

Terminology – Electronic Voting

What is Electronic Voting ?



Electronic voting (also known as e-voting) is a term encompassing several different types of voting, embracing both electronic means of casting a vote, and electronic means of counting votes.

Electronic voting technology can include punch cards, optical scan voting systems and specialized voting kiosk (including self-contained Direct recording electronic DRE voting systems.)

It can also invoice transmission of ballots, and votes via telephones , private computer networks, or the Internet.

Electronic voting technology can speed the counting of ballots and can provide improved accessibility for disabled voters. However, there has been contention, especially in the United States, that electronic voting, especially DRE voting, could facilitate electoral fraud.

Electronic voting systems for electorates have been in use since the 1960s when punch card systems debuted. The newer optical scan voting systems allow a computer to count a voter's mark on a ballot. DRE voting machines which collect and tabulate votes in a single machine, are used by all voters in all elections in Brazil and India, and also on a large scale in the Venezuela and the United States. They have been used on a large scale in the Netherlands but have been decommissioned after public concerns. Internet voting systems have gained popularity and have been used for government elections and referendums in the United Kingdom, Estonia and Switzerland as well as municipal elections in Canada and party primary elections in the United States and France.

There are also hybrid systems that include an electronic ballot marking device (usually a touch screen system similar to a DRE) or other assistive technology to print a voter-verifiable paper ballot, then use a separate machine for electronic tabulation.

Paper-based electronic voting system

Sometimes called a "document ballot voting system," paper-based voting systems originated as a system where votes are cast and counted by hand, using paper ballots. With the advent of electronic tabulation came systems where paper cards or sheets could be marked by hand, but counted electronically. These systems included punch card voting, marksense and later digital pen voting systems.

Most recently, these systems can include an Electronic Ballot Marker (EBM), that allow voters to make their selections using an electronic input device, usually a touch screen system similar to a DRE. Systems including a ballot marking device can incorporate different forms of assistive technology.

Electronic voting manufacturers

- AccuPoll
- Advanced Voting Solutions, formerly Shoup Voting Machine Co.
- AVANTE International Technology, Inc.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (India)
- Dominion Voting Systems Corporation (Canada)
- Electronic Corporation of India Ltd
- ES&S (USA)
- Hart InterCivic (USA)
- MicroVote
- Nedap (Netherlands)
- Premier Election Solutions (formerly Diebold Election Systems) (USA)
- Sequoia Voting Systems (USA)
- Smartmatic
- UniLect
- VOTEX / TM Technologies Elections Inc. (Canada)