

**State of South Dakota
State Board of Elections
Petition for Declaratory Rulings**

Pursuant to the provisions of SDCL [1-26-15](#), I (**Rick Weible**) of (**803 Elk St, Elkton SD 57026**), am (**a resident of Brookings County, SD**), and do hereby petition the South Dakota State Board of Elections for its declaratory ruling in regard to the following:

1. The state statute or State Board of Elections rule or order or form in question is:

-----Start of State Board of Elections Rule-----

5:02:09:02. Approval of automatic tabulating systems required before distribution. Prior to distribution in South Dakota, a company or corporation dealing in automatic tabulating or electronic ballot marking systems shall give written notice to the state board of elections and demonstrate that its system complies with SDCL [12-17B-2](#) and § 5:02:09:02.01 or 5:02:09:02.03 and is certified as fulfilling the requirements of the Election Assistance Commission 2015 voting system standards by an independent test authority accredited by the Election Assistance Commission. If the State Board of Elections approves the system, it shall issue a certificate of approval.

Any changes or modifications in an approved automatic tabulating or electronic ballot marking system may be certified by the State Board of Elections with or without the demonstration described in this section for initial approval. The modification for the already approved system must have been certified as fulfilling the requirements of the Election Assistance Commission voting system 2015 standards by an independent test authority accredited by the Election Assistance Commission or been certified to meet the national standard by another state. Any change or modification determined to be de minimis by the independent test authority does not need state board of elections certification.

Source: 2 SDR 5, effective July 30, 1975; 6 SDR 25, effective September 24, 1979; 16 SDR 203, effective May 28, 1990; 21 SDR 77, effective October 24, 1994; 22 SDR 95, effective January 18, 1996; 29 SDR 113, effective January 30, 2003; 32 SDR 109, effective December 26, 2005; 33 SDR 230, effective July 1, 2007; 35 SDR 306, effective July 1, 2009; 46 SDR 42, effective September 30, 2019; 47 SDR 37, effective October 6, 2020.

----- End of State Board of Elections Rule -----

2. The facts and circumstances which give rise to the issue to be answered by the board's declaratory ruling are:

Tech Solutions leased Davison County a Dell Latitude laptop Model 5500 configured with the ES&S Electionware Results software in 2018 (Exhibit A), which is not listed in the US Election Assistance Commission Certificate of Conformance for the ES&S EVS 5.2.2.0, 6.1.0.0, or 6.1.1.0 as part of its certified system to run the Electionware Results (EMS Standalone Workstation) software. The change to a different laptop was not approved by the South Dakota State Board of Elections.

- a. TechSolutions is not a registered vendor with the United States Elections Assistance Commission, and therefore is not authorized to submit an election system or modification for testing or certification.

<https://www.eac.gov/voting-equipment/registered-manufacturers>

- b. The ES&S EVS 5.2.2.0 EAC Certificate of Conformance clearly shows that only the Dell Latitude model E6410 is certified and approved for use in the ES&S the voting system.

EMS Standalone Workstation		Dell Latitude E6410		
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https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/voting_system/files/EVS5220-Cert_Scope%28FINAL%29.pdf

- c. The ES&S EVS 6.1.0.0 EAC Certificate of Conformance clearly shows that only the Dell Latitude 5580, OptiPlex 5040, 5050, and the 7020 are certified and approved for use in the ES&S voting system.

COTS Hardware

Manufacturer	Hardware	Model/Version
Dell	EMS Server	PowerEdge T430, T630
Dell	EMS Client or Standalone Workstation	Latitude 5580, OptiPlex 5040, 5050, 7020
Dell	Trusted Platform Module (TPM) Chip 1.2 and 2.0 (optional)	M48YR

https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/voting_system/files/EVS6100Cert_Scope_%2528FINAL%2529.pdf

- d. The ES&S EVS 6.1.1.0 EAC Certificate of Conformance clearly shows that the Dell Latitude 5580, OptiPlex 5040, 5050, and the 7020 are certified and approved for use in the ES&S voting system.

COTS Hardware

Manufacturer	Hardware	Model/Version
Dell	EMS Server	PowerEdge T430, T630
Dell	EMS Client or Standalone Workstation	Latitude 5580, OptiPlex 5040, 5050, 7020
Dell	Trusted Platform Module (TPM) Chip 1.2 and 2.0 (optional)	M48YR

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https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/voting_system/files/ES%26S%20EVS6110%20Certificate%20and%20Scope%20of%20Conformance%2007-27-2020.pdf.pdf

- e. ES&S EVS 6.1.1.0 is the most recent certified system that the State Board of Elections approved of for use in the state of South Dakota in August of 2021.
<https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/ES&S%20EVS6110%20Certificate%20and%20Scope%20of%20Conformance%2007-27-2020.pdf.pdf>
- f. ES&S has not submitted any Engineering Change Orders for any new laptops or desktops for EVS 6.1.0.0 or 6.1.1.0, as required by the US Election Assistance Commission Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 1.0, for any new hardware to be considered as part of an approved voting system.

- g. On page 2 of all ES&S administration manuals it is clear ES&S understands the requirements, by placing this notice in the manual:
 - a. **“United States Election Assistance Commission Notification for Approved Voting Systems**
In accordance with the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Testing and Certification Program Manual, Version 2.0, ES&S hereby notifies the purchaser that any changes or modifications to an EAC approved voting system which have not been tested and certified by the EAC will void the EAC certification for such EAC approved voting system.”
 - h. I have asked the U.S. Election Assistance Commission about changes in approved laptops, and they have confirmed that an Engineering Change Order is common for hardware upgrades and is the most frequently used reasons for submissions. (Exhibit B)
 - i. There are no meeting minutes since August of 2021 by the South Dakota State Board of Elections indicating an application by ES&S or TechSolutions seeking approval of any changes or modifications to any prior approved voting system.
 - j. Davison County, ES&S and TechSolutions failed to abide by our state laws and rules, which clearly requires approval of a change or modification to an already approved configuration by the South Dakota State Board of Elections before a new a new laptop model is used prior to distribution and use in South Dakota.
3. The precise issue to be answered by the board's declaratory ruling is:
- a. Did either ES&S or TechSolutions, comply with the rules which require “a company or corporation dealing in automatic tabulating or electronic ballot marking systems...give written notice to the state board of elections and demonstrate that its system complies with SDCL [12-17B-2](#) and § 5:02:09:02.01 or 5:02:09:02.03 and is certified as fulfilling the requirements of the Election Assistance Commission 2015 voting system standards by an independent test authority accredited by the Election Assistance Commission”, to include a Dell Latitude 5500 laptop?
 - b. Did Davison County comply with SDCL 12-17B-2 by using the Dell Latitude 5500 laptop in state and federal elections from 2018 to current date, specifically in regard to the following: “Each system shall fulfill the requirements for election assistance commission standards certification and be approved by the State Board of Elections prior to distribution and use in this state. No system may be approved unless the system fulfills the requirements as established by the State Board of Elections. Any changes or modifications to an approved system shall be approved by the State Board of Elections prior to distribution and use.”?

Dated at (Elkton, SD), this 2nd day of August, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Weible", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Rick Weible
803 Elk St.
Elkton, SD 57026
Signature of petitioner

Exhibit A



To whom it may concern:

In response to the device inquiry for the laptop that is running your ES&S EMS system for the election I wanted to get all the specifics in one place.

Tech Solutions ASSET4101

Dell Latitude 5500 Laptop

Service Tag(serial number) 65XB0R2

That laptop is part of the Managed Service Agreement and current Statement of Work in place between Tech Solutions and Davison County. We don't list each device on that agreement as it changes throughout the year as devices are replaced, returned or added.

Specifically, that laptop is on our HaaS (hardware as a service) plan that the county utilizes for a majority of the devices. This would fall under the monthly fee on your monthly invoice labeled **MANAGED WORKSTATION HARDWARE - LAPTOP** at \$33 per month. That fee covers the use of the device for as long as the county needs it, with replacement included at end-of-life of the device or sooner if different needs arise. Also included is any hardware repairs or upgrades needed during the life of the device, damage excluded.

This device was put into service in 2018 and is set for replacement this year to get updated to Windows 11 that is required by end of October.

Additionally, this specific device had to go through some additional steps and costs on the county's end to have it sent in to be 'hardened' or secured for its specific use. That information was conveyed between myself and Susan Kiepke, the then Auditor. I searched my email but it only goes back a few years and I was unable to find that. I do personally remember providing a shipping box and the laptop for her to send it in. Then once the hardening process was complete we finished the setup.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JT", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jordan Thuringer
Tech Solutions
IT Operations Manager
605-990-TECH(8324)



Tech Solutions
1408 N. Main St.
Mitchell, SD 57301

605-990-8324
Fax: 605-990-4334
www.990tech.com

Exhibit B

 Outlook

RE: EAC Contact Form Submission

From: Paul Aumayr <paumayr@eac.gov>
Date: Wed 3/27/2024 10:42 AM
To: Rick Weible <rick@rgvisions.com>

Good morning

In response to your questions submitted yesterday:

1. If the laptop is being used as part of an EAC certified voting system, then yes, the county should look to have the vendor submit an engineering change order. Adding new models of laptop to an already certified system with an ECO is very common, and is one of the most frequently used reasons for ECO submissions.
2. The ECO process can be used to update antivirus definition files and other security updates to voting systems. This was the subject of a Notification of Clarification (NOC) issued in 2019, which can be found on our website: <https://www.eac.gov/noc-19-01>

Sincerely,

Paul Aumayr | Sr. Election Technology Specialist
Election Assistance Commission
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200 | Washington, DC 20001
www.eac.gov
| PAumayr@EAC.gov

From: U.S. Election Assistance Commission <no-reply@eac.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 10:35 AM
Subject: EAC Contact Form Submission

Caution: This email is from an external source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. If the message looks suspicious, please use the Phish Alert Report button for the security team to review.

Submitted on Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:
First Name: Rick
Last Name: Weible
Address:
Elkton, South Dakota. 57026

Message:

I have a few questions regarding Engineering Change Orders:

- 1) If a model of a laptop being used for election results is not the same manufacturer or model listed in the certificate, should the county ask the vendor to submit an engineering change order to be in compliance?
- 2) With the VVSG 1.0 7.4.2 Protection Against Malicious Software, where it specifically states "Voting systems shall deploy protection against the many forms of threats to which they may be exposed such as file and macro viruses, worms, Trojan horses, and logic bombs. Vendors shall develop and document the procedures to be followed to ensure that such protection is maintained in a current status." Should counties/states ask for Engineering Change Orders to be able to update the Antivirus definition files of the system before an election, to ensure the security of their systems? I see that many jurisdictions are using ES&S 6.1.1.0, and the antivirus of the laptop and desktops are stuck at March 29th, 2019....

Phone Number: 6123064555
Email: rick@rgvisions.com
Concerning: Voting System Testing And Certification