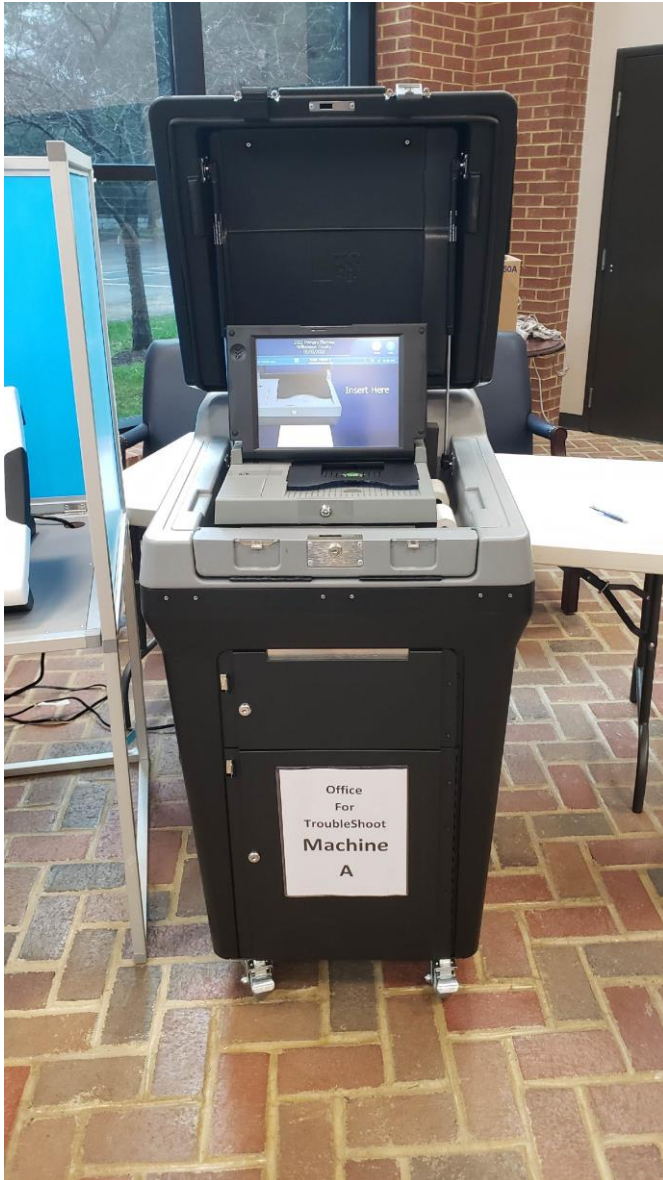




## WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S ELECTION SYSTEM 101: SCANNERS/TABULATORS THAT COUNT YOUR VOTE

*A short series explaining the ES&S voting system used in Williamson County  
and what to watch for when you vote.*

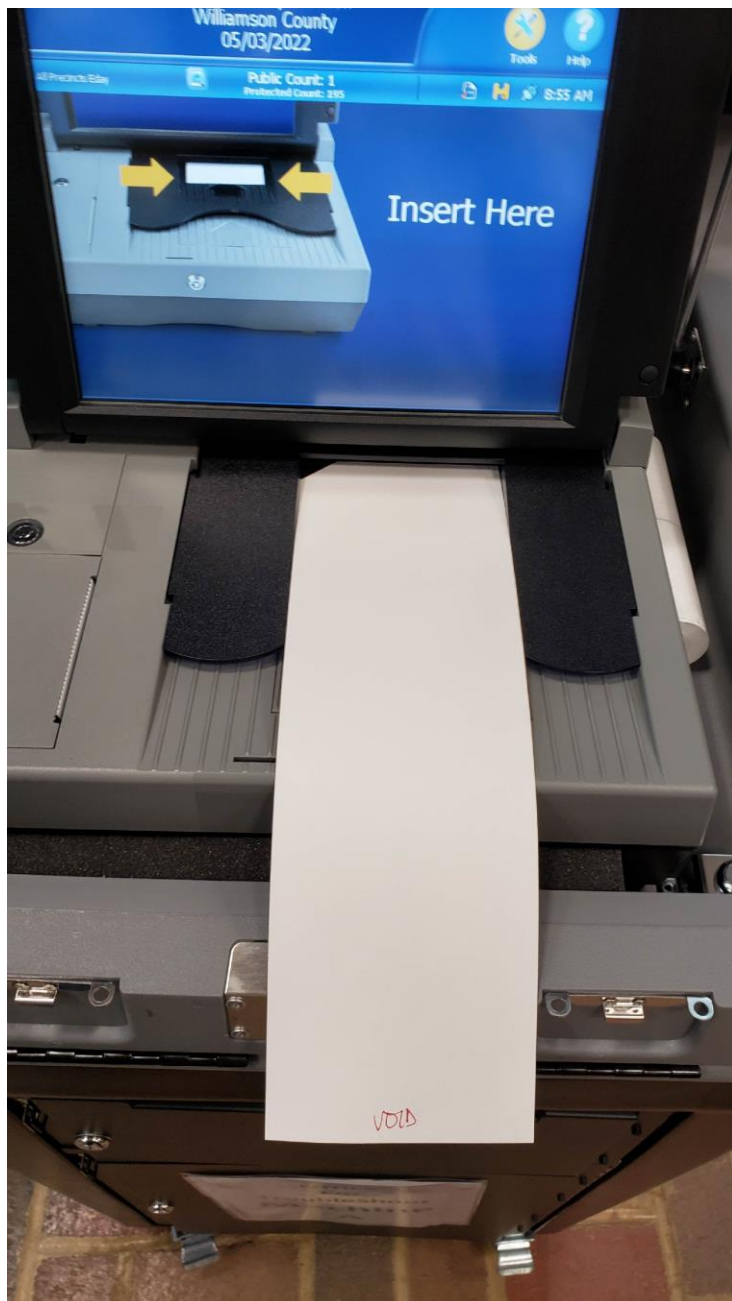


- The **scanner/tabulator** is the machine in the voting process that intakes your ballot, scans it for your vote choices and tabulates your selections, as well as the selections of other voters in your vote center.
- All votes on this scanner are stored on a USB drive inside a compartment at the top of the scanner.
- When the election is over, that USB drive is carried to the Election Office to be tallied on the Election Management System with all other USB drives from all other tabulators.
- The various doors and compartments on the tabulator are locked and sealed with numbered seals and tags to guard against the tabulator being penetrated during an election.
- The poll watchers notate all the numbers of these seals throughout the election to ensure against any tampering of them.
- Unfortunately, though, citizens nor cyber experts are allowed to inspect the tabulators which have proven to be vulnerable to hacks [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). That is the disagreement many election integrity experts are having with election commissions.
- However, according to Tennessee law, these machines have to be used in our elections at this moment. We want to get the law changed and remove these machines.

- Your vote choices, which are printed in text by the **ballot marking device (BMD)** on the lower half of the ballot, are also translated into a bar code.
- It's that bar code – not the printed text – that the scanner/tabulator actually reads for your vote.
- On the ballot, you'll see a long bar code at the top that reflects the ballot style and the election. Then each race in which you select a candidate will have its own bar code. Vote in six races? You'll see six bar codes at the top.
- Closely check your ballot on the screen and after it has been printed. If there are extraneous marks on the ballot, show it to the poll worker. You might need to create another ballot to be sure it is read correctly by the tabulator.



- Now bring the ballot to the scanner/tabulator. But before you insert it to be counted, check out the scanner for three things:
  - The time of day;
  - The public count; and
  - The protective count.



**The time of day.** The time of day is to the upper right, above the “Insert here” words. This screen says 8:55 a.m., when the photo was taken. Make sure the time on your screen is close to the actual time when you’ve voting. If it’s not, tell the scanner poll worker. Is the machine acting up since the time of day is not what it should be?

**The public count.** Which should be right below the words “Williamson County” and the date of the election. The public count is the number of ballots that have been scanned on that machine for this election day. It was set at “zero” at the beginning of the vote day. This machine’s public count when the photo was taken is “1.” Make sure after you vote that the number has increased by one. If so, your vote has been counted. If not, tell the technician.

**The protective count.** Which is right under the public count number in a smaller size text. The protective count is like an odometer... it is a cumulative number of ballots that have ever been counted on this machine. Every new election on the machine will have a higher and higher protective count. The protective count when this photo was taken is 195... a relatively new machine. Again, make sure after you vote that the number has increased by one. That means your vote has been counted.

Yes, it’s a little bit of extra work to be sure the voting process works correctly, but voters need to pay a lot closer attention to this machine-heavy process. To be sure it goes well and your vote counts. And then help us argue to remove all machines from the voting process for a safer, more transparent, more secure election process. **BUT IN THE MEANTIME, ABSOLUTELY, PLEASE VOTE!!!**

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