

Resolution Regarding Voting Machines for Hays County

Hays County is evaluating replacements for its aging voting machines. The County must choose from the State's list of approved systems. That list contains three options: one all-electronic system and two systems that use electronically scanned paper ballots.

All-electronic voting systems are susceptible to programming error, equipment malfunction and malicious tampering. This can cause inadvertent errors and can permit deliberate tampering. If there is not a software-independent means of auditing the election, those errors can be uncorrectable or even undetectable.

Electronically-scanned paper ballot systems provide the speed and convenience of electronic vote counting, but they also allow a voter to verify a printed record before submitting a vote. These printed records can be manually counted in a software-independent audit.

The Wimberley Democrats organization believes that secure elections are in the best interest of all citizens; that trust in the election process is crucial to a healthy democracy; and that a paper audit trail promotes security and trust. Therefore, the Wimberley Democrats organization resolves that Hays County should adopt a voting system that employs electronically scanned paper ballots.

Enacted by the Steering Committee of the Wimberley Democrats on November 24, 2017.