gov



FACT SHEET: The U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Voting System Testing and Certification Program

For more than a decade, the EAC's Testing and Certification Program has assisted state and local election officials by providing timely and accurate voting machine testing. This program is a requirement of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, legislation that created the EAC and mandated that the Commission provide certification, decertification, and recertification of voting systems, as well as the accreditation of voting system testing laboratories. This legislation marked the first time the federal government provided oversight for these activities, a step that allowed states to procure new certified voting systems without the added expense of independent testing and certification.

What standards are used to test and certify election systems?
Election systems are tested for compliance to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG), which are a set of requirements that voting system hardware and software must receive a certification. Some areas examined during testing include functionality, accessibility, accuracy, audibility and security capabilities. HAVA mandates that the EAC develop and maintain these requirements, as well as test and certify voting systems. On December 13, 2005, the EAC unanimously adopted the 2005 VVSG that significantly increased security requirements for voting systems and expanded access to voting, including opportunities for individuals with disabilities to vote privately and independently. The 2005 guidelines updated and augmented the 2002 Voting System Standards, as required by HAVA, to address advancements in election practices and computer technologies. These guidelines were again updated by the EAC and NIST and approved by EAC's Commissioners on March 31, 2015. The guidelines are voluntary, but it is of note that 47 states use EAC requirements, testing or voting system test laboratories to supplement or fulfill certification requirements in their state.

How does the voting system certification process work?
The EAC accredits independent voting system test laboratories (VSTLs) that evaluate voting systems against the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) to determine conformance to the standard and test the basic functionality, accessibility, and security capabilities required of these systems. The test laboratory provides a recommendation to the EAC via a test report, the Testing and Certification Program Director accepts the test report and issues a recommendation to the EAC's Decision Authority (e.g. Executive Director), who makes the determination whether to issue a certification. After a decision is made on certification, the EAC posts the information on the Voting System Certification section of its website.

How are the laboratories that test voting systems accredited?
HAVA requires that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) assist the EAC through its National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP), which provides recommendations to the EAC regarding laboratory accreditation. After the EAC receives NVLAP's recommendations, the program conducts further review to address additional issues such as conflict of interest policies, organizational structure and recordkeeping protocols. After the EAC's final review is complete, the Commissioners vote regarding full accreditation.

How many election systems has the EAC tested and certified?
The EAC has successfully completed 60 certification campaigns in coordination with 5 voting system vendors. Of the 60 voting systems submitted for certification, to date the EAC certified 38 voting systems or modifications to a voting system.

How does this program help state and local election officials?
At least 47 states use the EAC's Testing and Certification program in some way when deciding which voting system to purchase, a decision which may save taxpayer dollars and can eliminate time lost to duplicative testing. In addition, State and local officials often request that the EAC provide assistance with editing and reviewing requests for proposals (RFPs) and other documents used in the election technology procurement process. These activities save jurisdictions time and money.

When will the next set of testing and certification guidelines be released?
The EAC is working with the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) – a diverse EAC advisory board comprised of representatives from the election control sector, public sector, private sector and interest groups – to develop the next iteration of the election system testing and certification guidelines, VVSG 2.0. A set of 17 core voting system functions that will guide the VVSG 2.0 were adopted by the TGDC. The VVSG 2.0 is a nimble high level set of principles and guidelines that will be supplemented by accompanying documents that detail specific requirements for how systems can be tested to meet the new guidelines. The supplemental documents will also detail assertions for how the accredited test laboratories will validate that the system complies with those requirements. The new system testing guidelines are expected to be released in 2018 and will become the most technically up-to-date standard against which voting systems can be tested in the United States.



Election Security

Voting by mail • Mail ballots submitted by voters who meet eligibility and...

ALL PHASES ELECTION PROCESS

Watch on  YouTube



Executive Order 14248

Signed March 25, 2025



Improving the EAC



Sec. 2 Proof of
Citizenship



Sec. 4 EAC to amend
VVSG 2.0 to require
paper ballots and
remove bar codes and
QR codes

Paper Ballot Policy

On May 27, the EAC Commissioners unanimously approved a policy formally affirming the agency's support for voting systems that are auditable and software-independent. This policy recommends election offices use voting systems that have a paper record of every vote, such as paper ballots.

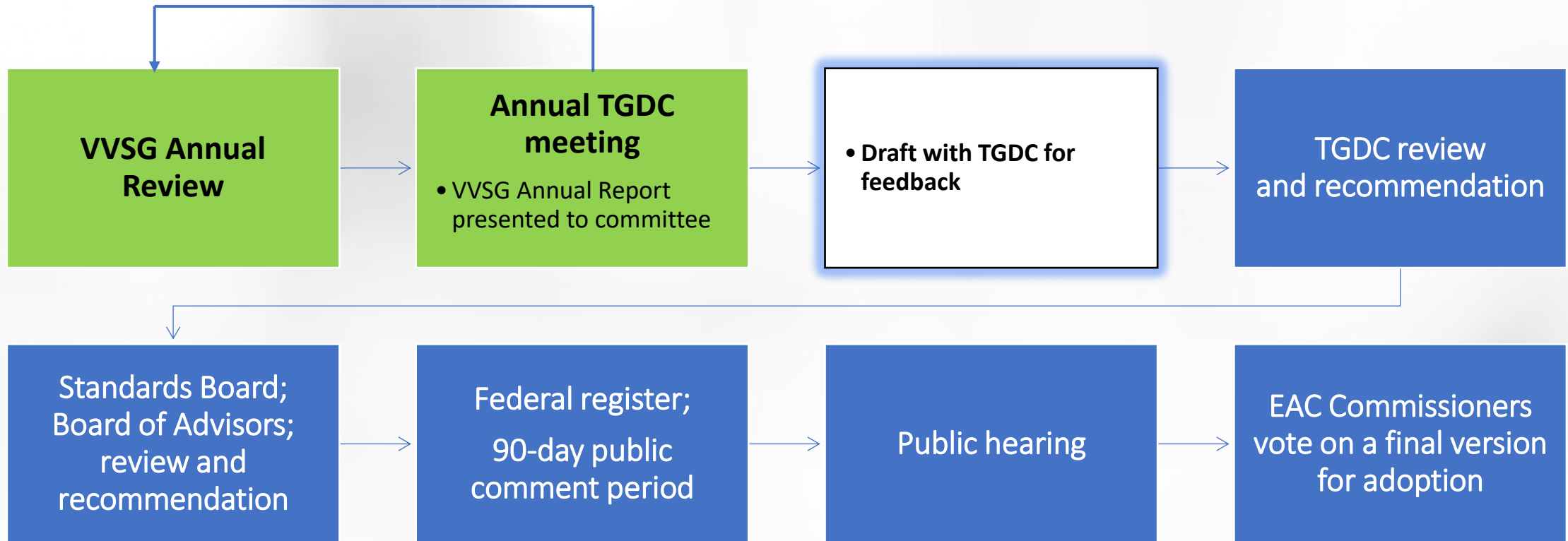


U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001

EAC Paper Ballot Policy

It is the policy of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to support and recommend the use of voting systems that are auditable and software independent, including paper ballots, which shall include voting systems that have a paper record of every vote. The Commission recognizes the importance of the existence of a paper trail, which enhances election verifiability, audit functions and voter confidence. The newly adopted Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VMSG 2.0) will support and increase the use of paper ballots in voting systems in federal elections. The Executive Director shall ensure that this policy is incorporated in all statutorily mandated functions, including but not limited to, the voluntary voting system guidelines and production of studies and reports through the clearinghouse function. Nothing in this policy is intended to contradict the accessibility provisions of Section 301 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 or any other accessibility provisions required by law.

VVSG Process Overview



■ VVSG Review (Lifecycle Policy)

■ VVSG Update (Help America Vote Act)



Certification / Decertification



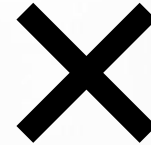
Certification (Chapter 5)

Formal process where system has completed conformance testing to the current VVSG

Requires independent testing by a VSTL and EAC review

Results in system being added to EAC's certified list

Public-facing, transparent, and based on approved procedures



Decertification (Chapter 7)

Revocation of EAC certification of a system or component

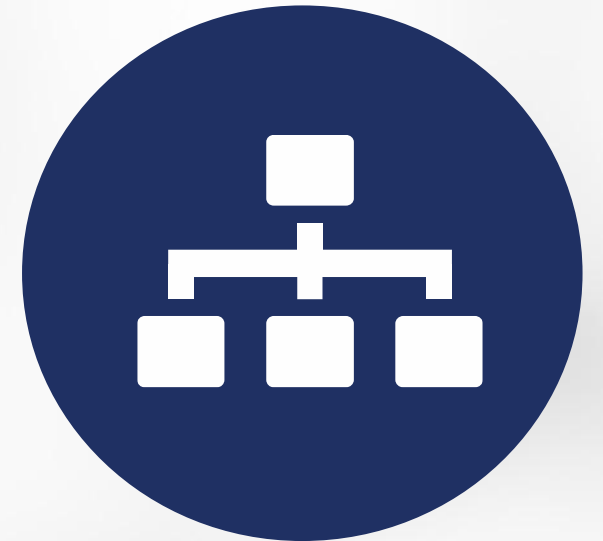
Historically rare, but a formal process exists

Can occur due to obsolescence and noncompliance

EAC is working with stakeholders to define decertification pathways

EO Application to the EAC

- *Sec. 6. Improving Security of Voting Systems.* To improve the security of all voting equipment and systems used to cast ballots, tabulate votes, and report results
- DHS/EAC: Review and report on the security of all electronic systems used in the voter registration and voting process.



Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program (ESTEP)



FUNCTIONALITY

Usability Features
Functional Configuration
Compatibility
Telecommunications
System Maintenance &
Troubleshooting



SECURITY

Access Control
Physical Security Measures
System Integrity
Network/Telecommunications
Security
Software Design & Architecture
Supply Chain Risk Management



ACCESSIBILITY

Baseline Accessibility
Supporting Visual Features
Supporting Physical Features
Supporting Audio Features
Additional Languages

Questions? Contact ESTEP@eac.gov



On February 18, 2023, the EAC certified the nation's first electronic poll book at the federal level, marking a new milestone for election technologies in our nation's history!



ESTEP Pilot Programs



Electronic Ballot Delivery Pilot Program

- Timeline - Pilot testing launch September 2025
- Current phase -Scheduling pre-pilot kickoff meetings with VSTLs and participants
- Participants: Democracy Live, Enhanced Voting, Voatz, & Maryland Board of Elections



Election Night Reporting Pilot Program

- Timeline - Pilot program launch late 2025
- Current Phase - Commissioners reviewing requirements and stakeholder feedback



Voter Registration Systems Pilot Program

- Timeline - The pilot program is anticipated to begin in spring 2026
- Current phase - Commissioners are currently reviewing the initial draft set of requirements

History of Voting Machines

“It cannot be denied that the only way to guarantee an honest and accurate count is to use voting machines.”

1934 Brookings Institute



Contact Information



Donald Palmer | Chairman



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[@VotingGuy](#)





THANK YOU