Voting Equipment: How Do You Know It’s Doing What You Need?

Santa Fe, New Mexico
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What is a Voting System?

What is a Voting System?
Is it this?

or this?
What is a Voting System

Is it a machine?

or a system?
What is a Voting System?

Is it a vote capture/vote tabulation system as defined by HAVA (301)?

- (1) the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment (including the software, firmware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment) that is used—
  - (A) to define ballots;
  - (B) to cast and count votes;
  - (C) to report or display election results; and
  - (D) to maintain and produce any audit trail information
What is a Voting System?

A voting system is the core technology that drives and integrates the election system.

It is the most visible component of the election system:
- It’s the part the voter touches
- It’s the part that produces results and determines outcomes of elections
- It’s the part that gets tested and audited
- It’s the least understood part of the system
How Many Cooks In The Kitchen?

- Legislature
- Secretary of State
- State/County elections office
- State/County procurement
- State Attorney General
- County election officials
- Muni election officials
- Registrars
- Voter advocacy groups
- Vendor(s)
- Political parties
- Academic researchers
- Courts
- Citizens
- Testing Authority/Lab
- Contractors
- Other stakeholders
Blueprints?

- Federal laws pertaining to voting
- State Constitution
- State Statutes
- Rules
- Policies
- Standards (VVSG)
- Election Best Practices
- IT Best Practices

- IT Constraints
- Integration and backwards compatibility
- Vendor capabilities
- Budget
- RFI/ RFP
- Contract
Supreme Law of Elections

The Law of Unintended Consequence
Voting System

How Do You Know It’s Doing What You Need It To?
Questions?

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