COUNTY OF EL DORADO ELECTION DEPARTMENT

Election Security Town Hall

August 28, 2024

Mission Statement

The Elections/Registrar of Voters Office provides transparent, fair, and <u>non-partisan</u> election services to all candidates for offices and County residents for Federal, State, City and Special District elections. The Department is responsible for assuring compliance with all Federal, State, County, City, and District laws as well as the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

<u>"No Ballot Left Behind"</u>

Survey Results

- ✓ 4,568 ANSWERED
- ✓ 3,572 COMMENTS -- #1 comment "Require ID"

I trust the National Elections process.
"You're kidding, right?"
"You should have to supply an ID to vote!"
"Yes. Completely. Sore loser's opinions don't count."

I trust the Elections process in El Dorado County.
"You're the government and do nothing but lie and steal from your subjects. "
"Your not doing the Trump voting process are you ? If not I trust you "
"Yes, I trust it, but one never knows. Mistakes can be made and there are ugly people out there. Overall I expect it to be just fine."

Vote in Person:
"Don't see well, don't have easy transportation, and wouldn't be able to see the machine anyway!"
"I have young children with no childcare, otherwise I would vote in person"

Vote by Mail:
"As a disabled vet, it is difficult for me to walk at times. Absentee ballots work best for my situation."
"Should be a last resort"
"Just because I'm lazy."

Did you know you can watch each step of the County Election/ballot process live or online?
"The concern does not reside with what we can see"
"That's great! But if we are still voting digitally, I question if this is adequate oversight."
"Tell me how. And if you pull a suitcase out from under a table at midnight, what am I supposed to do?"

Major Areas of Security

✓ <u>Strike a balance between transparency and security!</u>

✓ 100% paper ballot system.

✓ Cybersecurity and Physical security

✓ Ballot Collection

✓ Ballot Sorting and Signature Verification

✓ Ballot and Envelope Extraction

✓ Ballot Review and Duplication

✓ Ballot Tabulation

✓ Ballot Adjudication

✓ Ballot Audit

✓ Ballot Storage

✓ Vote Center Deployment

Overall Physical Security

✓ Over 18 cameras in office and warehouse with motion.

✓ Election processes live streamed.

✓ Card key access to office and warehouses.

✓ Limited card key access to tabulation and adjudication room.

✓ Camera with motion detection at vote centers.

✓ Sheriff Deputy escort from South Lake Tahoe.

✓ Work with SLT Police, Placerville Police, and EDC Sheriff of all location and hours of Vote Centers and Drop Boxes.

✓ All but three drop boxes watched by human or Camera. Working to cover the remaining three.

Ballot Collection

✓ Drop Box Security
  ✓ Two Types – Manned and Unmanned.
  ✓ Camera or human monitored.
  ✓ Stainless steel and bolted or secured with a cable and lock.
  ✓ Limited opening to put something inside.
  ✓ Each box has two keys to access and lock.
  ✓ Retriever team of two sworn election officers.
  ✓ Complete audit log at each drop box and sign with times.
  ✓ Brought to the Elections Office by the retrievers, never leave their custody.

✓ USPS
  ✓ Ballots picked up from Placerville USPS by sworn County staff every morning.
  ✓ Brought to a secure County facility and picked up by Election staff.
  ✓ Processed the same day.

Ballot Sorting and Signature Verification
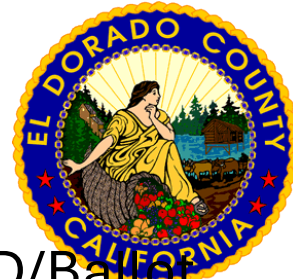
✓ Voter data from the Registration system is limited (Voter ID/Ballot Issue ID).

✓ Sorter utilizes HTTPS to allow secure access to the Registration System.

✓ Protected by built-in and County network firewalls.

✓ All the controls are behind locking doors.

✓ Automatic Signature Verification. Strict tolerance.

✓ Every signature verified and approved before envelope is opened.

✓ Challenged signatures in "review" queue until the voter corrects.

✓ No-Sig or Mismatch signature notification to voter to correct.

✓ Final sort into batches of 100 with audit sheet that goes with the batch through entire process.

Ballot and Envelope Extraction

✓ Two cameras with 24/7 recording and livestreamed.

✓ Ballots are extracted by trained and sworn temps and permanent staff in batch of 100 with audit sheet.

✓ Ballot extracted in a manner to ensures votes are anonymous.

✓ During extraction envelope and ballot are separated.

✓ During extraction looking for empty envelopes and double ballots.

✓ Ballots and envelopes are counted after extraction to ensure the quantity is accurate.

✓ Audit sheet is updated and placed with ballots for review.

Ballot Review and Duplication

✓ Ballot Review and Duplication is non-technical, secured by processes.

✓ Minimum of two sworn temp staff at a table.

✓ Audit sheet is reviewed, ballots and envelopes counted again.

✓ All audit sheet markings done in red pencil and updated.

✓ Duplication – ballots contain identifying information or damaged.

  ✓ Team of three:
    ✓ One caller
    ✓ One marking
    ✓ One observer

✓ Serialized original ballot and duplicate for audit.

Ballot Tabulation

- ✓ **<u>NOT CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET!</u>** …<u>or any other network.</u>
- ✓ SoS Certified Gold Image.
- ✓ Logic and Accuracy tested before use.
- ✓ Fully Self-Contained/Air gapped with Adjudication.
- ✓ Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capability disabled at the BIOS level.
- ✓ Tabulation room swept and monitored for Wi-Fi or Bluetooth activity to or from the tabulation system.
- ✓ Only three permanent staff have card key access (Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Tabulation Lead).
- ✓ Two levels of passwords and a security fob to access machines.
- ✓ Tabulator operators are logged in by Lead. System access limited to only operating the scanner.
- ✓ Everyone entering must be let in and sign in and out.
- ✓ USB devices used to transfer data into or out of the network are single use, air gap checked.
- ✓ Use only long-term sworn temporary staff for support.

Ballot Adjudication

- ✓ Single Camera with 24/7 recording and live streamed.
- ✓ Two people observing during adjudication at all times.
- ✓ Digitally review ballots with anomalies:
  - ✓ Overvote
  - ✓ Write In
  - ✓ Indeterminant marks
- ✓ Closed network only connected to the tabulation server.
- ✓ Only allowed in by one of three permanent staff.
- ✓ Keystroke logging and full audit on each ballot.
- ✓ Staff sign in and out.

Ballot Audit

✓ Available to the public.

✓ Random draw of precincts and batches (2-3%).

✓ Election team pulls batches and ballots.

✓ A team of 5 staff hand count each contest. Compare results to electronic tabulation.

✓ If count does not match the team leader instructs them to re-count.

✓ When completed the ballots are returned to secure storage.

✓ A detailed report of the hand count is included in the Statement of Vote and posted on website.

Post-Election Ballot Storage

✓ Ballots and Envelopes sealed in batch order.

✓ Ballots and envelopes audited.

✓ Loaded onto pallets and stored in secure warehouse:

   ✓ Federal Elections: 22 months

   ✓ State and Local Elections: 6 months

✓ Sealed ballots can only be opened by a court order.

Vote Center Deployment

- ✓ All voting equipment is re-imaged with a Gold image provided by CA SoS.
- ✓ CA-SOS Gold Image
- ✓ Logic and Accuracy Testing
- ✓ Equipment testing (200+ pieces)
- ✓ Safety and Integrity storing equipment
- ✓ Tamper-proof Security
- ✓ Secure during transport
- ✓ Retested upon installation
- ✓ Continuous Monitoring
- ✓ Retrieval process

County IT Security

- ✓ Security detection and prevention tools
- ✓ Multi-factor authentication is required for identity verification and authorization
- ✓ Vulnerability testing is performed regularly
- ✓ Network segmentation to isolate and protect Elections systems
- ✓ Security assessment conducted by the Department of Homeland Security
- ✓ Security Operations Center performs 24/7 continuous security monitoring

Questions