

# Navajo County voting machine Primary Election Logic and Accuracy Testing-Drop Box Use

July 2, 2022 & July 5, 2022

Observations and questions by NCRC Tech team individuals at the Voting Warehouse location on Navajo County Complex. This is the location the EVM's and Tabulators are stored and tested before being delivered to the voting centers throughout the county. Each major party is authorized to send a contingent of observers to the L&A sessions as well as the general public. The officials attending the L&A were Rayleen Richards, Elections Director and employees of her department, Secretary of State personnel, and Chairs of both major parties.

## Voting Machines

Testing was performed on the ES&S Express Voting machines, the ES&S Central Count Tabulators 850 & 450, and the NEW ES&S Vote Center Tabulators-DS200—15 new tabulators for largest vote centers in Navajo County.

Cost of appx. \$100,000 to purchase 15 units. These units allow voters to scan their own ballot at polling location. Ballots are stored in bottom of tabulator. Memory stick is used to transfer vote count from tabulator to Central Count computer.

Stated by Rayleen & Christen, Central Count computer is not connected to the internet. Rayleen & Christen were asked what operating system the Central Count computer uses but no clear answer was given. ES&S USB drives are formatted by the Central Count computer. The USB drives are machine specific—we didn't get a close look at the USB drives.

**Question: What guarantees do the voters have that the memory stick is the only way the data is accessible? Who is responsible for the chain of custody of the memory stick? Central Count Computer is "Garbage In Garbage Out" if the data is intercepted and manipulated at the tabulator!!**

Chain of custody of the vote count from the Vote Center tabulators to the Central Count computer are via the USB drives.

**Question: What is the Chain of Custody procedure and who is authorized to handle and secure both the USB drives and the ballots gathered? Is there a USB drive used on the Express Voting Machines and, if so, who is authorized to secure the data or ballots or both during**

**“early voting season”? Who is authorized on voting day to secure and transfer the USB drives and ballots to Central Count computer?**

DS200 tabulators are sealed and secured with a serial number lock. Each tabulator has its own serial number on the lock. Every lock on that machine should have the same serial number. Observed temporary workers working in the front room of the election warehouse preparing the serial number locks.

Zero report-run before counting to starts to confirm there are no votes preloaded into the tabulator. Two reports are printed. One is the official count—this is sealed and can only be opened by a court order. Unofficial report goes to Rayleen.

**Question: Ambiguous or confusing. Is there a Zero Report Run that shows something other than “0” votes preloaded EVER? Clarify whether there is a Zero Report Run before and a total vote count run after the voting is over. Rayleen has an unofficial report that can be compared to the official count that can only be accessed by a court order? Logic would indicate that there would be two reports-one before and one after to confirm no preloaded votes and a total vote count after voting ends.**

7/5-Vote by Mail ballots are sent out.

7/6 Livestream of the ballots (received) begins at the county.

Navajo County used Diebold tabulator prior to 2016. ES&S was first used in 2016.

If there is bleed through on the ballots it shouldn't matter as the ovals to bubble are all left justified—there should be no overlap of votes—bleed through--on a 2-sided ballot.

**Question: That was a BIG issue in Maricopa with the “Sharpigate”!!! Does any bleed through anywhere on the ballot trigger an automatic adjudication by machine or person?**

They did try to scan an invalid ballot on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. All of the invalid ballots—three from 2020 and one from Coconino County were identified by the tabulators and kicked out.

The Express Voting Machines are stored in the election warehouse. They have color coded labels based on route—where they are delivered. The same machines are sent back to the same voting location each year, unless there is damage to a machine.

The Express Voting Machines have to be started with a password-login. Individual poll workers do NOT have a unique login. There is one login password per election.

**Question: If voting machines are delivered on the Thursday before election day-Tuesday, how are machines are secured within the voting location? (It was unclear exactly where the machines are “secured.” Debbie Vance has experience as a Poll Worker. She indicated that the machines she worked with were locked in a storage room. But, if you’re using a public building as a voting location, how many people have access to the key to that storage room?)**

**Trust in the security of the voting equipment is based on trust of those with access to the public location used as a vote center.**

It was stated that the “certificates on all machines are current, but certificates can’t be viewed. Certificates are proprietary.”

**Question: These machines belong to the taxpayers of Navajo County, not the machine manufacturers. As such they are public property and should be made available for inspection by a responsible party to the taxpayers. How is it that a certificate is protected information when it comes to public property?? Why does a voting machine certificate need to be proprietary? What is the purpose of keeping the certificate secret? Who is watching the watchers???**

\*“All voting machines and tabulators are certified by the Federal government and the State of Arizona. If they weren’t certified, the county wouldn’t have the option to use them.”

**Question: Who are the “accredited labs” certified to certify these machines for state of AZ?? Who is accountable? Trust in the voting machines and tabulators is based on the belief that the federal and state testing can be trusted. The machines and tabulators are certified by the feds and the state, but who within the federal government/state of Arizona was never clarified.**

## **Drop Boxes security and ballot handling**

(\*I asked how often the ballots are picked up from the drop boxes during early voting. Rayleen is not sure—early voting during the primary is run by the Recorder’s office. Some drop boxes have video recording, but not all. I was told that all drop boxes are secured at night but how they were secured was unclear. I think she stated that during the general election ballots are picked up from the drop boxes every day. Also, the people who pick up the ballots at the drop boxes try to drive different routes every day so people don’t learn their route and try to attack them on their route. This is for their safety.)

**Question: Why aren’t all Drop Boxes secured with tamperproof video recording equipment both on the box and mounted for wide view? Once again “drop boxes” are a fraud waiting for a place to happen. Video is a requirement to prevent “Obvious” fraud and abuse but is not a total solution. Hoodies and masks and gloves are a dead giveaway as we saw in 2000 Mules!! Next strategy by the cheaters will be to leave cell phones out of the area while stuffing ballots!! No one from the Secretary of State’s office admitted to viewing 2,000 Mules. The talking point was that the election outcome had been “fully litigated” and was repeated by Allie Bones, Assistant Secretary of State. \*I believe the person leading the certification for the Secretary of State’s office is Kori Lorick.**

# Resources

<https://azsos.gov/elections/voting-election/voting-equipment>

Equipment Certification Advisory Committee

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The Secretary of State's Equipment Certification Advisory Committee is appointed pursuant to [A.R.S. § 16-442\(A\)\(link is external\)](#). The committee investigates and tests various types of vote recording or tabulating machines and devices then makes recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding the certification of such election equipment for use in Arizona elections.

**Current members of the Election Equipment Certification Advisory Committee are:**

Ken Matta – Information Security Officer, Arizona Secretary of State's Office WAS PRESENT AT THE TESTING TODAY. (7/5)

Dr. Jim Helm – IT Program Chair, Arizona State University Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Peter Silverman – Attorney

<https://www.abc15.com/news/region-phoenix-metro/central-phoenix/ken-matta-retires-from-az-election-security-office-worries-about-future-elections>

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[Notes:](#)

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## **Recommendations:**

1. Determine the specific policy language for “Chain of Custody” of USB drives and physical ballots both during the early voting period and voting day.
  2. Determine the legitimacy of the machine testing and certification by state and federal agencies and the names and addresses of the independent third party labs that verify and certify. Verify that the motherboards and all circuitry is free of modems or other means of internet access. Keep all voting centers free of accessible SSID’s during voting day or port forward to “specifically” authorized equipment such as E-Polling or other not ballot related equipment. No public access to any broadcasting SSIS’s.
  3. Determine the exact policy for securing Express Voting Machines and Tabulators in the voting centers.
  4. Tamper proof video recording of all ballot “drop boxes” to include camera on the box and one mounted for wide area surveillance.
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