



WILLIAMSON HERALD OP-ED
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**THE DANGERS OF BALLOT MARKING DEVICES REAFFIRMED AFTER
WILLIAMSON COUNTY IS APPROVED TO PURCHASE BMDs AND OTHER VOTING MACHINES**

Two days after Williamson County Commissioners acquiesced last week to the request of the Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) and [approved the purchase of ES&S voting machines](#), some pretty frightening national election integrity news broke.

The 2021 expert testimony given in Georgia's Curling v Raffensperger election lawsuit by a highly experienced cybersecurity computer specialist was unsealed. His professional opinion: [Ballot marking devices \(BMDs\) in the Dominion voting system – which parallels the ES&S BMDs in a number of ways – can be hacked and can change votes in an election... without showing signs of intrusion.](#)

To those of us who had tried to convince election and County Commissioners of this vulnerability before they decided to purchase similar ES&S BMDs, it was unfortunate timing.

On Monday, June 12th, Williamson County had approved purchasing 200 ES&S ExpressVote BMDs at a cost of more than three quarters of a million taxpayer dollars. And that doesn't include licenses, fees, training, upkeep, and other election costs.

How I wish more Commissioners would have listened to the [research about these machines that citizens dug up](#). The studies that were presented, the [facts shown in various presentations](#), the pleas made in a [town hall meeting](#) and the [public comments made during meetings](#) of the Williamson County Election Commission.

With 16 (of 24) Commissioners supporting purchase, these now-affirmed-truths seemed to fall on mostly deaf ears.

Dr. Alex Halderman's security analysis about ballot marking devices can be found now by simply Googling "Curling v. Raffensperger Halderman Georgia Security Analysis." A reader-friendly overview written by [Halderman](#), the University of Michigan professor of computer science and engineering and director of the Center for Security & Society, can be found at: "[Freedom-to-Tinker: Security analysis of the Dominion Imagecast X.](#)" Both reports overshadow the Mitre study which Dominion had commissioned.

The similarities between the Dominion voting system and the ES&S voting system are documented at "[Thirteen similarities between Dominion and ES&S voting machine systems](#)," which can be found under the Resources tab on our website. So, whatever can happen on Dominion BMDs can also certainly happen on ES&S BMDs. The Halderman Report affirms that fact.

Still think there is no problem here? Check out these recent news headlines for context:

"US Should Brace for 'Aggressive' Sabotage From Chinese Hackers, Top Cybersecurity Official Says" (Epoch Times)

"U.S. Government Agencies—Including Energy Department—Targeted In Latest Global Cyberattack" (Forbes)

"Millions of Americans' personal data exposed in global hack" (CNN)

I urge citizens to review this fact-checked information. But, most importantly, they should realize that when Williamson County officials had the chance to change the trajectory of our county's voting system for the better and safer, the majority of Commissioners totally ignored the facts of what has happened and what could happen with voting machines.

And gave us machines anyway.

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