

# IOWA ELECTIONS ARE SECURE

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conducted independently with ample safeguards in place in each of Iowa's 99 counties.



## IOWA ELECTIONS ARE

**AUDITED**

**BIPARTISAN**

**CYBERSECURE**

**OFF-LINE**

**PAPER**

**TRANSPARENT**



IOWA STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF  
COUNTY AUDITORS

**IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE**  
**IOWA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AUDITORS**

**DEDICATED TO PROTECTING THE SECURITY AND  
INTEGRITY OF EACH VOTE**

# BALLOT TABULATORS



**PAPER BALLOTS** Iowans vote on paper ballots. Paper ballots are maintained by county auditors for 22 months following any election with a federal race and six months following all other elections. You cannot hack a paper ballot.

**OFF-LINE** Ballot tabulators are not connected to the internet.

**SECURE** There is no evidence of any unauthorized access to Iowa's election systems.

**TRANSPARENT TESTING** Every ballot tabulator is tested in view of the public ahead of the election, and both political parties are invited to these public tests.

**PAPER RECEIPT** Every tabulator produces a paper receipt of the vote totals that can be matched to the paper ballot totals to ensure accuracy.

**POST-ELECTION AUDIT** Every county undergoes a post-election audit of a precinct that is randomly selected by the Iowa Secretary of State after Election Day.



## DOMINION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT

Currently, there are nine Iowa counties that utilize Dominion ballot tabulators: Adair, Appanoose, Bremer, Cedar, Dickinson, Hardin, Lucas, Mitchell and Wayne. None of these counties have reported issues with their tabulators' operations. The post-election audits in randomly selected precincts in these counties perfectly matched the tabulations from election night on November 3, 2020.

**EFFECTIVE IN IOWA** The efficacy of Dominion tabulators has been confirmed by both hand-counted post-election audits and various recounts conducted in these counties.

Based on media reports, the Dominion equipment in Georgia is different from what we use here in Iowa. In Georgia, the system uses touchscreen voting machines known as ballot-marking devices, or BMDs, to print a paper ballot with a non-encrypted QR code that is read by a scanner. Georgia is the only state using the barcode-based BMD system statewide as the mandatory voting method for all in-person voters. However, it is worth noting that the State of Georgia conducted a full manual tally on November 19, 2020, of all votes cast in that state for the presidential election. The audit of the paper ballots produced virtually the same result as the machine count.

[Iowa Administrative Code 721.22](#) covers the extensive process the Iowa Board of Examiners goes through to certify voting equipment. Counties are responsible for purchasing voting equipment. The State of Iowa has no agreement with ES&S, Dominion, Unisyn, or any other election equipment vendor operating in the state.

You can find a list of the equipment used by Iowa's counties on the Iowa Secretary of State's website: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/covotesystem.pdf>. This list is updated biennially when the Secretary of State's Office collects data for the Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) published by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.



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# ELECTION SECURITY



**PAPER BALLOTS** One key component of Iowa's elections that protects against hacking is paper ballots. Every election in our state uses paper ballots. You can't hack a paper ballot. These ballots are marked either by hand or by a fully accessible machine that marks ballots which are then reviewed by the voter before being cast.



**TRANSPARENT TESTING** The machines that count the votes are tested in all 99 counties prior to each election. Representatives from the political parties, news media, and members of the general public are invited to attend these tests. There is also an extensive chain of custody with each piece of voting equipment. Almost all processes and procedures require that two or more trained personnel be involved, and these folks have taken an oath to uphold state election laws and protect the security of the election.



**SECURE EQUIPMENT** When not being used, voting equipment is stored in a facility accessible only to authorized election personnel. Before voting starts, each piece of voting equipment is put through logic and accuracy testing to make sure ballots will be counted correctly. Ballots and election equipment are secured with tamper-evident seals and transported to polling places in secure containers. Every transfer between parties must be documented.

**POST-ELECTION AUDIT** Each county conducts a post-election audit of a precinct randomly selected by the Secretary of State. A hand count of ballots in the precinct takes place and is compared to the machine count to ensure its accuracy.

**BIPARTISAN** Transparency is built into the election process and every step is bipartisan. Poll worker teams are required by law to be bipartisan. The absentee boards are bipartisan. Recount boards are bipartisan.

**CYBERSECURITY AND REGISTRATION DATABASE** The Iowa Secretary of State's Office has taken numerous steps to protect elections at every level. Through partnerships with the state's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), free cybersecurity resources are provided to all 99 counties. This includes cybersecurity training for employees, intrusion detection, malware prevention and constant monitoring.

**I-VOTERS DATABASE** Iowa's statewide voter registration database, I-Voters, resides in a facility with top-level security protections. The system is constantly monitored and each week DHS conducts a scan.

I-Voters has a variety of defenses in place to detect and prevent any unauthorized intrusions. A monitoring system called VoteShield tracks all voter registration changes, detects any anomalies and is available to every county auditor.

Only authorized personnel have access to the voter registration database, and there are multiple protections in place, including two-factor authentication. Only users from approved IP addresses can access the system. All database traffic is monitored, and logs detail each time the database is accessed or changed. Routine backups ensure all data can be restored if any unexpected modifications are made. Though the data are public records, voter information is only released according to Iowa law.



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