WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S ELECTION SYSTEM 101:
AN OVERVIEW OF THE ES&S MACHINE SYSTEM VOTERS ARE FORCED TO USE ON WHICH TO VOTE

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

Citizens have much concern about today's voting systems nationwide and in Williamson County because of a high dependence on voting machines that have been proven to be vulnerable here, here and here.

In addition to these high risks, our organization has also documented that in Williamson County elections:

- No one is allowed to inspect the machines with a cyber expert for disguised wireless components from China that can and will affect how the machines perform.
- The scanners/tabulators read the QR or bar code on our ballot, not the printed text. And because our votes are encased in that QR or bar code – which can't be read by humans -- there is no way for voters to verify that their ballot actually reflects their vote selections.
- Earlier this year, the Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) reneged on performing a study to bring hand-marked paper ballots into our voting system in place of ballot marking devices. By the way, at least 70% of Americans vote with hand-marked paper ballots.
- Citizens are forced to vote in vote centers, versus precincts. We were not given the chance to say "no" to this method which pipes a highly risky internet directly into the precinct/vote center. In forcing this option upon us, the WCEC removed 42% of our previous voting locations in our county. We hope you like waiting in lines. (But don't let that stop you from voting!!)

We've been fighting these issues since 2021, but the WCEC has ignored our concerns. For now, this is the system we have to work with. So, we watch it incredibly closely. You should too. Because in October 2021 it failed us. (But, again, we can't let that stop us from voting. We MUST vote!!)

The Williamson County voting system contains four types of computers/machines that you'll interact with when you vote. The registration system, the card activation system, the ballot marking device system and the scanners/tabulators.
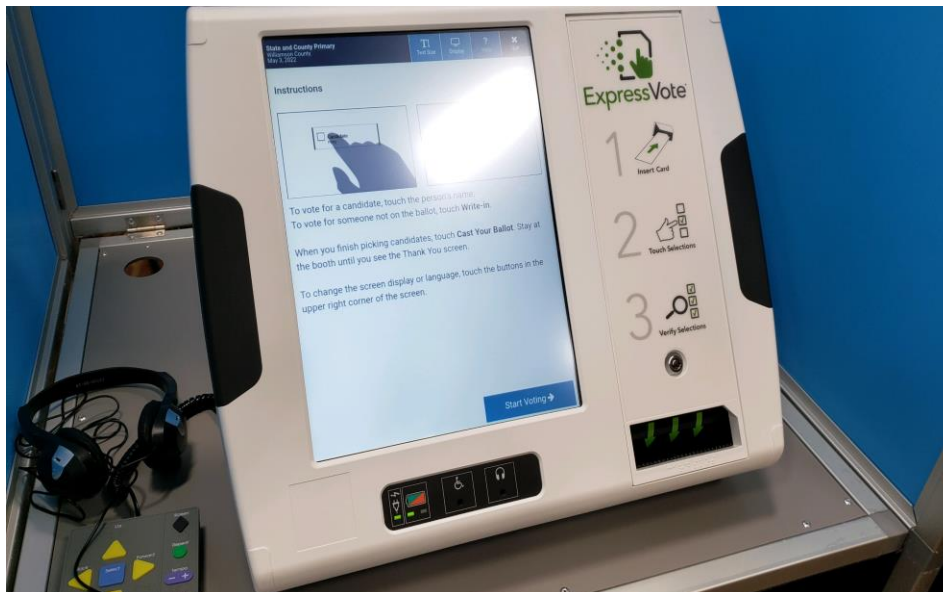
The registration system

- The registration system is the first computer you'll face. It's connected to the internet through a weak VPN.
- You'll show your driver's license and a voter card, and, from that, the registrar will identify the precinct and ballot on which you'll vote.
- He/she will use a Dell laptop to tap into the county's voter roll for this.
- Be sure and check ALL information on your registration sheet to be sure you get the right ballot.

The card activation system

- The registrar will then use an ExpressVote printer to print the ballot information on a long, thin ballot activation card.
- It will have a bar code and the precinct and election information at the top.
- Otherwise, the card will be blank.
- You will take the card to a ballot marking device to formulate your actual ballot on which you'll vote.
- By the way, this ExpresVote is NOT certified by the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) so we're unsure why the county election commission is allowed to use it. Yes, we've complained. No, we don't have a clue what tech is inside the printer.
- But we have to use it. No choice right now.

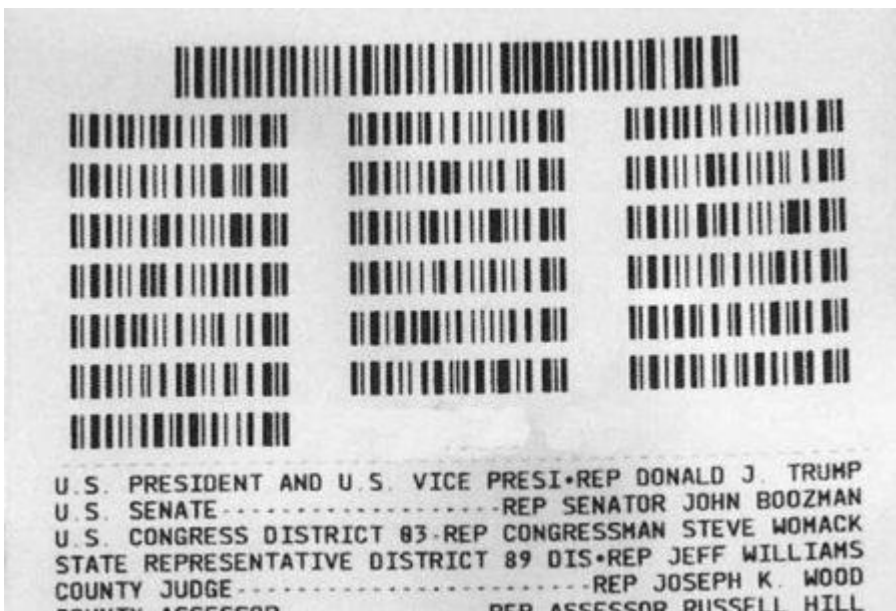## The ballot marking device (BMD) system

[Ballot marking device](#)

- You'll take the activation card to a ballot marking device (BMD) and slip it in the bottom right slot. This machine is what produces your official ballot – which will be on the same activation card.
- The BMD uses a computer screen to show you all the choices for the various races. You'll touch the screen to make your choices. When complete, you'll press a button on the screen and your ballot will print out. PLEASE REVIEW ALL OF YOUR BALLOT CHOICES TO BE SURE THEY'RE CORRECT.
- If your choices are wrong, notify a poll worker to get your ballot corrected.

Your ballot

U.S. PRESIDENT AND U.S. VICE PRESI•REP DONALD J. TRUMP
U.S. SENATE·······················REP SENATOR JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. CONGRESS DISTRICT 83·REP CONGRESSMAN STEVE WOMACK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 89 DIS•REP JEFF WILLIAMS
COUNTY JUDGE·····················REP JOSEPH K. WOOD
COUNTY ASSESSOR   REP ASSESSOR RUSSELL HILL

Close up of ballot

- Your ballot/precinct/election information is at the top of the ballot. The long bar code underneath that information reflects the election information.
- Your specific election selections are underneath. First in a bar code and then in print. The number of races in which you vote determines the number of bar codes... one bar code for each race.
- The tabulator will read the bar code... NOT the text underneath.
- Can you verify your selections are enclosed in each bar code by looking at it? Absolutely not. Who can read bar code? So how do you know your ballot reflects your choices? Not to scare you, but we really don't have a voter-verifiable paper audit trail because of this ballot. See why we're skittish about using ballots that you the voter don't mark by hand? That's why we want hand-marked paper ballots in place of these machine-produced ballots. But this is what we have to use for now. DON'T LET THIS STOP YOU FROM VOTING!!

<u>The scanner/tabulator system</u>

Scanner/tabulator

- As you walk to the scanner/tabulator, check your ballot once more. After inserting it into the tabulator, you will have voted and there's no do-over. If checking the ballot takes a moment, TAKE IT. Its important the ballot is right. Don't let anybody hurry you up!
- A clock will appear on the screen when you insert your ballot. It will confirm when ballot is counted.
- Now you have officially voted.
- If there is a challenge in the election, this ballot will become critical to a re-count, so it needs to accurately reflect your vote choices.
- A USB stick inside the tabulator tallies all choices in the election within that machine. When the polls have closed, the USB stick will be removed and taken to the Election Office to be combined with votes on other thumb drives from all other tabulators at all other voting centers in the county.
- The compartment is secured by a numbered seal that is tracked by poll watchers.

The process is a lot more complicated than it probably needs to be, but that is what we're stuck with for the moment. You can do your part in maintaining election integrity by checking your ballot multiple times both before and after its printed. And, more importantly, you can do your part by VOTING. You can't not vote. Regardless of the risk the machines pose, we all MUST VOTE so we can vote in true representatives who will listen to citizens and help us make the changes in these processes that are needed to bring safer, more secure voting processes.   We CANNOT sit out an election!

And don't hesitate to report issues or concerns to either a poll watcher or poll worker if you see machine issues or process issues within the vote center. And that includes the performance of the electronic voting system with which we've been saddled. Alert, active voters is how we protect the election process.

###