



THE PROBLEM WITH VOTE CENTER VOTING: A SHORT SUMMARY

Summary

Millions of Americans and thousands of Tennesseans have been forced out of secure precincts to vote in vote centers, which are highly risky voting locations heavily dependent on the internet and election voting machines that can't be inspected for nefarious components. We suspect few citizens have been allowed to approve of this move which has been proven far more dicey than previous voting processes.

The dangers of voting in vote centers

- [Vote centers](#) force an immediate reduction in the number of county voting locations (42% in 2020 in Williamson County), increasing the number of voters in vote centers, thus increasing the amount of time required to vote and [decreasing turnout](#).
- Vote centers challenge the [US Constitution's 14th amendment \(equal protection clause\)](#) as their placement throughout the state and county ensures the vote process is unequal for voters in all Tennessee locations. Some voters vote in precincts; some vote in vote centers. Plus, vote centers force some voters to travel greater distances now to voting locations than they did before to their neighborhood precincts.
- Vote centers require the internet to be piped into each voting location for electronic poll books to ensure against citizen vote hoping. ([The internet is not needed in precincts.](#))
- The internet then lies next to vote center voting machines which aren't allowed to be internally inspected by cyber experts to ensure there are [no components inside that conduct wirelessness](#).
- Voting machines in vote centers are [woefully out of security date \(by at least 20 years\)](#).
- What the Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) claims protects these vote center machines from wireless intrusion – VPNs – aren't sufficient to do so, [per current industry studies](#).
- These vote center voting machines (epollbooks, ballot marking devices and optical scanners/tabulators) have been [proven hackable](#) and, therefore, [untrustworthy](#).
- This was underscored in Franklin, Tennessee's October 2021 election where 7 of 19 Dominion machines in several vote centers quit counting votes on tabulator tapes because of [erroneous source code](#) and other issues.
- Following the 2020 election where [Williamson County citizens questioned the use of Dominion machines in the county's voting centers](#), the Tennessee State Election Commission [promised to reconfirm all voting machines in the state](#). It took [two+ years for them to recertify](#) four of the five machine brands in the state (MicroVote without any presentation), while the process was cloaked in complete secrecy. No standards were discussed.
- Our current ES&S voting machines are [just as untrustworthy as the Dominion](#) voting machines that the ES&S machines replaced in our elections beginning in 2022.
- The WCEC and SEC refuse to implement [hash validation procedures](#) to check against machine hacks.
- In Williamson County, the WCEC does not vet nor validate the IT techs who install the computer voter registration systems in school voting centers. The WCEC chairman refuses to demand these [unknown computer jockeys – who have direct access into the voting registration system during set-up and operation](#) – undergo the same vetting and oath processes that poll workers do.
- [Continued vote center machine incidents](#) during elections further inspire untrustworthiness.

- Because of unfamiliar citizens voting in a vote center -- versus a smaller neighborhood precinct -- vote centers make monitoring unusual voter actions more difficult for [poll workers to recognize and address](#).
- Vote centers do not save counties money nor [increase voter turnout](#) as [Tennessee Elections Coordinator Mark Goins' report about vote center voting to the General Assembly attests](#).
- If our election commissions force us to remain in vote centers while bringing in hand-marked paper ballots (which citizens want to hedge against these questionable machines), these bureaucrats will demand we add on an entirely different machine system – [ballot on demand](#). BOD is highly expensive and [NOT certified by the Election Assistance Commission](#), meaning citizens can't verify internal machine components.
- In Tennessee, vote centers appear to be unconstitutional ([Article 1, section 4](#)) and break Tennessee law ([TCA 2-7-115\(a\)](#)), both of which affirm voters should be voting in precincts where citizens live, not in vote centers.
- According to [TCA 2-20-101\(b\)\(2\)](#) and [TCA 2-20-101\(b\)\(6\)](#), the optical scanners/tabulators are supposed to be located in a precinct. Instead, they're located in a vote center [which has different technology requirements, as well as a different purpose, processes and constituent service](#).

States/counties forcing vote centers upon citizens

- As of 2025, 21 states and the District of Columbia allow jurisdictions to use vote centers. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa (selection elections), Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. (111,853,324 registered voters = 64% of US registered voters.)
- In Tennessee, 8 out of 95 counties have forced their citizens into vote centers, pushing 648,048 active registered voters (15% of TN voters) into a questionable voting arrangement.
- The Republican National Committee has affirmed [opposition to vote centers](#).
- Williamson County and Tennessee election bureaucrats are [ignoring Trump's Executive Order](#).
- It doesn't appear that Williamson County went through the same process as Rutherford County did when the [General Assembly blessed that county's vote center effort](#).
 - The Williamson County Election Administrator did not file a written report following the vote center pilot as demanded per [TCA 2-3-307](#).
 - And the General Assembly has not issued a similar blessing of Williamson County's vote centers. So, is the county still legally in a pilot for vote centers and without General Assembly approval?
- In fact, in 2019, when the Williamson County Election Commission was pushing the county through the vote center effort, there was supposed to be a public meeting with public announcements inviting the public to learn about vote centers. There appears to have been neither.
 - In answer to a December 20, 2023 public records request, [this is all that the WCEC could supply citizens as to public announcements about a public meeting about vote centers](#).
 - According to the WCEC, the public meeting was [held on March 14, 2019 for citizen input](#). Yet no agenda item about a public meeting was referenced in the minutes.
 - No citizen was in attendance nor were there any questions/statement summaries from citizens – or commissioners -- about vote centers in the meeting. Probably because citizens didn't know about the meeting or the intent to transition to vote centers. Or even knew what vote centers were.

- In fact, the only reference to vote centers in the minutes made it appear they were a forgone conclusion. No potential sites, rules, processes, equipment changes, security or staffing discussions, next steps were tracked for citizens to read and understand.
- Afterwards, there was also to be a 30-day period for the public/registered voters to comment on the closure of the polling locations ([TCA 2-3-302\(g\)](#)). But no information affirmed a comment period was held. Again, the supplied press materials only implied that vote centers were a done deal.
- **So, despite what the WCEC says was supposed to happen for citizens to better understand this significant change in voting procedure, there appears to have been no public meeting for citizens, no advance announcement about a possible meeting or a comment period for citizens to voice any concerns or questions about the concept. There appears to have been little effort in seeking public comment. It appears the objective was to keep the move quiet.**

Solution

- Return to:
 - Neighborhood precinct voting with paper registration (no e-pollbooks) which Williamson County did up to 2020;
 - Removal of all ballot marking devices (BMDs) (except for one/precinct for ADA needs);
 - High-security hand-marked paper ballots -- in place of BMDs -- containing security technology similar to that used in our currency;
 - Double or triple the number of privacy booths in which voters can mark their ballots with a pen and greatly speed up the voting process;
 - Ballots hand-counted the day after the election to check the accuracy of the tabulator machines/election;
 - Continue use of the voting machine tabulators because the law forces them on us at the moment. However, because citizens or election workers can't inspect them for nefarious components, take them through stringent pre-election testing. That would include a Security Risk Evaluation (as developed by TVEI), L&A testing, hash validations before and after each election on every machine, and black box penetration testing before both early and election day voting;
 - A reduced number of voters per precinct (from 6,000 to 2,000-3,000) and an increase in the number of smaller, neighborhood voting precincts to better enable hand-counting ballots, especially since vote centers have not increased voter turnout or saved money.
 - Smaller precincts with neighborhood voters will also better enable poll workers to recognize and challenge unusual "voters" or unusual actions before a suspicious voter votes;
 - A reduced early-voting period of three days prior to election day (versus 15 days early voting and 1 election day), which will save the county money (estimated to exceed \$192,000/election in Williamson County);
 - A full post-election audit of the voting system after EVERY election. Check ballots against the tabulator tapes, but, also, rectify the applications to vote against the number of votes as well as the number of blank ballots against the number used (voted, provisional, voided, remaining), the cleanliness of the voter roll, the security of each machine and the various election processes.
 - Ultimately removing all electronic tabulators (which, right now, by law, must be used in many counties) from the voting process.