

Electronic Voting Glossary

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Introduction

The purpose of this glossary is to provide a central reference to provide definitions of over 2000 terms used in conjunction with electronic voting and voter registration systems in the United States. No effort is made to address the terminology or systems of other countries.

Voting is one of the oldest organized governmental functions in this country, long predating the establishment of the Union. It consists of venerated practices imbued with tradition and mandated by statutes, all of which differ from state to state. This has given rise to a rich body of terms, many of which do not have consistent meanings throughout the country. It is a goal of this document to provide authoritative explanations of the various ways in which terms are used with reference to official documents and statutes, where possible. Another goal has been to provide a reference for users of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines.

About the Author

Michael Ian Shamos is Distinguished Career Professor in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and an attorney admitted in Pennsylvania and before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office..

From 1980-2000 and from 2004-2006 he was an examiner of computerized voting systems for the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. From 1987-2000 he was the Designee of the Attorney General of Texas for electronic voting certification. He has conducted more than 120 voting system examinations. In 2004 he designed and taught a course on electronic voting at Carnegie Mellon University. In 2006 he taught a course on voting system testing for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Dr. Shamos has been an expert witness in a number of lawsuits involving electronic voting, including *Wexler v. Lepore* in Florida, *Schade v. State Board of Elections* in Maryland, *Taylor v. Onorato* in Pennsylvania and *Gusciora v. McGreevey* in New Jersey. He has also testified in several patent cases involving voting technology, including *Avante v. Premier Election Solutions*. He was the author in 1993 of “Electronic Voting — Evaluating the Threat” and in 2004 of “Paper v. Electronic Voting Records — An Assessment,” both of which were presented at the ACM Conference on Computers, Freedom & Privacy. He has provided testimony on electronic voting to the Pennsylvania legislature, the Election Assistance Commission and on five occasions to committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Further information is available at <http://euro.econ.cmu.edu/shamos.html>.

Abbreviations Used

- Admin.** Administrative
Ala. Alabama
Ann. Annotated
ANSI American National Standards Institute
Ariz. Arizona
Ark. Arkansas
Art. Article
Bull. Bulletin
Cal. Proc. California “Procedures for Approving, Certifying, Reviewing, Modifying, and Decertifying Voting Systems, Vote Tabulating Systems, Election Observer Panel Plans, and Auxiliary Equipment, Materials, and Procedures”
C.F.R. Code of Federal Regulations
CIVTF. California Internet Voting Task Force. Technical Committee Recommendations.
Col. Colorado
Comp. Compiled, as in “Ill. Comp. Stat.”
Conn. Connecticut
Const. Constitution
CRS Congressional Research Service
D.C. District of Columbia
Del. Delaware
Elec. Election
Fischer. Eric Fischer, “CRS Report for Congress: Voting Technologies in the United States” (2001)
Fla. VSS. Florida Voting System Standards
Ga. Georgia
Gen. General
Gen’l. General
Ill. Illinois
Ind. Indiana
I.S.O. International Standards Organization
Jones. Douglas W Jones on Mark Sense Voting. Available at www.cs.uiowa.edu/~jones/voting/optical/.
Kan. Kansas
Ky. Kentucky
La. Louisiana
Mass. Massachusetts
Md. Maryland
Me. Maine

Mich. Michigan
Minn. Minnesota
Miss. Mississippi
Mo. Missouri
Mont. Montana
N.C. North Carolina
N.D. North Dakota
N.D.C.C. North Dakota Century Code
Neb. Nebraska
Nev. Nevada
N.H. New Hampshire
NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology
N.J. New Jersey
N.J.S New Jersey Statutes
N.J.S.A. New Jersey Statutes Annotated
N.M. New Mexico
N.Y. New York
Okla. Oklahoma
OMB Office of Management and Budget
O.R.S. Oregon Revised Statutes
Pa. Pennsylvania
Pasco ESP. “Election Security Procedures” Version 1.9, issued by Pasco County (FL)
Supervisor of Elections.
Proc. Procedures
Regs. Regulations
Rev. Revised
R.C.W. Revised Code of Washington
R.I. Rhode Island
R.S. Revised Statutes
SBE State Board of Elections
S.C. South Carolina
S.D. South Dakota
Sec’y. Secretary
Stat. Statutes
Tenn. Tennessee
U.S.C. United States Code
Va. Virginia
Vt. Vermont
VVSG. The Voluntary Voting System Guidelines
W. Va. West Virginia
W.V.C. West Virginia Code
Wash. Washington
Wisc. Wisconsin
Wyo. Wyoming

Abbreviations not listed in the above table are defined as entries in the glossary. See, e.g. “ABS.”

References in small caps are cross-references to other entries in the glossary

Terms

abandoned ballot

A ballot that has been partially filled out but not cast. A ballot left by a FLEEING VOTER. Iowa Admin. Code §721-26.60(49). The states differ as to whether such a ballot should be cast without being examined by precinct officials or invalidated. In Iowa, it is cast. Iowa Admin. Code §721-22.432(52). A “ballot that the voter did not place in the ballot box or record as cast on [a] DRE before leaving the POLLING PLACE.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

ABP

= ACCESSIBLE BALLOT PRINTER.

ABS

Abbreviation for ABSENTEE BALLOT SYSTEM.

absent ballot

= ABSENTEE BALLOT. A “ballot voted by a person who expects to be or is absent from the polling place for his precinct or district on election day.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.013.

absent ballot mailing precinct inspection board

The absent ballot mailing precinct inspection board shall:

1. Perform functions similar to those of the central ballot inspection board and the ballot duplicating board as those functions are applicable to absent and mailing ballots.
2. Bundle the empty absentee and mailing return envelopes according to ballot type or precinct and deliver the bundles to the county clerk.
3. Treat any absentee or mailing envelope found not to contain a ballot as a rejected ballot and place each such envelope in a separate larger envelope on which must be written the ballot code or precinct and the reason for the rejection.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.370.

absent uniformed services voter

A term from UOCAVA defining the class of people who benefit from the statute:

“‘absent uniformed services voter’ means –

(A) a member of a uniformed service on active duty who, by reason of such active duty, is absent from the place of residence where the member is otherwise qualified to vote;

(B) a member of the merchant marine who, by reason of service in the merchant marine, is absent from the place of residence where the member is otherwise qualified to vote; and

(C) a spouse or dependent of a member referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B) who, by reason of the active duty or service of the member, is absent from the place of residence where the spouse or dependent is otherwise qualified to vote.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-6(1).

absent voter

A “registered voter who has received or who has voted an absent ballot.” Nev. Rev. Stat. § 293.015.

absent voter ballot card

A “ballot card attached to a backing that aids a voter to punch out the scored position on the ballot card.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(1). Similarly in Mich. Rules §168.771(1)(a).

absent voter card

A “ballot card with the names of candidates, issues and questions to be voted on, printed on the card.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(2).

absent voter instruction ballot

A form of sample ballot that accompanies an ABSENTEE BALLOT. 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(4)(5).

absentee

A voter who is not, or expects not to be, present on election day in the jurisdiction in which she is eligible to vote or who otherwise meets the requirements for obtaining an ABSENTEE BALLOT.

absentee ballot

“A ballot not used in a polling place.” Md. Election Code §1-101(b). A “ballot provided to an ABSENT VOTER” or a “ballot resulting from ABSENTEE VOTING.” 2007 VVSG. See also ABSENT VOTER INSTRUCTION BALLOT, FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT, HOSPITAL ABSENTEE BALLOT, ONGOING ABSENTEE BALLOT, REGULAR ABSENTEE BALLOT, REPLACEMENT ABSENTEE BALLOT, SPECIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT.

absentee ballot board

A “subdivision of the COUNTING BOARD consisting of at least two (2) individuals responsible for preparing the ABSENTEE BALLOTS for counting.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(a). Also ABSENTEE BALLOT COUNTING BOARD.

absentee ballot counting board

A local Nevada body that handles absentee and REJECTED BALLOTS. Also ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD.

absentee ballot courier

A person authorized “to collect absentee ballots from voters for delivery to the County Commissioner of Elections in counties in which the courier is registered.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-21.371(53).

absentee ballot register

A “list of the name and address of each applicant; the date and time of receipt of the application; the disposition of the application; the date of issue of the absentee ballot; the applicant’s precinct; whether the applicant is a voter, federal voter, qualified federal elector or an overseas citizen voter; and the date and time of receipt of the ballot.” N.M. Admin. Code 1.10.12.7(B).

absentee ballot request

A request for an absentee ballot under UOCAVA.

absentee ballot system

A system used to cast and/or count ABSENTEE BALLOTS. Such a system is usually distinct from, and of a different type than, the one used in polling places. Abbreviated ABS.

absentee by mail and early voting counting equipment

A “device capable of counting and producing results of votes cast on paper absentee by mail and early voting ballots.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1351(1).

absentee commissioner

An election official who counts ABSENTEE BALLOTS. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1313.

absentee counting equipment

“A device capable of counting and producing results of votes cast on paper ABSENTEE BALLOTS.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1351(1).

absentee elector

A voter who meets the requirements for obtaining a ballot prior to an election. See, e.g. O.R.S. 253.005(4).

absentee election manager

A person who oversees the process of ABSENTEE VOTING in a county. Ala. Code §17-10-2.

absentee polling place

A “polling place designated for the conduct of absentee walk-in voting prior to election day.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1. The statutory definition is similar but not identical: “an office or other suitable facility designated by the respective clerks for the conduct of absentee voting and the processing of absentee ballots.” 2 Hawaii Rev. Stat. §15-1.

absentee voter

A person unable to vote at the polls who has requested an ABSENTEE BALLOT. Abbreviated AV. See also LONG-TERM ABSENTEE VOTER.

absentee voting

The process of voting at other than at a polling place, usually by filling out a ballot and mailing or delivering it to an election authority. “Voting that can occur unsupervised at a location chosen by the voter.” 2007 VVSG. Some states, such as Oregon, conduct elections completely in this manner. Others, such as Wyoming, allow any voter to vote absentee for any reason. Yet others allow absentee voting only for specific reasons enumerated by statute. Some of these reasons include:

- being out of the county or the state on election day
- having a physical illness or infirmity which prevents attendance at the polls
- working on a shift which has at least 10 hours which coincide with the hours the polls are open at the voter’s regular polling place. Ala. Code §17-10-3(a)(3).
- being enrolled as a student at an educational institution located outside the county of the voter’s residence
- being a member of, or spouse or dependent of a member of, the armed forces of the United States or is similarly qualified to vote absentee pursuant to UOCAVA.
- being appointed as an election officer or named as a poll watcher at a polling place other than his or her regular polling place. Ala. Code 17-10-3(a)(6).
- being confined while awaiting trial or for having been convicted of a misdemeanor, provided that the trial or release date is scheduled on or after the third day preceding the election. Va. Code §24.2-700(5).

- being unable to go in person to the polls on the day of the election because he is primarily and personally responsible for the care of an ill or disabled family member who is confined at home. Va. Code §24.2-700(7).
- being unable to go in person to the polls on the day of the election because of an obligation occasioned by his religion. Va. Code §24.2-700(8).
- being 75 or older. Georgia Code Ann. §21-2-380(6).
- being “required to remain on duty in his or her place of employment for the protection of the health, life, or safety of the public during the entire time the polls are open.” Georgia Code Ann. §21-2-380(5).
- by virtue of his employment or occupation expects to be out of his precinct of registration and upon the waters of the state both during the absentee voting period and on election day. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1303(E).
- serving on a sequestered jury. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1307.1.

To preserve voter privacy, the absentee ballot is placed in a plain envelope. That envelope, and some also a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the voter is entitled to vote, are placed in another envelope, which is then delivered to the election authority. The voter’s eligibility to vote can be determined without opening the plain envelope that contains the ballot. The plain envelopes of eligible voters are segregated and opened only after no connection is possible between the plain envelopes and the outer enclosing envelopes and affidavits.

absentee voting official

An “official designated to supervise in-person ABSENTEE VOTING.” Alaska Stat. 15-060.010(1).

absorption

(opscan) The property of paper that results in taking up water vapor from the air, thus causing the paper to expand.

abstract

A “document signed by the members of the board of elections showing the votes for each candidate and ballot proposal on the official ballot in the election.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-182(1). Likewise in Washington. Cf. COMPOSITE ABSTRACT.

abstract of ballot

= ABSTRACT. Iowa Admin. Code §721-21.800(4).

abstract of votes

= ABSTRACT. A “compilation of votes cast for a particular candidate by office and precinct.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.016. “The abstracts shall contain the names of all persons receiving any vote for each office and the total number of votes received by each person or for or against each question. However, if no person was elected by write-in votes and the total number of write-in votes for any office is less than (i) five percent of the total number of votes cast for that office and (ii) the total number of votes cast for the candidate receiving the most votes, the abstract shall contain only the total number of write-in votes and not the number of write-in votes for each person receiving write-in votes.” Va. Code §24.2-532.

Acc-VS

= ACCESSIBLE VOTING STATION.

acceptable mark

A concept from MARK-SENSE and PAPER balloting. “Any mark on a ballot that meets the legal requirements to be counted as a vote.” Jones.

acceptance demonstration

A demonstration by a VENDOR that its system can meet a state’s legal requirements.” Minn. Rules §8220.0450.

acceptance test

The “examination of voting systems and their components by the purchasing election authority in a simulated use environment to validate performance of delivered units in accordance with procurement requirements.” Cal. Proc. §1800. Likewise in Florida. VSS Appendix.

access

The “ability to receive, use, select and manipulate data and operate controls included in voting technology and systems.” W. Va. Code §3-1C-3(1). Similarly in Cal. Elec. Code §19925..

Access Board

= ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIER COMPLIANCE BOARD, a term from HAVA for the independent federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with disabilities.

access code

A four-digit randomly-generated number with a short lifetime that is entered by a voter to activate the Hart InterCivic DRE.

access control

Because unrestricted physical access to components of a voting system raises the possibility of tempering, it is important for such access to be controlled and logged. Requirements that address voting system capabilities to limit and detect access to critical voting system components in order to guard against loss of system and data integrity, availability, confidentiality, and accountability in voting systems form part of the security coverage of the 2007 VVSG.

access control policy

A policy concerning who may access various equipment and functions of a voting system, required to be established by each voting jurisdiction in Indiana. “The using jurisdiction in charge of voting system operations is responsible for defining the specific access policies applying to each election and for defining any variations of these resulting from use of the system in more than one (1) environment.” Ind. Code. §3-11-46

access device

The “device that is used by the voter to access the ballot at a direct recording electronic voting device. It may be a card or other media.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-510.

accessibility

1. A measurable characteristic that indicates the degree to which a system is available to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. The most common disabilities include those associated

with vision, hearing and mobility, as well as cognitive disabilities.

2. The ability of a voting system to accommodate disabled voters. HAVA requires that a VOTING SYSTEM used in elections for FEDERAL OFFICES shall

“(A) be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters;

(B) satisfy the requirement of subparagraph (A) through the use of at least one direct recording electronic voting system or other voting system equipped for individuals with disabilities at each polling place; and

(C) if purchased with funds made available under title II on or after January 1, 2007, meet the voting system standards for disability access (as outlined in this paragraph).” 42 U.S.C. §15481(a)(3).

3. See ACCESSIBILITY OF PAPER RECORDS, ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY.

accessibility of paper records

The ability of a voter to verify CONTEST CHOICES by using paper records such as a VVPAT, including a readback mechanism for vision-impaired voters. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

accessible

“[A]ccessible to HANDICAPPED and ELDERLY individuals for the purpose of voting or registration, as determined under guidelines established by the chief election officer of the State involved.” 42 U.S.C. §1973cc-6(1). A term describing the “combination of the various elements of the built environment as prescribed by these rules which allows unimpeded entrance to, emergence from, and use of polling place facilities by handicapped and elderly voters.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.103(1)(a).

accessible ballot printer

A device that enables the disabled to mark optical scan ballots for subsequent counting. The voter makes choices as if on a DRE, but the output of the device is a marked optical ballot suitable for reading by a scanner. Abbreviated ABP. Also ELECTRONICALLY ASSISTED BALLOT MARKER.

accessible voter verified paper trail

A VOTER VERIFIED PAPER TRAIL that is usable by the disabled without assistance. Accessibility is an issue because ordinary VVPAT machines produce verifiable paper records, which may be unreadable to the disabled. Abbreviated AVVPAT.

accessible voting station

A VOTING STATION equipped for disabled individuals as required by Section 301(a)(3)(B) of HAVA. Equivalent “A VOTING STATION equipped for individuals with disabilities referred to in 42 U.S.C. §15481(a)(3)(B).” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated ACC-VS.

accreditation

Formal recognition that a VOTING SYSTEM TESTING LABORATORY is competent to carry out specific tests or calibrations or types of tests or calibrations. Under HAVA, the power to accredit VSTLS is delegated to the EAC. 42 U.S.C. §15371. See also ACCREDITED LABORATORY.

accreditation body

An independent organization responsible for assessing the performance of other organizations against a recognized standard, and for formally confirming the status of those that meet the standard. ISO 17000.

accredited laboratory

A laboratory approved by a majority of the ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION to perform testing, certification, decertification and recertification of voting system hardware and software.

accumulate

To total the contents of individual memory cards or other storage devices from individual voting machine to produce jurisdiction-wide vote totals.

accuracy

The ability of a system to capture and tabulate votes with precision. “[P]recision in calculations and outputs.” Cal. Proc. §1802. The ability of a voting system to “capture, record, store, consolidate and report the specific selections and absence of selections, made by the voter for each ballot position without error. Required accuracy is defined in terms of an ERROR RATE that for testing purposes represents the maximum number of errors allowed while processing a specified volume of data.” VSS. The “(1) Extent to which a given measurement agrees with an accepted standard for that measurement (2) Closeness of the agreement between the result of a measurement and a true value of the particular quantity subject to measurement. Accuracy is a qualitative concept and is not interchangeable with precision.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

accuracy certification board

The “county or city clerk shall appoint three persons, not more than two of whom are of the same political party, to serve as an accuracy certification board.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.140. “[T]he accuracy certification board shall certify as to whether in their judgment the ballots were accurately counted.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.390.

accuracy for voting systems

The “ability of the system to capture, record, store, consolidate and report the specific selections and absence of selections, made by the voter for each ballot position without error. Required accuracy is defined in terms of an error rate that for testing purposes represents the maximum number of errors allowed while processing a specified volume of data.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

accuracy test

A “test conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the election count the votes in the manner prescribed by the [electronic voting statute].” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(3). Similarly in Mich. Rules §168.771(1)(b).

activated state

A composite VOTING STATE of a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE which includes the simple states IN USE and READY. 2007 VVSG. See ACTIVE PERIOD.

activation device

A card or device used to activate a voting machine for voting. See also ACTIVATOR PACK. A “PROGRAMMED DEVICE that creates credentials necessary to initiate a VOTING SESSION using a specific BALLOT CONFIGURATION.” 2007 VVSG. The VVSG definition is intended to cover “a range of devices such as electronic pollbooks and card activators that encode a token with credential information necessary to determine the appropriate ballot configuration for the voter (e.g., AFFILIATION or PRECINCT). The credentials on the token are used to call up and display the correct ballot on a DRE or EBP.” The question raised by the definition is whether the activation device is the token itself or the equipment that loads the token with data.

activator pack

A device used to activate a voting machine for voting. Ark. Code §7-5-517(d).

active elector

An “ELECTOR who voted in the previous federal GENERAL ELECTION and whose name is on the active list.” Mont. Code Ann. §13-1-101(1).

active period

The “span of time during which a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE either is ready to begin a VOTING SESSION or is in use in a voting session.” The time during which a vote-capture device is in ACTIVATED STATE. 2007 VVSG.

active voter

A “voter who ... has registered or voted in any election during the preceding four (4) years at the address indicated on the voter's registration record; [or] has not voted in any election during the preceding four (4) years at the address indicated on the voter's registration record and has responded in writing to an address confirmation notice ... under IC 3-7 not later than thirty (30) days after the notice was sent.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-1.7. A “REGISTERED VOTER who has not been classified as an INACTIVE VOTER by the county clerk.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(1).

ActiveX control

A format for executable code that is downloaded to a client computer from a web page.

ADA

= AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities

A set of principles for laying out physical facilities to be accessible to the disabled, codified at 36 C.F.R. §1191. Abbreviated ADAAG. Many requirements of the 2007 VVSG have been adopted from the ADAAG.

ADAAG

= ADA ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.

address confidentiality program

A program of the state of Washington to protect the addresses of crime victims, which creates difficulties in ABSENTEE VOTING. See ONGOING ABSENTEE BALLOT.

adequate security

Security commensurate with the risk and the magnitude of harm resulting from the loss, misuse, or unauthorized access to or modification of information. OMB A130.

adjustability

The ability of a voter to control some aspect of the VOTING STATION throughout the VOTING SESSION. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

administrative complaint procedure

Under HAVA, “[I]f a State receives any payment under a program under this Act, the State shall be required to establish and maintain State-based administrative complaint procedures.” 42 U.S.C. §15512(a)(1). A COMPLAINT must be based on an alleged violation of the HAVA voting system standards, provisional balloting or maintenance of voter registration lists as specified in 42 U.S.C. §15481.

administrative recount

A recount ordered or requested by an authorized election officer, whether or not any candidate demands one. “When the commissioner suspects that voting equipment used in the election malfunctioned or that programming errors may have affected the outcome of the election, the commissioner may request an administrative recount after the day of the election but not later than three days after the canvass of votes.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-21.25(50).

Administrator

1. Under HAVA, the Administrator of the GENERAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION, who is responsible for establishing a plan to make payments due the states under the statute.
2. A person who “updates and configures the voting devices and troubleshoots system problems.” 2007 VVSG. Generally, an information technology specialist who has sufficient credentials to access normally protected portions of voting systems.
3. The “administrative head of a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state who is authorized in writing by a patient of the long-term care or residential care facility to deliver the application for an absentee ballot and to obtain or deliver the absentee ballot to the county clerk” Ark. Code §7-1-101(1).

admitting official

In Connecticut, an official who examines the qualifications of a person applying to be admitted

advance ballot

A ballot for ADVANCE VOTING. (Kansas)

advance voting

= EARLY VOTING (Georgia, Kansas).

advanced voting

= EARLY VOTING.

advisory election

A non-binding election “to determine the wishes of the electorate.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-208-010.

advisory primary

A non-binding PRIMARY election in which the result does not affect the state's allocation of convention delegates. Cf. LOOPHOLE PRIMARY.

affidavit ballot

A form of PROVISIONAL BALLOT in Mississippi, cast by placing the ballot in an envelope along with the voter's affidavit that he "believes he is a registered voter in the jurisdiction in which he desires to vote and is eligible to vote in the election." Miss. Code §23-15-573. Affidavit ballots are used in Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Texas and Vermont. See also SELF-AFFIRMATION.

AERO

= AUTOMATIC ELECTION RETURNS OPERATION.

affiliation

1. An "elector's decision to affiliate with either a political party or a political organization." Col. Stat. §1-1-104(1.2).
2. Association of a candidate with a political party. 2007 VVSG. Affiliation with a political party does not imply ENDORSEMENT by that party.

after-election latch

A device to prevent further voting on a voting machine once the polls have closed. Iowa Code §52.9.

AIMS

= AUTOMARK INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

air gap

A term referring to the lack of an electrical or wireless connection between two devices, guaranteeing that they are unable to communicate. 2007 VVSG.

aldermanic district

Cities in Wisconsin having a population exceeding 7500 may be divided into "aldermanic districts" composed of one or more WARDS. Wisc. Stat. §8.17(10(b)).

alert time

The "amount of time the equipment will wait for detectible voter activity after issuing an alert before going into an inactive state requiring POLL WORKER intervention." 2007 VVSG.

alignment mark

(opscan) A printed mark, normally at the edge of a BALLOT, which is used to identify the vertical position of a VOTE RESPONSE FIELD. 2007 VVSG.

alternate format

A ballot format other than in written English normally displayed to non-disabled English-literate voters. The format of an ALTERNATIVE BALLOT.

alternate location

A "site outside the office of the county clerk, established by the county clerk, where a voter may cast an absentee ballot." N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.12.7(D).

alternate voting system

A species of voting system that does not employ a DOCUMENT BALLOT. Any “voting system that does not use paper ballots and includes a direct recording election machine (DRE) but does not include a lever voting machine.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(c).

alternation

A form of BALLOT ROTATION. used in Minnesota, which involves “changing the order of the names on an electronic voting system in the various precincts so that each name appears on the machines or marking devices used in a municipality substantially an equal number of times in the first, last, and in each intermediate place in the list or group in which they belong. However, the arrangement of candidates’ names must be the same on all voting systems used in the same precinct. If the number of names to be alternated exceeds the number of precincts, the election official responsible for providing the ballots, in accordance with subdivision 1, shall determine by LOT the alternation of names.” Minn. Code §206.61(5).

alternative ballot

A ballot to be used by a disabled or elderly voter in lieu of voting at a polling place. The VAA requires that if a polling place is not ACCESSIBLE then an “alternative means” of voting for HANDICAPPED and ELDERLY voters must be provided for FEDERAL ELECTIONS. ” 42 U.S.C. §1973ee-1(b)(2)(B)(ii). An “emergency paper ballot furnished by the county clerk which contains for the voter the names of candidates, constitutional amendments and other questions to be voted on, and for the marking, casting or otherwise recording of such votes.” N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.5.7(B). Examples include Braille, large print, recorded audio, and electronic formats that provide enhanced contrast or other assistive adaptations.

alternative format

A BALLOT presented in a representation other than the standard ballot language and format. Examples include, but are not limited to languages other than English, Braille, ASCII text, large print, recorded audio.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

alternative language accessibility

The HAVA requirement that voting materials be provided in the languages of minority groups. 42 U.S.C. §15481(a)(4).

alternative language voting station

A VOTING STATION capable of displaying a BALLOT in a language other than English. 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. Abbreviated ALVS.

alternative vote system

= INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING.

ALVS

= ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE VOTING STATION.

American National Standards Institute

Under HAVA, the American National Standards Institute names a representative to the DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. Abbreviated ANSI.

Americans with Disabilities Act

A landmark federal statute, passed in 1990, to “establish a clear and comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability.” 42. U.S.C. §12101. It embodies the Congressional finding that discrimination against the disabled in voting persisted in the United States. Abbreviated ADA.

anonymity

The inability to identify the voter who cast a particular ballot.

ANSI

= AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE

Anywhere Voting Architecture

A Java language framework of Election Systems & Software for Internet voting and reporting
Abbreviated AVA.

API

= APPLICATION PROGRAM INTERFACE

apparent winner

In the event of a recount, normally the candidate tentatively receiving the highest vote total. “Any person who received votes for an office, including the person who received the most votes, may request a recount. If a person who is an apparent winner of an election requests a recount, the person who received the next highest number of votes for that office shall assume the functions of the “apparent winner.”. Iowa Admin. Code 721-26.100(50).

applicable information

A term, defined in HAVA, relating to verification of certain voter registration information by the Commissioner of Social Security with state driver’s license agencies.

“(i) the term ‘applicable information’ means information regarding whether--

“(I) the name (including the first name and any family forename or surname), the date of birth (including the month, day, and year), and social security number of an individual provided to the Commissioner match the information contained in the Commissioner's records, and

“(II) such individual is shown on the records of the Commissioner as being deceased.”

application logic

“Software, firmware, or HARDWIRED LOGIC from any source that is specific to the voting system, with the exception of BORDER LOGIC.” 2007 VVSG.

application program deck

“[T]he punch card deck or equivalent capacity in other program medias as provided, containing specific options used and necessary to modify the program of general application, to conduct and tabulate a specific election according to applicable law.” W. Va. Code §3-4A-2(g). See also PROGRAM DECK.

application program interface

A set of procedures capable of being invoked by other programs to access application software.

appointed incumbent

A candidate who is an INCUMBENT but who was appointed to the position rather than elected. Cal. Elec. Code §13107(4).

appointing board

A county board that appoints various local election officers, such as INSPECTORS and CLERKS. “The judge of probate, sheriff and clerk of the circuit court, or a majority of them, acting as an appointing board, must, not more than 20 nor less than 15 days before the holding of any election in their county, appoint from the qualified electors of the respective voting places, excluding members of a candidate's immediate family to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity or any member of a candidate's political committee ..., three inspectors and two clerks for each place of voting, and returning officer for each precinct, to act at the place of holding elections in each precinct.” Ala. Code §17-6-1.

appropriate mark

The “mark to be used in the proper manner of marking the ballot as stipulated in the instructions to voters.” N.H. Rev. Stat. §659:17-a. See also ACCEPTABLE MARK.

approval voting

A voting method in which a voter may vote for an arbitrary number of candidates (the ones of which she “approves”), the candidate receiving the highest number of votes being the winner.

approved computer

A “manufacturer model which has been approved by the State Board of Elections to tabulate ballot cards.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(5). Similarly in Mich. Rules §168.771(1)(d).

Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board

Under HAVA, the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Also known as the ACCESS BOARD.

archival

Generally, suitable for long-term storage. At a minimum, suitable for storage for the statutory period for which election records must be maintained, typically 22 months. “Able to preserve content for a period of time without significant loss.” 2007 VVSG. See also ARCHIVALNESS.

archivalness

The “ability of a medium to preserve its content for a period of time without significant loss.” 2007 VVSG. See also ARCHIVAL.

Arizona rotation

A form of BALLOT ROTATION used in Arizona in which each candidate’s name appears at the top, bottom and at an intermediate position in a race an equal number of times, and in vote-for-many offices, the names of candidates of the same party are rotated.

assistance in voting

“[A]ssistance in physically marking the official ballot for a voter, or reading or directing the voter's attention to any part of the official ballot, or physically operating the voting machine.”

W. Va. Code §3-4-12. Because of ballot secrecy requirements and the need to avoid coercion, assistance is permitted only under limited circumstances. “A voter shall not receive assistance in voting unless he is unable to read, or is unable to vote without assistance because of a physical handicap, including blindness.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:564(A). Even if a voter is entitled to assistance, certain persons are forbidden to assist: “(1) No candidate in any election shall assist any voter in casting his ballot in that election. (2) No commissioner-in-charge can assist a voter. (3) No employer or employer’s agent can assist an employee in voting. (4) No union agent can assist a union member in voting.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:564(B).

assistant election administrator

A “person involved in the administration of elections at the state or county level who has been designated as an assistant election administrator by the state director of elections or the county auditor as applicable.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-260-020(10).

assistant tabulation supervisor

The TABULATION SUPERVISOR may appoint one or more assistants” to “assist the tabulation supervisor in the operation of the automatic tabulating equipment” at a COUNTING STATION. Texas Elec. Code §127.004.

assisted voter

A voter who asks for assistance in marking the ballot. In Georgia, poll officials must record “the exact disability of any assisted voter which makes the assistance necessary.” Ga. Stat. §21-2-592.

assistant moderator

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14. See also DEPUTY MODERATOR, MODERATOR.

Assistant Registrar

In Virginia, an assistant to the GENERAL REGISTRAR. Va. Code §23.2-112. See also SPECIAL ASSISTANT REGISTRAR.

assistive voting technology

A “touch-activated screen, buttons, keypad, SIP-AND-PUFF input device, keyboard, earphones, or any other device used with an ELECTRONIC BALLOT MARKER that assists voters to use an audio or electronic ballot display in order to cast votes.” Minn. Stat. §206.56(1a).

asymmetric encryption

Encryption in which a different key is used for decryption than the one used for encryption, e.g., in PUBLIC-KEY ENCRYPTION. Cf. SYMMETRIC ENCRYPTION.

at large

“[S]elected on a basis other than from a district.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-463(1).

ATI

= AUDIO-TACTILE INTERFACE.

Attorney General

1. In New Jersey, the CHIEF STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL. N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:31-6a.

2. In Texas, the Attorney General appoints a designee to sit with the examiners for the SECRETARY OF STATE in voting system certification examinations.

audible ballot

= AUDIO BALLOT.

audio ballot

A version of a ballot presented in audio form for use by blind and visually impaired voters. Extensive requirements for audio ballots may be found at Fla. Stat. §101.56062(1)(n). Cf. VIDEO BALLOT.

audio ballot reader

An “audio representation of a ballot that can be used with other assistive voting technology to permit a voter to mark votes on a nonelectronic ballot or to securely transmit a ballot electronically to automatic tabulating equipment in the polling place.” Minn. Stat. §206.56(1b).

audio-tactile interface

An interface to a voting system that does not require visual ability but instead uses the sense of hearing and the ability to touch. 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. Similarly, 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated ATI. Under the 2007 VVSG, an ATI must provide the same functionality as the visual interface of a VOTING STATION. AN ATI must be able to provide a range of volumes controllable by the voter, offer intelligible audio and must support a variety of playing speeds. See also PAUSE AND RESUME, REPETITION, SANITIZED HEADSET.

audio VEDB

A “VEDB that communicates ballot information to the voter using sound.” 2007 VVSG.

audit

“Verification of statistical or exact agreement of records from different processes or subsystems of a voting system.” 2007 VVSG. A “systematic, independent, documented process for obtaining records, statements of fact or other relevant information and assessing them objectively to determine the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. Some electronic voting statutes provide for a system audit after voting has ended. “This audit must be conducted by randomly selecting by lot up to four percent of the direct recording electronic voting devices or one direct recording electronic voting device, whichever is greater, and, for each device, comparing the results recorded electronically with the results recorded on paper. For purposes of this audit, the results recorded on paper must be tabulated as follows: On one-fourth of the devices selected for audit, the paper records must be tabulated manually; on the remaining devices, the paper records may be tabulated by a mechanical device determined by the secretary of state to be capable of accurately reading the votes cast and printed thereon and qualified for use in the state under applicable state and federal laws.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.60.185. See AUDIT TRAIL, BALLOT COUNT AND VOTE TOTAL AUDIT, POLLBOOK AUDIT, RANDOM AUDIT.

audit capacity

A requirement under HAVA in elections for FEDERAL OFFICES for a permanent record from which an election may be audited.

“Audit capacity.—

(A) In general.--The voting system shall produce a record with an audit capacity for such system.

(B) Manual audit capacity.--

(i) The voting system shall produce a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity for such system.

(ii) The voting system shall provide the voter with an opportunity to change the ballot or correct any error before the permanent paper record is produced.

(iii) The paper record produced under subparagraph (A) shall be available as an official record for any recount conducted with respect to any election in which the system is used.” 42 U.S.C. §15481(a)(2).

audit device

A “voting device dedicated exclusively to processes of verification and/or independent assessment of the performance of the voting system.” 2007 VVSG.

audit log

A time-stamped record of significant events that occur during an election. “A system-generated record, in either machine readable or printed format, providing a record of activities and events relevant to initialization of election software and hardware, identification of files containing election parameters, initialization of the tabulation process, processing of voted ballots, and termination of the tabulation process.” Fla. VSS Appendix. An “electronically stored record of events and ballot images from which election officials may produce a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity for a voting system using voting machines.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(2). Cf. AUDIT TRAIL (def. 2).

Audit Manager

Software of Election Systems & Software used for generating voting system audit reports.

audit trail

In general, records from which the events and/or votes cast in an election may be reconstructed. Audit trails are of two distinct types which are often confused with one another. The first (definition 1) is a record of administrative events that take place during an election. The second (definition 2) is a record of the actual ballots cast by voters in the election. The former is used to identify irregularities in administrative procedures; the latter is used in the event of a recount.

1. Any “documentation of changes made to voting system programming, the incident report, and the report generated by an electronic voting system on election day.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.1a. A “record of the manual and computing processes which have been applied to an election, showing each stage of processing and allowing the original data to be reconstituted. It permits verification of the integrity and reliability of the vote tabulating process as well as detection and correction of problems. A combination of manual and computer- generated documentation provides a record of each step taken in:

- defining and producing ballots and generating related software for specific elections;
- installing ballots and software;
- testing system readiness;
- casting and tabulating ballots; and,
- producing reports of vote totals.

The record incorporates system status and error messages generated during election processing, including a log of machine activities and routine and unusual intervention by authorized and unauthorized individuals. The audit trail also documents such items as ballots delivered and collected, administrative procedures for system security, pre-election testing of voting systems, and maintenance performed on voting equipment.” Cal. Proc. §1803.

2. A record of BALLOT IMAGES of votes cast by voters. The Illinois provision is comprehensive and combines meanings 1 and 2: “‘Audit trail’ or ‘audit capacity’ means a continuous trail of evidence linking individual transactions related to the casting of a vote, the vote count and the summary record of vote totals, but which shall not allow for the identification of the voter. It shall permit verification of the accuracy of the count and detection and correction of problems and shall provide a record of each step taken in: defining and producing ballots and generating related software for specific elections; installing ballots and software; testing system readiness; casting and tabulating ballots; and producing images of votes cast and reports of vote totals. The record shall incorporate system status and error messages generated during election processing, including a log of machine activities and routine and unusual intervention by authorized and unauthorized individuals. Also part of an audit trail is the documentation of such items as ballots delivered and collected, administrative procedures for system security, pre-election testing of voting systems, and maintenance performed on voting equipment. All test plans, test results, documentation, and other records used to plan, execute, and record the results of the testing and verification, including all material prepared or used by independent testing authorities or other third parties, shall be made part of the public record and shall be freely available via the Internet and paper copy to anyone. ‘Audit trail’ or ‘audit capacity’ also means that the voting system is capable of producing and shall produce immediately after a ballot is cast a permanent paper record of each ballot cast that shall be available as an official record for any recount, redundant count, or verification or retabulation of the vote count conducted with respect to any election in which the voting system is used.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C-2. See also VVPAT.

3. “Recorded information that allows election officials to review the activities that occurred on the voting equipment to verify or reconstruct the steps followed without compromising the ballot or voter secrecy.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. See also AUDIT TRAIL FOR DIRECT-RECORDING EQUIPMENT.

audit trail for direct-recording equipment

A “paper printout of votes cast, produced by direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting machines, which election officials may use to crosscheck electronically tabulated totals.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY This definition is deficient because it requires paper and allows no other medium.

auditability

That property of a system enabling reconstruction of events during an election, including individual ballots. The “ease of auditing the vote tabulating software, the ballots, and the canvass.” Cal. Proc. §1804.

auditory privacy

That property of a voting system that prevents anyone other than the voter from hearing the sounds provided by an AUDIO-TACTILE INTERFACE.

Australian ballot

A printed ballot listing the names of all candidates and the texts of measures to be voted upon that is marked in secret by the voter to indicate her choices. The Australian ballot replaced the previous method of writing candidate names in longhand, which often permitted a voter's ballot to be identified through handwriting. A "uniformly printed ballot, typically confined to the secret vote election of specified offices as previously warned to be voted upon." Vt. Stat. §2103(4).

Australian ballot system

The "technique of having the polls open for voting on specified and warned matters during a warned, extended period which may be during or after a municipal meeting, or both." Vt. Stat. §2103(4).

authentication

Verification of the true source of a message or identity of its sender.

authorized agent

A "person who is identified and authorized by an applicant who is medically unable to cast a ballot at a polling site due to unforeseen medical necessity as set forth in an affidavit from the administrative head of a hospital or long-term or residential care facility to deliver the application, obtain a ballot, and deliver the ballot on the day of the election to the county clerk." Ark. Code §7-1-101(3). See also AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

authorized poll agent

A candidate, party official or one of their agents entitled to observe voting and the CANVASS. Kan. Stat. Ann. §25-3004.

AutoMARK

A DRE-like ballot marking device, also known as a Voter Assist Terminal.

AutoMARK Information Management System

A system used to generate ballots for the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal. Abbreviated AIMS.

Automatic Election Returns Operation

Tabulation and reporting software of Election Systems & Software.

automatic recount

A recount that is conducted without the requirement of a petition or other requested, occasioned because some statutory condition, such as a TIE VOTE, has been satisfied. Texas Elec. Code §§211.002(5), 216.001.

authorized representative

The "person specifically designated by the voter in his written request to the county clerk for an alternative ballot." N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.5.7(D). In other states, AUTHORIZED AGENT.

automatic tabulating equipment

An "apparatus which automatically tabulates and counts votes recorded on ballots or entered directly into a computer or other electronic device by means of a touchscreen or other data

entry device and data processing machines which can be used for counting votes and tabulating results.” N.D.C.C. §16-1.06-12(1).

“[E]quipment, other than a voting machine, that compiles vote totals by ballot sorting, ballot reading, ballot scanning, or electronic data processing.” Tex. Elec. Code §121.003(7).

auxiliary equipment

An “independent component having a life of its own that is incorporated into the voting system, such as a card reader, printer or modem. It is not a permanent or enclosed part of the voting system.” Cal. Proc. §1805.

AV

Abbreviation for ABSENTEE VOTER.

AVA

= ANYWHERE VOTING ARCHITECTURE.

availability

The “percentage of time during which a system is operating properly and available for use. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

AVC Advantage

A full-face DRE produced by Sequoia Voting Systems.

AVC Edge

A paged touchscreen DRE produced by Sequoia Voting Systems.

average voter confidence

A “BENCHMARK used in the VPP, but not used to pass or fail systems. Mean confidence level expressed by the voters that the system successfully recorded their votes.” 2007 VVSG.

average voting session time

A “BENCHMARK used in the VPP, but not used to pass or fail systems. Mean time taken per voter to complete the process of activating, filling out, and casting the ballot.” 2007 VVSG.

AVVPAT

Abbreviation for ACCESSIBLE VOTER VERIFIED PAPER TRAIL.

bailiff

In Mississippi, a local election officer who keeps order at the polls.

ballot

1. The issues and offices to be voted upon in a jurisdiction or portion of a jurisdiction at a particular primary, general election, or special election. “Presentation of every CONTEST included in a particular BALLOT STYLE, possibly with votes (as in ‘For privacy, the ballot must be visible only to the voter’).” 2007 VVSG.

2. A facsimile of the contents of a particular ballot whether printed on a paper ballot or ballot card or as part of a voting machine or voting device.

3. A physical or electronic record of the choices of an individual voter in a particular primary, general election, or special election. A “collection of one or more pieces of paper that presents every CONTEST included in a particular BALLOT STYLE and, when cast, serves as a CAST VOTE

RECORD.” The “collection of votes produced by one voter in one VOTING SESSION (as in ‘ballot summary’ or ‘rejected ballot record’).” 2007 VVSG.

4. The physical document on which the voter's choices are to be recorded. The “collection of all votes cast by one voter in one VOTING SESSION (as in ‘CAST BALLOT’). 2007 VVSG.

5. The physical document or display on which the names of candidates and propositions to be voted on are arranged. That “portion of the ballot containing the name of the candidate and the designation of the party by which he was nominated, or a statement of a proposed constitutional amendment, or other question or proposition with the word "yes" for voting for any question or proposition, and the word "no" for voting against any question.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:47-1.

“‘Ballot’ means a handcount paper ballot or for an electronic voting system includes, a tabulating paper ballot, recorded by optical scan reader, containing the names of offices and candidates and the questions to be voted on, which is used in conjunction with the marking device and on which votes may be recorded. For direct recording electronic voting systems, ballot means the ballot display provided by electro-optical devices showing the names and candidates and the questions to be voted on that allows a voter to directly enter choices into electronic storage with the use of a touchscreen or other data entry device.” N.D.C.C. §16-1-06-12(2).

“‘Ballot’ means a ballot label, sheet of paper or envelope on which votes are recorded. The term also includes a sheet or card, filmstrip or other device listing or containing information relative to offices, candidates and referenda which is placed, projected or composed on the board or screen inside a voting machine.” Wisc. Stat. §5.02(1e).

“[Ballot] shall include ballot cards, ballot labels, paper ballots, and electronic ballots.” Ala. Code §17-24-2(3).

See also ABANDONED BALLOT, ABSENT VOTER INSTRUCTION BALLOT, ABSENTEE BALLOT, AFFIDAVIT BALLOT, ALTERNATIVE BALLOT, AUSTRALIAN BALLOT, BLANK BALLOT, BLANKET BALLOT, BLUE BALLOT, BUTTERFLY BALLOT, CAST BALLOT, CHALLENGE BALLOT, CHALLENGED BALLOT, CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT, COMBINATION BALLOT CARD AND WRITE-IN BALLOT, COMPUTER BALLOT, CODED BALLOT, CONDITIONAL BALLOT, CONSOLIDATED BALLOT, CONTESTED BALLOT, CONTINUING BALLOT, COUNTED BALLOT, DAMAGED BALLOT, DEFACED BALLOT, DEFECTIVE BALLOT, DEMONSTRATION BALLOT, DISCARDED BALLOT, DISPUTED BALLOT, DISTINGUISHED BALLOT, DOCUMENT BALLOT, DOUBLE BALLOT, DUMMY BALLOT, DUPLICATE BALLOT, EARLY BALLOT, ELECTRONIC BALLOT, ELECTRONICALLY GENERATED BALLOT, EMERGENCY BALLOT, ESCROW BALLOT, EXCESS BALLOT, EXHAUSTED BALLOT, FAX BALLOT, FEDERAL BALLOT, FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT, FULL-FACE BALLOT, HAND-COUNTED BALLOT, HOSPITAL ABSENTEE BALLOT, IMPROPER BALLOT, INDIANA BALLOT, INSTRUCTION BALLOT, INVALID BALLOT, IRREGULAR BALLOT, LATE BALLOT, LIMITED BALLOT, LOST BALLOT, MACHINE-REJECTED BALLOT, MAIL BALLOT, MAIL-IN BALLOT, MARK SENSE BALLOT, MASSACHUSETTS BALLOT, MILITARY SERVICE BALLOT, MISREAD BALLOT, MULTI-FACED BALLOT, MUTILATED BALLOT, NO-PARTY BALLOT, NON-PARTISAN BALLOT, NULL BALLOT, OFFICE-BLOC BALLOT, OFFICIAL BALLOT, ONGOING ABSENTEE BALLOT, OPEN BALLOT, OPTICALLY SCANNED BALLOT, OVERVOTED BALLOT, PAPER BALLOT, PARTISAN BALLOT, PARTY BALLOT, PARTY-COLUMN BALLOT, PERSONAL ELECTRONIC BALLOT, PHYSICALLY SEPARATE BALLOT, POSTAL BALLOT, PRESIDENTIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT, PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT, PROHIBITED BALLOT, PROVISIONAL BALLOT, PUNCHED-CARD BALLOT, QUESTIONABLE BALLOT, QUESTIONABLE AB BALLOT, QUESTIONED BALLOT, READ BALLOT, READABLE BALLOT, REGULAR ABSENTEE BALLOT, REGULAR BALLOT, REISSUED BALLOT, REJECTED BALLOT, REPLACEMENT ABSENTEE BALLOT, REPLACEMENT BALLOT, RESTRICTED BALLOT, RETRIEVABLE BALLOT, SAMPLE BALLOT, SEALED BALLOT, SECRECY BALLOT, SECRET BALLOT, SELECTED BALLOT, SEPARATE

BALLOT, SHINGLE BALLOT, SHORT BALLOT, SPECIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT, SPECIAL BALLOT, SPECIAL FEDERAL BALLOT, SPECIAL PAPER BALLOT, SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT, SPECIAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT, SPECIMEN BALLOT, SPOILED BALLOT, SUBSTITUTE BALLOT, TEST BALLOT, TWO-SIDED BALLOT, UNACCEPTED BALLOT, UNCOUNTED BALLOT, UNMARKED BALLOT, UNOFFICIAL BALLOT, UNQUALIFIED PROVISIONAL BALLOT, UNREADABLE BALLOT, UNSTAMPED BALLOT, UNUSED BALLOT, UNVOTED BALLOT, VOID BALLOT, VOTED BALLOT, VOTING MACHINE BALLOT, WHITE BALLOT, WRONG BALLOT.

ballot accounting certificate

A certificate, signed by an inspector of elections, attesting to the number of BALLOTS received, voted, unused and spoiled. Ala. Admin. Code 307-X-1-.12

ballot activation

“Initiation of a VOTING SESSION on a DRE or EBP such that the voter is presented with a BALLOT having the BALLOT CONFIGURATION specified by the VOTING CREDENTIALS.” 2007 VVSG.

ballot activator

A device “used to activate the ballot on a DRE or EBM. Typically an electronic pollbook or hand-held ballot ACTIVATION DEVICE.” 2007 VVSG.

ballot assembly

The combined apparatus consisting of the BALLOT TEMPLATE and BALLOT PAGES.

ballot bag

A bag equivalent to a BALLOT BOX for transporting ballots. Vt. Stat. §2499.

ballot board

A five-member body, prescribed by the Ohio Constitution, §16.01, to perform certain electoral functions such as determining the BALLOT language for proposed amendments to the state constitution. Ohio Admin. Code §111:2.

ballot box

In general, a container for BALLOTS, which may be deposited by the voter or an election official. A “securable container in which an election official deposits the VOTED BALLOTS and which is used to transport VOTED BALLOTS to the COUNTING CENTER. Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1. Cf. BALLOT CONTAINER.

ballot box clerk

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in the District of Columbia having custody of BALLOT BOXES. When DRES are used instead of physical ballots, the ballot box clerk is responsible for activating VOTING DEVICE for each voter.

ballot card

A “card or a number of cards upon which are printed, or identified by reference to the ballot, the names of candidates for nomination or election to one or more offices or the ballot titles of one or more measures.” Cal. Elec. Code §302. “A ballot which is voted by the process of punching or marking.” Ala Code §17-24-2(4). A form of DOCUMENT BALLOT.

ballot checking and correction

The ability of a voter to review and change CONTEST CHOICES prior to casting a BALLOT on both interactive and OPTICAL SCANNERS. For optical scanners this also includes detection and reporting of MARGINAL MARKS. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

ballot chute

The slot into which a BALLOT is fed to be read or scanned. Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1782(b).

ballot clerk

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in the District of Columbia who issues BALLOTS to voters.

ballot commissioner

“In each county in the state, the clerk of the circuit court while holding such office, and two persons by him appointed, one from each of the two political parties which cast the largest and second largest number of votes in the state at the last preceding general election, shall constitute a board of ballot commissioners, of which board the said clerk shall be chairman.” W. Va. Code §3-1-19. The board certifies the BALLOTS to be used in elections, proofs the ballots and attends the test of electronic voting equipment.

ballot completion area

That portion of a POLLING LOCATION at which voters fill out BALLOTS. Ky. Rev. Stat. §117.255.

ballot configuration

“The particular combination and arrangement of offices, candidates and questions for a precinct or subdivision thereof.” Ala. Admin. Code §307-X-1-.01(1). The “set of CONTESTS in which voters of a particular group (e.g., political party and/or ELECTION DISTRICT) are entitled to vote.” 2007 VVSG.

ballot component

A term used by Election Systems & Software to refer to elemental elements of a ballot, including frame, office, candidate, question, response and text object.

ballot container

A “container that is used for transporting and storing voted BALLOT.” Mich. Comp. Laws §168.14a(a). Cf. BALLOT BOX.

ballot count and vote total audit

A post-election AUDIT to verify that the total number of votes recorded equals the total number of ballots cast. It is a “defense against problematic behavior by the voting device computing the final election ballot count and vote totals.” 2007 VVSG.

ballot counter

1. A device that tabulates DOCUMENT BALLOTS. An “automatic tabulator that is capable of counting votes on ballots as they are deposited into the tabulator.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250(3a).
2. A local ELECTION OFFICIAL in North Carolina responsible for counting BALLOT. N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-43.

ballot counting logic

The “software logic that defines the combinations of voter choices that are valid and invalid on a given BALLOT and that determines how the vote choices are totaled in a given election.” FVSS Appendix.

ballot curl

The tendency of an optical scan ballot to curve, usually because of differential ABSORPTION on different sides of the ballot.

ballot data file

A term used by Election Systems & Software for its proprietary database file containing ballot setup information.

ballot definition

The process of setting up all BALLOT STYLES needed for an election in a jurisdiction so they may be loaded onto voting machines. Also, the final machine-readable description of all ballot styles to be presented to the voters in a jurisdiction.

ballot definition subsystem

“Hardware and software required to define BALLOT LAYOUTS for an election and to prepare election-specific software and firmware.” Fla. VSS Appendix.

ballot display

The “template that covers the face of the Direct Recording Election Machine. Printed on the template are all candidates and BALLOT PROPOSITIONS to be voted upon.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(g).

ballot duplicating board

A body that is authorize to produce DUPLICATE BALLOTS.

“If BALLOTS which are voted by punching a card are used, the ballot duplicating board shall:

1. Receive damaged ballots, including ballots which have been torn, bent or mutilated.
2. Receive cards with incompletely punched chips.
3. Prepare on a distinctly colored, serially numbered ballot marked “duplicate” an exact copy of each damaged ballot.
4. In the case of a card with an incompletely punched chip:
 - (a) Remove the incompletely punched chip if:
 - (1) The chip has at least one corner that is detached from the card; or
 - (2) The fibers of paper on at least one edge of the chip are broken in a way that permits unimpeded light to be seen through the card; or
 - (b) Duplicate the card without punching the location of the incompletely punched chip if:
 - (1) The chip does not have at least one corner that is detached from the card; and
 - (2) The fibers of paper on no edge of the chip are broken in a way that permits unimpeded light to be seen through the card.
5. Record the serial number of the duplicate ballot on the damaged original ballot and return the damaged and duplicate ballots to the appropriate ballot inspection board.
6. Hold aside the duplicated ballots for counting after all other ballots are counted if this procedure is directed by the county clerk.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.375.

ballot duplication

The “process of making a true copy of valid votes from BALLOTS that may not be properly counted by the vote tallying system to blank ballots of the same type and style, or as directed by the canvassing board.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-261-005(2).

ballot encoder device

The “electronic device by which the poll officers program the VOTER ACCESS CARD to authorize the voter to vote on the DRE units.” Ga. Rules §183-1-12-.02.

ballot enhancement

The “process of adding or covering marks or punches on an optical scan BALLOT to ensure that the electronic voting equipment will tally the votes on the ballot in the manner intended by the voter, or as directed by the canvassing board.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-261-005(3).

ballot face

A “single side of a sheet on which are printed some or all of the CONTESTS to be voted by a voter.” Md. Election Code Ann. §1-101(e).

ballot fatigue

The tendency of a voter to fail to cast a vote in races far from the beginning of the BALLOT. 2001 Fischer. See also DROP-OFF.

ballot format

The appearance of the BALLOT, including the layout of races, typeface, size and spacing, usually defined by statute. “One of any number of specific ballot configurations issued to the appropriate precinct. At minimum, ballot formats differ from one another in content. They may also differ in size of type, in language used, or in method of presentation (e.g.; visual or audio).” FVSS Appendix.

ballot header

(opscan) A special ballot sheet whose function is to identify the precinct to which following ballots belong. See. BALLOTS BY STYLE.

ballot holder

A “container (i.e., secrecy sleeve) in which the voter places the selected BALLOT or voted ballot to maintain the secrecy of the selected or voted ballot until it is deposited in the secured BALLOT BOX and or processed and counted by the precinct counter.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

ballot image

The data constituting a single voter’s complete choices, often stored by maintaining a list of VOTING POSITIONS voted. A “corresponding representation in electronic or paper form of the mark or vote position of a BALLOT.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C-2. An “electronically produced record of all votes cast by a single voter ... A ballot image might be an uninterpreted bitmap image, a transient logical representation of the votes, or an ARCHIVAL record (a CAST VOTE RECORD).” 2007 VVSG. If properly recorded and maintained, a complete set of ballot images can be used to perform a RECOUNT. Also BALLOT SET. Various manufacturers refer to ballot images using different terms in their documentation. For example, in the Sequoia Advantage system, the term “voter block” is used.

Ballot Image Manager

The component of Election Systems & Software's election management system that is used for ballot layout. Abbreviated BIM.

ballot instructions

The "instructions to the voter explaining how to vote his or her BALLOT." Wash. Admin. Code §434-22-020(5).

ballot issue

A "nonrecall, citizen-initiated PETITION or legislatively-referred MEASURE which is authorized by the state constitution." Col. Stat. §1-40-102(1).

ballot item

A "single item on a BALLOT in which the voters are to choose between or among the candidates or proposals listed." N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-165(2).

ballot label

The "cards, papers, booklet, pages, or other materials that contain the names of offices and candidates and statements of BALLOT PROPOSITIONS to be voted on and which are used in conjunction with ballot cards." Utah Code §20A-1-102(5).

ballot label assembly

The "assembled unit containing BALLOT labels and MASK." 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(7). Similarly in Mich. Rules §168.771(1)(f).

ballot label programming

Any "computerized instructions which control the placement or the printing of candidates' names and BALLOT proposals on [electronic] voting machines ..." N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §1-104(29).

ballot label programming data

"[T]he names and ballot positions of candidates and BALLOT proposals stored on a computerized device through the use of ballot label programming." N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §1-104(30).

ballot law commission

A three-member body with specific powers to examine voting machines and decides challenges to the eligibility of candidates. N.H. Rev. Stat. §665:1.

ballot layout

The "manner or the format for which BALLOTS are printed and the manner parties, candidates and issues are arranged on the ballot." Wash. Admin. Code §434-22-020(6).

ballot listing

The "list of the names of candidates as they appear on the BALLOT." Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.030.

ballot marker

See ELECTRONICALLY ASSISTED BALLOT MAKER.

ballot-marking accessible voting system

A “device which allows voters, including voters with disabilities, to mark an optical scanning or mark-sensing voting system ballot, privately and independently. The ballot-marking device is capable of marking voter selections on an optically readable or mark-sensing ballot which shall be subsequently read and tallied on state certified optically readable or mark-sensing ballot tabulating and reporting systems.” W.V. Code §3-4A-0a.

ballot marking code

The “coded patterns printed on the BALLOT intended to identify the ballot style to the ballot counting system.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-430(3).

ballot measure

= MEASURE.

Ballot Now

A Hart Intercivic product for printing (or exporting to PDF) BALLOTS prepared with the BOSS software package; scanning and detecting voters' markings on cast ballots; presenting ambiguous ballots to members of the Ballot Review committee so that voters' intent can be determined; and writing CAST VOTE RECORDS onto MOBILE BALLOT BOX PC Cards for tabulation by the Hart TALLY software.

ballot number

1. The number printed on a BALLOT STUB.
 2. The “number printed on each BALLOT DISPLAY that matches both the number on the Direct Recording Election Machine and the cartridge that is programmed for that machine and particular ballot display.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(i).
- Some states require ballots to be numbered. Ala. Code §7-18-13. Alabama also requires recording the ballot number on the poll list, but then makes comparison of the ballot and the list illegal. Other states forbid numbering ballots.

Ballot on Demand

1. See, generally, BALLOTS ON DEMAND VOTING SYSTEM.
2. Software from Election Systems & Software that prints out individual ballots on Election Day to make up for a shortage of preprinted ballots

Ballot Origination Software System

A software system from HART INTERCIVIC that allows the generation and setup of BALLOT choices. Abbreviated BOSS.

ballot question

= QUESTION. Any “proposed state constitutional amendment, county charter amendment, proposed initiative, or referendum issue that has qualified for placement on the BALLOT.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1. The 2007 VVSG contains a more restrictive definition: a “CONTEST in which the choices are Yes and No.”

ballot packet

The “TRANSMITTAL ENVELOPE after it has been assembled to contain all of the materials to be mailed in that envelope and has been addressed to a particular elector.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44-9-103(b).

ballot path

(opscan) The route taken by a ballot as it is being read by a scanner.

ballot position

1. The physical location of a candidate's name on the BALLOT. Because of subtle ordering effects that may induce voter to prefer candidates that are listed first, the states are meticulous about specifying the precise ordering. For example, "There shall be placed in a suitable container, capsules containing numbers one through the number that is equivalent to the total number of major political parties participating in the general election. The number drawn by each major party state chairman or his designated representative shall determine the position on the general election ballot that his party and its candidates shall occupy, with number one being the first position on the ballot, number two being the second, number three being the third, and so on down the ballot until all major parties are placed on the ballot. The same procedure shall be followed in a separate drawing for minor parties' ballot positions." N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.6.8(D). See also BALLOT ROTATION.
2. "A specific place in a ballot where a voter's selection for a particular CONTEST may be indicated. Positions may be connected to row and column numbers on the face of a voting machine or ballot, particular bit positions in a binary record of a ballot (for example, an ELECTRONIC BALLOT IMAGE), the equivalent in some other form. Ballot positions are bound to specific contests and candidate names by the BALLOT CONFIGURATION." 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

ballot position error rate

The fraction of ballot positions that can be tabulated erroneously by a voting system. 2007 VVSG. A maximum permissible ERROR RATE was established by HAVA at 1 in 500,000.

ballot preparation

The process of developing the BALLOT STYLES required by a jurisdiction. "Selecting the specific CONTESTS and QUESTIONS to be contained in a BALLOT FORMAT and related instructions; preparing and testing election-specific software containing these selections; producing all possible ballot formats; and validating the correctness of ballot materials and software containing these selections for an upcoming election." 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

ballot processing and packaging board

- "1. The BALLOT processing and packaging board must be composed of persons who are qualified in the use of the data processing equipment to be operated for the voting count.
2. The board shall:
 - (a) Allow members of the general public to observe the counting area where the computers are located during the period when ballots are being processed if those members do not interfere with the processing of the ballots.
 - (b) Receive ballots and maintain groupings of them by precinct.
 - (c) Before each counting of the ballots or computer run begins, validate the testing material with the counting program.
 - (d) Maintain a log showing the sequence in which the ballots of each precinct are processed, as a measure to ensure that the ballots of all precincts are processed.
 - (e) After each counting of the ballots, again verify the testing material with the counting program to substantiate that there has been no substitution or irregularity.
 - (f) Record an explanation of any irregularity that occurs in the processing.

(g) If the election is:

- (1) A primary election held in an even-numbered year; or
- (2) A general election,

ensure that a list is compiled indicating the total votes, other than absentee votes and votes in a mailing precinct, which each candidate accumulated in each precinct.

(h) Collect all returns, programs, testing materials, ballots and other items used in the election at the computer center and package and deliver the items to the county clerk for sealing and storage.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.380.

ballot production

“The process of converting the BALLOT format to a media ready for use in the physical ballot production or electronic presentation.” FVSS Appendix.

ballot programming

The process of encoding information about the ballot, including office titles, candidate names and parties, so it can be read and processed by a voting machine to display the BALLOT (more properly, BALLOT STYLE) to a voter. This is a misleading term because ballot setup usually does not involve “programming” in the sense of “computer programming.” The setup is normally performed by filling in computerized forms or static database tables without using any executable instructions.

ballot proposal

Any “constitutional amendment, proposition, referendum or other question submitted to the voters at any election.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §1-104(17). Also BALLOT PROPOSITION or just PROPOSITION.

ballot proposition

Any “question or measure submitted to a vote of the people of the state, a subdivision thereof, county, district, city or town, and includes a constitutional amendment, initiative, referendum, bond measure, or any other question or measure required to be approved by a vote of the people.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(v). Usually just PROPOSITION.

ballot response

The “choices available to the voter in a BALLOT question.” 33 Pa. Bull. 31, p. 3935 (Aug. 2, 2003).

ballot rotation

The practice of altering the order in which candidates are listed on the BALLOT in different precincts or on successive paper ballots, ostensibly to eliminate any effect of ordering or prominence of a party or a specific candidate. Varying the order of candidate names within a RACE to reduce the PRIMACY EFFECT. The “process of varying the order of the CONTEST CHOICES within a given CONTEST.” 2007 VVSG. In some states, ballot rotation is mandatory; in others it is forbidden. Some states, such as Arizona, have a special rotation method: “When there are two or more candidates for a nomination, except in the case of precinct committeemen, the names of all candidates for the nomination shall be so alternated upon the ballots used in each election precinct that the name of each candidate shall appear substantially an equal number of times at the top, at the bottom and in each intermediate place of the list or group of candidates in which they belong.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-464(A). This is known as

ARIZONA ROTATION. A prescribed rotation algorithm is also given in Minn. Rules §8220.0825. See also ALTERNATION, CALIFORNIA-STYLE ROTATION, COUNTY-LEVEL ROTATION, RANDOMIZATION, STANDARD ROTATION, STATE-LEVEL ROTATION.

ballot scanner

1. A device used to read data from a MARK SENSE BALLOT.
2. A pollworker “trained to assist voters in scanning their VOTED BALLOT.”

ballot screen

The “display of material containing the names of offices and candidates and public questions to be voted on.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C-2.

ballot sealing board

A board appointed “to prepare the tabulated BALLOTS for storage at the close of the counting center.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1773.

ballot secrecy cover

A “cover to be used by the voter to conceal the votes marked on the BALLOT.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.3b.

ballot selection booth

A “self-standing enclosure in which a voter selects a party or NONPARTISAN BALLOT or during the primary election.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

ballot separation

The need to divide physical ballots into distinct groups for processing. For example, ballots containing WRITE-IN votes require human interpretation and thus must be separated out from ballots not containing any write-ins.

ballot set

= BALLOT IMAGE.

ballot sheet

1. A “paper BALLOT printed on one or both sides which is (1) designed and prepared so that the voter may indicate his or her votes in designated areas, which must be enclosed areas clearly printed or otherwise delineated for such purpose, and (2) capable of having votes marked in the designated areas automatically examined, counted, and tabulated by an electronic scanning process.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24A-2.
2. A term used by Election Systems & Software to refer to a grouping of ballots for a particular type of scanning equipment.

ballot statement

A certification by election officials accounting for the status of all BALLOTS under their care.

ballot stock

The “material upon which: (a) A BALLOT is printed; and (b) A voter directly indicates his vote.” Nev. Admin. Code §293.010(1).

ballot stuffing

An election fraud in which ballots not cast by any registered voter are added to those ballots properly cast. The term originated from literal stuffing of ballot boxes with unauthorized paper

ballots to overwhelm the legitimate votes cast and thus determine the outcome. Now stuffing can occur with or without physical ballot boxes using electronic means.

ballot stub

A detachable portion of a PUNCHED-CARD C used to fasten a packet of ballots together and to hold printed serial number. The ballot is detached from the stub before being deposited in the ballot box.

ballot style

A “unique aggregation of CONTESTS that make up the ballot for a particular group of voters identified by common characteristics of residence location, party affiliation, or both. Md. Elec. Code §1-101(g). A “version of a ballot within a jurisdiction that an individual voter is eligible to vote. For example, in a county that uses essentially the same official ballot, a group office such as county commissioner may be divided into districts so that different voters in the same county vote for commissioner in different districts. The different versions of the county's official ballot containing only those district ballot items one individual voter may vote are the county's different ballot styles.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-165(3). A “concrete presentation of a particular BALLOT CONFIGURATION ... A given ballot configuration may be realized by multiple ballot styles, which may differ in the language used, the ordering of CONTESTS and CONTEST CHOICES.” 2007 VVSG.

ballot subset

The portion of a BALLOT on which a voter is eligible to vote. Sometime as synonym for BALLOT STYLE.

ballot tally software program

The “computer program or programs used to tally voted ballots in an election.” Cal. Regs. §20621

ballot template

A form of TACTILE BALLOT for visually impaired voters.

ballot title

The “language which is printed on the ballot which is comprised of the SUBMISSION CLAUSE and the TITLE.” Colorado Stat. §1-40-102(2). A “true and impartial statement of the purpose of a ballot measure ... which is set forth on the ballot in the form of a question to be submitted to the voters for a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ vote.” La. City Elec. Code §34.

ballot transport container

A “container used by the chief election officer or the clerk to transport ballots.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

ballot type

(opscan) A designation for variant ballots used in the same precinct, such as parts of a multi-page ballot or different ballots for voters of different parties.

ballot voted backwards

A PUNCHED-CARD BALLOT that has been voted with the ballot inserted backwards into the voting frame. “If the pattern of holes pierced through a punch card ballot indicates that the ballot card was inserted into the voting machine with the back side of the ballot facing up,

partially voted, then removed from the voting machine, reinserted properly, and voted correctly, the designees shall remake and count as valid only those votes represented by the properly punched side of the original punch card ballot.” Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §3506.16(B)(3)(b).

balloting materials

A term from UOCAVA denoting essential items to be provided to OVERSEAS VOTERS. “‘balloting materials’ means official post card forms ..., Federal write-in absentee ballots ..., and any State balloting materials that, as determined by the Presidential designee, are essential to the carrying out of this subchapter.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-6(2).

ballots by precinct

(opscan) Determining the precinct to which a ballot belongs by reading preprinted marks on the ballot rather than a BALLOT HEADER. Also MIXED MODE. Cf. BALLOTS BY STYLE.

ballots by style

(opscan) Determining the precinct to which a ballot belongs by reading a BALLOT HEADER rather than preprinted marks on the ballot. Cf. BALLOTS BY PRECINCT.

ballots on demand voting system

A “system that utilizes ballots printed as needed by election officials at the board of elections for distribution to electors, either in person or by mail.” Ohio Rev. Stat. §3506.20..

baseline

A “product configuration that has been formally submitted for review against the Standards, which thereafter serves as the basis for further development; and can be changed and offered to jurisdictions only through formal change control and requalification procedures (and/or recertification procedures where applicable).” 2002 FEC A-2.

Basic Input-Output System

A program that handles basic input-output operations by interfacing with devices such as the mouse and keyboard and loads the operating system when a computer starts up. The system is usually regarded as COTS and is therefore exempt from source code inspection during CERTIFICATION. Abbreviated BIOS.

basis weight

(opscan) The weight in pounds of a ream (500 sheets) of paper.

battery backup

A separate power source designed to allow for continued voting in the even of a power failure. “The voting system shall be a battery back-up system that will, as a minimum, retain voter information and be capable of retaining and restoring processor operating parameters in the event of power failures.” N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.20.10(D).

benchmark

A “quantitative point of reference to which the measured performance of a system or device may be compared.” 2007 VVSG.

BIM

Abbreviation for BALLOT IMAGE MANAGER.

binding primary

A PRIMARY ELECTION for DELEGATES who are obliged to vote for the expressed preference of the primary voters in the districts they represent.

biometrics

The use of a human body part or measurement thereof for identification. Under the 2007 VVSG, biometric identifiers are permitted but any voting system which accepts a biometric must also accept some other form of identification which does not rely on the same characteristics.

bit error rate

The number of errors encountered divided by the number of bits processed, which is one measure of system accuracy. FLA. VSS APPENDIX.

black box testing

Functional testing performed under the assumption that nothing is known about the internal structure of the system under test. Cf. WHITE BOX TESTING.

blank ballot

A ballot cast by a voter but which expresses no choice in any race or on any question. Blank ballots are often, but not necessarily, the result of voter confusion or mistake. A “ballot on which the voter has made no marks in any voting position, or has been marked with an unreadable marker, or is one which has been consistently marked outside of the ‘read’ area of the scanner.” Utah Admin. Rule R623-2-3(A). A “ballot that contains no votes that can be detected by a tabulating device.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-26.1(49). Also UNVOTED BALLOT.

blanket ballot

A ballot in which all candidates and questions to be voted on are displayed on a single sheet, so-called because of its large size.

blanket primary

A primary in which all candidates for all political parties appear on the same BALLOT and can be voted upon by all voters, regardless of political affiliation.

bleed

(opscan) Overflow of an image beyond the trim edge of a ballot.

blind signature

A digital signature method, due to David Chaum, enabling a person to sign a document digitally without being able to read its contents. Blind signatures are useful in voting because they permit a voter to submit a secret ballot for authentication and notarization by a different party without revealing the voter’s choices.

bloc voting

1. A method of voting in which the voter is constrained to select a group (bloc) of candidates instead of being able to vote for them individually. Presidential voting is bloc voting in a limited sense, since the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates are tied together on the ballot.
2. A general name for VOTE-FOR-MANY voting, in which the voter casts votes for n out of m candidates and the n candidates receiving the largest number of votes are the winners. See also PARTIAL BLOC VOTING.

block

An “area which is the smallest geographic area used by the U.S. bureau of the census for data collection and tabulation.” Wisc. Stat. §5.02(1q).

block-structured exception handling

A concept relating to software transparency. The “ability to associate exception handlers with blocks of logic, and implicitly, the presence of the exception concept in the programming language. (This simply means try/throw/catch or equivalent statements, and should not be confused with the specific implementation known as Structured Exception Handling.” 2007 VVSG.

blue ballot

A ballot printed on blue paper to designate that it is for “adoption of a city charter or charter amendments, a proposition for the issuance of bonds, and all other questions relating to city or town affairs submitted at an election to the voters of the municipality.” Minn. Stat. §205.17(4).

Board of Advisors

The Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors established under HAVA. It advises the EAC on voting system guidelines.

Board of Ballot Commissioners

The body in West Virginia responsible for preparation of ballots. “The board of ballot commissioners for each county shall provide the ballots and sample ballots necessary for conducting every election for public officers in which the voters of the county participate.” W. Va. Code §3-1-21(a).

Board of Canvass

A Delaware body composed of SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES, which counts the vote in each county and verifies the results.

Board of Civil Authority

A Vermont body consisting, “in the case of a town, the selectmen and town clerk and the justices residing therein; in the case of a city, the mayor, aldermen, city clerk and justices residing therein; in the case of a village, the trustees, village clerk and the justices residing therein.” 17 Vt. Stat. Ann. §2103(5). “The board of civil authority shall have charge of the conduct of elections within the political subdivision for which it is elected.” 17 Vt. Stat. Ann. §2451.

Board of Election Commissioners

A county body exercising authority over elections. Wisc. Stat. §7-20(1). Likewise, Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.017. See also STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS.

board of election supervisors

In Louisiana, a board that exercises control over electoral functions in a parish. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:423.

Board of Elections and Ethics

In the District of Columbia, the three-member body that supervises elections.

Board of Examiners

1. A three-member board in Iowa appointed by the STATE COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS to examine and approve voting machines. Iowa Code §52.4.
2. A three-member county board in Massachusetts consisting of the judge and register of the probate court and the clerk of the courts to “determine what persons appear to be elected, issue certificates of election to them and give notice to the state secretary of the name, residence and number of votes received by each candidate in each city and town, with the name and term of office of every person so elected.” Mass. Gen. Laws §54-122.

board of inspectors

A body of election watchers in Hawaii, Michigan and New York. The “inspectors shall act as a board, and a majority thereof shall decide questions. Two inspectors who are not of the same political faith shall have charge of the registration poll ledgers or computer generated registration lists, subject to inspection thereof by any inspector and his participation in the decision of any question. ... Where voting machines are used, one clerk or inspector shall attend each voting machine. N.Y. Elec. Law §8-202. Likewise in Michigan.

board of registrars

A county body that administers VOTER REGISTRATION.

Board of Registration

In Hawaii, an island board appointed by the Governor that determines qualifications of voters. 2 Hawaii Rev. Stat. §11-43.

board of state canvassers

A body constituted to certify the results of elections. “Within 20 days after the election, or sooner if the returns are all received, the state auditor, superintendent of public instruction, and attorney general shall meet as a board of state canvassers in the office of the secretary of state and determine the vote.” Mont. Code Ann. §13-15-502. See also Idaho, Iowa, Kan., Md. Elec. Code §11-502, Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.511. 1., Neb., N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:6-27, N.D., S.C., S.D. Codified Laws §12-20-46, Utah, W.Va., Wisc.

bond election

An election to authorize the issuance of bonds. Wyo. Stat. §22-22-101.

bonus primary

A PRIMARY in which a small number of delegates are held aside and not allocated on a proportional basis but are awarded to the highest vote-getter as a “bonus” for winning. Also known as an “enhanced reward” or “winner-take-more” primary.

borough election

An election for officials of a borough in states have such an administrative subdivision, such as Alaska, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

border logic

“Software, firmware, or HARDWIRED LOGIC that is developed to connect APPLICATION LOGIC to COTS or THIRD-PARTY LOGIC. ... Although it is typically developed by the voting system manufacturer, border logic is constrained by the requirements of the third-party or COTS interface with which it must interact. It is not always possible for border logic to achieve its

function while conforming to standard coding conventions. For this reason, border logic should be minimized relative to application logic and where possible, wrapped in a conforming interface. An example of border logic that could not be so wrapped is a customized boot manager that connects a bootable voting application to a COTS BIOS.” 2007 VVSG.

BOSS

The BALLOT ORIGINATION SOFTWARE SYSTEM, a product of HART INTERCIVIC, used to construct and manage an election database.

box-tender

“At each regular or special state, municipal or ward election the registrars of each town or voting district, as the case may be, shall appoint a suitable elector residing therein, for each ballot box, to be box-tender, and one or two others, as may be necessary, to be substitute box-tenders for each box, respectively.” Conn. Gen. Stat. 9-296.

Braille markings

Braille on accessible devices is required in West Virginia. W.V. Code §3-4A-9a(J).

bribery

The crime of offering money or compensation to “influence any elector in giving his vote, or deter him from giving the same, or to disturb, or to hinder him in the free exercise of the right of suffrage.” Ala. Code §17-23-3.

buddy button

(colloq.) A form of TACTILE INPUT switch for disabled voters. Also JELLY SWITCH.

butterfly ballot

A “ballot having more than one column listing ballot choices that share a common column for designating those choices.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-165.4B. A “ballot where two ballot pages are used side by side and where voters must vote on candidates or issues on both sides of the pages.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115-420.2 The butterfly ballot is illegal in some states, e.g. Missouri and North Carolina. Missouri has created an exception for unusually lengthy ballots. Even though punched card systems are no longer used, poor DRE ballot setup can result in a butterfly ballot.

The most famous butterfly ballot in history was that used in Palm Beach County, Florida in the U.S. Presidential race in 2000, in which the ballot layout led voters who intended to vote for Al Gore to vote for Pat Buchanan instead.

C & A

= certification and accreditation.

caddy

The secure transporter for a Hart InterCivic eSlate VOTING BOOTH.

calibration

Adjustment of a voting machine so that it will perform properly during an election. An important example of calibration is the setting of a TOUCHSCREEN machines so it will recognize the correct geometric screen coordinates of a touch. The “touch screen setting on a direct recording electronic voting system that controls the voter response area.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-510.

California-style rotation

A type of BALLOT ROTATION in which each office can be specified for either STATE-LEVEL ROTATION or COUNTY-LEVEL ROTATION. A procedure is used to generate randomized alphabet. The order of the candidates in a CONTEST is determined by this alphabet.

caliper

(opscan) The thickness of a ballot measured in thousandths of an inch.

call

“[A]s used in relation to special elections or special primaries, means the affirmative action taken by the responsible public officer to cause a special election or special primary to be held.” Ga. Code Ann. §21-2-2(3).

callable unit

“(Of a software program or analogous logical design) Function, method, operation, subroutine, procedure, or analogous structural unit that appears within a MODULE.” Callable units are ordinarily restricted in length to 25 lines, excluding “comments, blank lines, and initializers for read-only lookup tables,” and must be less than 180 lines long. 2007 VVSG.

caller

In Vermont, an election worker who has a specialized role in a RECOUNT. “The caller shall call the name of the person voted for and/or BLANK BALLOTS, and/or SPOILED BALLOTS.” Vermont Stat. 2602f(a). See also DOUBLE-CHECK PERSON, TALLY PERSON.

cancel

In Massachusetts, every physical BALLOT that is counted must be marked as cancelled. “Ballot boxes shall ... contain mechanical devices for receiving, registering and cancelling every ballot deposited therein.” Mass. Gen'l. Laws. §54:33. This is typically done by REDSTRIPING.

candidate

1. A “person whose name is on the ballot or who is entitled to be on the ballot to be voted upon for nomination or election at any election.” S. Dak. Code §12-1-3(1). A “person contending in a CONTEST for office. ... A candidate may be explicitly presented as one of the CONTEST CHOICES or may be a WRITE-IN.” 2007 VVSG.

candidate.

2. In Guam, “one who either seeks a nomination or is proposed for a nomination by sponsors.” 3 Guam Code Ann. §1114. Cf. NOMINEE.

candidate area

The “area(s) on or between lines separating candidate names.” Ark. Register §108.00.02-003.300(a). Cf. ISSUE AREA.

candidate counter

The counter which numerically registers the votes cast for a candidate. Ga. Code Ann. §21-2-310(1). Likewise in Massachusetts. See also QUESTION COUNTER.

candidate oval

= OVAL, the elliptical area on an optical scan ballot in which a voter marks a choice.

candidate register

A “record that reflects the total votes cast for the candidate. This record is augmented as each ballot is cast on a DRE or as digital signals from the conversion of voted paper ballots are logically interpreted and recorded.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

candidates who remain

A term associated with INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, meaning “all candidates who have not been eliminated at a previous STAGE.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.53.030.

canvass

The “the entire process of determining that the votes have been counted and tabulated correctly, culminating in the authentication of the official election results.” N.C Gen. Stat. §163-182.5. “Compilation of election returns and validation of the outcome that forms the basis of the official results by political subdivision.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. A “review of the election results by the board of county commissioners or the mayor and city council or the justices of the Supreme Court, by which any errors within the election results are officially noted and the official election results are declared.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.032. Similarly, Ark. Code §7-1-101(4). The “process of examining, in detail, a ballot, groups of ballots, election subtotals, or grand totals in order to determine the final official returns of a primary, special, or general election and in order to safeguard the integrity of the election process.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-010(4). The “audit function that culminates in the final certification of official election returns.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xl). See also RECANVASS.

canvassing board

A committee of officials responsible for producing the official tally of votes and certifying the results of an election. Also COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD.

capacity

Number of parties, candidates, questions
Total votes

card stock

“Paper manufactured in accordance with certain specifications rendering it suitable for use in card reading equipment.” Cal. Regs. §20204

cartridge

The “permanent memory which stores the BALLOT DISPLAY information and records the votes for each Direct Recording Election Machine.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(p).

cast

To cause a vote to be recorded.

cast ballot

A “BALLOT in which the voter has taken final action in the selection of CONTEST CHOICES and irrevocably confirmed his or her intent to vote as selected.” 2007 VVSG. See also COUNTED BALLOT, READ BALLOT.

cast vote record

A “permanent record of all votes produced by a single voter whether in electronic, paper or other form. Also referred to as BALLOT IMAGE when used to refer to electronic ballots.” 2005

VVSG GLOSSARY. An “archival record of all votes produced by a single voter.” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated CVR. Sometimes ELECTRONIC CAST VOTE RECORD.

catastrophic system failure

“A total loss of function or functions, such as the loss or unrecoverable corruption of voting data, or the failure of an on-board battery for volatile memory.” FVSS Appendix.

caucus

“A meeting of a political party or committee.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(6). An “open meeting held in a political subdivision to nominate the candidates of a political party for public office to be elected in such subdivision at which all the enrolled voters of such party residing in such subdivision are eligible to vote.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §1-104(28). Any “meeting, at a designated hour and place, or at designated hours and places, of the enrolled members of a political party within a municipality or political subdivision thereof for the purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates for a primary to be held by such party or for the purpose of transacting other business of such party.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-372(1).

CCOS

= CENTRAL-COUNT OPTICAL SCANNER.

CDPD

= CELLULAR DIGITAL PACKET DATA.

cellphone

Cellphones equipped with cameras provide an easy vote-selling mechanism. The voter can dial a number and transmit video images of her activities within the voting booth to a remote observer, who can then reward her based on her vote. An increasing number of jurisdictions ban cellphones from POLLING PLACES for this reason.

cellular digital packet data

A mechanism for wireless data transfer used in some voting systems for uploading precinct results for central tabulation. Abbreviated CDPD.

central absentee voter precinct

A “precinct established by a county or city ... for the processing of absentee ballots for the county or city or any combination of precincts within the county or city.” Va. Code §24.2-101.

central ballot counter

A “marksense ballot counter that reads and tabulates marksense ballots at a central location to which ballots are transported after the polls close. There may be more than one central counter in a county.” Ala. Admin. Code §307-X-1-.01(3).

central ballot inspection board

The central ballot inspection board shall:

1. Receive the ballots in sealed containers.
2. Inspect the containers, record the number indicated on each container and its seal pursuant to [statute] and remove the ballots or storage devices which store the ballots voted on mechanical recording devices which directly record votes electronically.
3. Register the numbers of ballots by precinct.

4. Deliver any damaged ballots to the ballot duplicating board, if the ballots were voted by punching a card.
5. Receive duplicates of damaged ballots from the ballot duplicating board and place the duplicates with the voted ballots of the appropriate precinct, if the ballots were voted by punching a card.
6. Place each damaged original ballot in a separate envelope and note on the outside of the envelope the appropriate number of the precinct, if the ballot was voted by punching a card.
7. Reject any ballot that has been marked in a way that identifies the voter.
8. Place each rejected ballot in a separate envelope and note on the outside of the envelope the appropriate number of the precinct and the reason for the board's rejection of the ballot, if the ballot was voted by punching a card." Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.365.

central count

The counting of ballots for a jurisdiction in a concentrated counting center, such as the county clerk's office, as opposed to counting at each precinct. The "counting of ballots in one or more locations selected by the election authority for the processing or counting, or both, of ballots." 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24A-2. Cf. PRECINCT COUNT.

central count optical scanner

An "OPTICAL SCANNER used as a CENTRAL TABULATOR. ... Most machines in this class are special purpose machines that use reflected light to identify marks at specific locations on the ballot. They are designed to read stacks of ballots at a time." 2007 VVSG. Central count scanning does not afford the voter opportunity to correct an OVERVOTED BALLOT and is deprecated under HAVA but permissible in special circumstances. Abbreviated CCOS.

central count voting system

A "voting system that tabulates ballots from multiple PRECINCTS at a central location. Voted ballots are placed into secure storage at the polling place. Stored ballots are transported or transmitted to a central counting place which produces the vote count report." 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

central counting station

A place where votes from individual precincts are counted or accumulated. "The central counting station must be located in the county in which the political subdivision served by the authority adopting the voting system is wholly or partly situated or in a county contiguous to that county." Texas Elec. Code §127.001(c).

central election official

A person who loads ballot definition files into a voting system. 2007 VVSG.

central tabulation

= CENTRAL COUNT. Cf. PRECINCT TABULATION.

central tabulator

A "TABULATOR that counts votes from multiple PRECINCTS at a central location. ... VOTED BALLOTS are typically placed into secure storage at the polling place and then transported or transmitted to a central tabulator. A tabulator that may be configured for use either in the precinct or in the central location may satisfy the requirements for both PRECINCT TABULATOR and central tabulator." 2007 VVSG

central voter file

The “permanent, centralized electronic data base of voters” maintained by the Secretary of State in North Dakota. N.D.C.C. §16.1-02-01.

certificate of biennial inspection

A “certification ... stating that all voting and vote counting equipment has been examined by the appropriate elections official before its use in an election and has been found to be operating correctly and accurately.” Cal. Proc. §1809.

certificate of election

A “document prepared by the official or body with the legal authority to do so, conferring upon a candidate the right to assume an elective office as a result of being elected to it.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-182(2).

certificate of error

A document indicating that the registration record is incorrect and “showing that the voter is legally registered in the precinct where the voter resides.” Ind. Code §3-7-48.

certificate of the determination of electors

The official document by which a state informs the Federal government of the name of its presidential electors. “As soon as possible after the presidential electors are chosen, the Governor shall send a certificate of the determination of the electors to the Archivist of the United States under the state seal.” 21-A Maine Rev. Stat. §803.

certification

The process of verifying that a voting system meets state legal requirements. Many states have procedures for reviewing proposed systems after qualification to determine whether they conform to state law or additional conditions more stringent than the FVSS. See also EAC CERTIFICATION, PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION, STATE CERTIFICATION. A summary of state certification processes can be found in Appendix

certification authority

An organization that issues DIGITAL CERTIFICATES upon confirming the identity of the person requesting a certificate.

certification test deck

A “a pre-audited group of ballots voted with a pre-determined number of valid votes for each candidate, each write-in position and each voting position as a measure or proposition that appears on the ballot. It also includes one or more ballots that have been improperly voted or which are voted in excess of the number allowed by law in order to test the ability of the system to reject the votes, and one or more blank ballots.” Cal. Proc. §1811.

certification testing

“[E]xamination, and possibly testing, of a voting system to determine its compliance with state counting law and rules and any other state requirements for voting systems.” Cal. Proc. §1812. “Testing performed under either national or state certification processes to verify voting system conformance to requirements.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

certified write-in

= DECLARED WRITE-IN.

certifying board

A local board of election that certifies a RETURN to be correct. 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(18)(3). Similarly in Mich. Rules §168.771(1)(g).

CES

= COMPUTER ELECTION SYSTEMS.

chad

The “part of a ballot card that is designed to be punched out by the voter.” Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-461(e). The “small piece of paper or cardboard produced from a punch card ballot when a voter pierces a hole in a perforated, designated position on the ballot with a marking device to record the voter's candidate, question, or issue choice.” Ohio Rev. Code §3506.16. The “scored portion of the ballot card which is punched out of the ballot card by the voter when casting a vote.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(8). See also DIMPLE, HANGING CHAD, PREGNANT CHAD. Also CHIP.

chain voting

An old fraud in which a voter is handed a pre-marked ballot by a party worker. The voter then enters the polling place and receives a blank ballot, but deposits the marked ballot in the ballot box and leaves with the blank ballot, which is handed to the party worker, marked, and then given to the next voter to repeat the cycle. This process can continue all day, giving the party control of a large number of voters.

chairperson

In Hawaii, an ELECTION OFFICIAL who manages the POLLING PLACE.

challenge

An assertion that a voter who proposes to cast a ballot or has cast one was not eligible to vote. Such a CHALLENGED VOTER may cast a ballot, which becomes known as a CHALLENGED BALLOT.

challenge ballot

A form of PROVISIONAL BALLOT in Maine, West Virginia and Wyoming essentially the same as an AFFIDAVIT BALLOT.

challenge list

A list of all CHALLENGES to voters. A “form furnished election board officers to be used in making a record of all challenges.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.035.

challenge primary

A PRIMARY ELECTION in Connecticut that is held only if a defeated candidate at a nominating convention receives a certain minimum percentage of votes, in which case an election is required.

challenged ballot

A “ballot provided to an individual who claim[s] they are registered and eligible to vote but whose eligibility or registration status cannot be confirmed when they present themselves to vote. Once voted, such ballots must be kept separate from other ballots and are not included in the tabulation until after the voter’s eligibility is confirmed. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. A “ballot cast by one whose eligibility to vote has been questioned during election day.” Me. Rev. Stat.

§21-A-1(7). A “BALLOT cast by a voter whose eligibility to vote is disputed by someone who is not an ELECTION OFFICIAL.” 2007 VVSG. See also PROVISIONAL BALLOT.

challenged voter

A voter whose eligibility to vote has been questioned by a CHALLENGER.

challenger

A person designated by a political party to review the qualifications of voters presenting themselves at a POLLING PLACE. for the purpose challenging unauthorized voters. A challenger “shall have the power to challenge the right to vote therein of any person claiming such right and shall have power to ask all necessary questions to determine this right ... may be present while the votes cast at any election are being counted, hear and see the ballots counted and shall have the right and power to challenge the counting or rejecting of any ballot or any part of a ballot.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:7-5. Likewise Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-232.

change release summary

A document, part of the TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION PACKAGE, listing any changes that have been made to a system from a previously certified version.

charter election

An election to adopt a county or city charter. Usually a type of SPECIAL ELECTION.

check-in clerk

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in the District of Columbia who verifies that voters are authorized to vote at a particular POLLING PLACE.

check mark

A type of acceptable mark on a paper or mark-sense ballot. See also CROSS.

check-off box

A “voter response position on a CONSOLIDATED BALLOT where a voter who desires to participate in a partisan primary must indicate major party affiliation.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-22-020(1).

checker

A “representative of the republican party and a representative of the democratic party, bearing credentials signed by the proper ward or town committee chairperson, shall be allowed to sit for the purpose of keeping track of those who are voting, and these representatives, who shall be known as ‘checkers,’ may be changed during the day. R.I. Gen. Laws §17-19-22. Similarly, Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-234. See also RUNNER, WATCHER.

checklist

A list of the voters entitled to vote at a POLLING PLACE. N.H. Rev. Stat. §658:12. The voters who actually present themselves for voting are marked off on the checklist.

checkpointing

A process for recovering from system failure by recording the state of the system periodically and then restoring from the last saved state and updating with subsequent transactions.

checksum

A computed function of the bits in a file that can be used to determine whether the file (or the checksum) has been altered, either by accident or design. A “value computed from the content of a document or data record. Typically this is the sum of the numeric representations of all the characters in the text.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

chief deputy election commissioner

A county official in large Nebraska counties, appointed by the ELECTION COMMISSIONER, but of a different political party. Nebraska Stat. §32-209.

chief election officer

In most states, the chief election officer is the Secretary of State, known in Massachusetts at the State Secretary. There are exceptions, however. In Alaska and Utah it is the Lieutenant Governor. See, e.g., Utah Code Ann. §20A-5-402.5(c)(3). In Delaware, it is the State Election Commissioner. Hawaii: Chief Election Officer. In Illinois, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia, the State Board of Elections. In Indiana, Indiana Election Division. In Tennessee, Coordinator of Elections. In Wisconsin, Chairperson of the State Elections Board.

chief judge

The “person selected to be responsible for the security of ballot envelopes and voter ballots.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(viii).

chief manager

The chairperson of a PRECINCT BOARD in Georgia. Ga. Code Ann. §21-2-90.

chief state election official

Under HAVA, the “individual designated by the State under Section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. §1973gg-8) to be responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under the Act.” “The Secretary of State is the chief elections official in the state and shall provide uniform guidance for election activities.” Ala. Code §17-1-8(a).

children

“Nothing ... shall prevent a voter from being accompanied by a child or children who are under the age of thirteen (13) years while the voter is within the voting booth area.” R.I. Gen’l. Laws §17-19-53 .

chip

= CHAD. Nevada Rev. Stat. §293.3677.

choice

1. = CONTEST CHOICE. 2007 VVSG.
2. A term associated with INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, meaning “an indication on a ballot of a voter's ranking of candidates for any single office according to the voter's preference.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.53.030(2). Cf. NEXT CHOICE.

choice of font and contrast

The ability of a voter to change the font in which the BALLOT is displayed and the screen contrast on a DRE during a VOTING SESSION. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

choice voting

= INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING.

chute

In Indiana, the area around a POLLING PLACE. Ind. Code §3-5-2-14. Cf. BALLOT CHUTE.

Ciber

One of the federally certified INDEPENDENT TESTING AUTHORITIES.

CIF

= COMMON INDUSTRY FORMAT.

CIO

= Chief Information Officer.

circulation route

A “continuous path of travel from the street or parking area to the polling place building, into and through the polling place building to the voting area, and includes both horizontal and vertical travel.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.103(1)(b). See also EXTERIOR CIRCULATION ROUTE.

circulator

An “individual, whether paid or unpaid, who solicits signatures for a recall petition.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:27A-3.

city clerk

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14, 8 Mass. Gen'l. Laws §50:1. See also DEPUTY CITY CLERK.

city election

An “election to choose a city officer.” 63 N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:8.

city measure

Any “proposed county charter, any proposed amendment to a county charter, any proposition for the issuance of funding or refunding bonds of the county, any other question or proposition submitted to the voters of a county at any election held throughout an entire single county, any advisory question, or any bond proposal or any advisory question submitted to the voters of any public district although the boundaries of the district may be coterminous with those of the county.” Cal. Elec. Code §306. Cf. COUNTY MEASURE.

Civil Rights Division

Under HAVA, the Chief of the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of the DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (or his designee) is a member of the BOARD OF ADVISORS.

civilian absentee ballot

A “ballot for use by a CIVILIAN ABSENTEE VOTER,” as opposed to a MILITARY SERVICE BALLOT. N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:57-2.

civilian absentee voter

Any “qualified and registered voter of the State who wants to vote by absentee ballot,” as opposed to a MILITARY SERVICE VOTER. N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:57-2. The definition is incorrect in that it does not distinguish between military and civilian voters.

claim of conformance

A “statement by a VENDOR declaring that a specific product conforms to a particular standard or set of standard profiles; for voting systems, NASED qualification or EAC CERTIFICATION provides independent verification of a claim.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

clear box testing

= WHITE BOX TESTING. Cf. BLACK BOX TESTING.

clearly observable boundary

“Each election district and precinct shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory and shall have clearly defined and clearly observable boundaries. A ‘clearly observable boundary’ shall include (i) any named road or street, (ii) any road or highway which is a part of the federal, state primary, or state secondary road system, (iii) any river, stream, or drainage feature shown as a polygon boundary on the TIGER/line files of the United States Bureau of the Census, or (iv) any other natural or constructed or erected permanent physical feature which is shown on an official map. Va. Code §24.2-305.

class

An “identified set of voting systems or voting devices sharing a specified characteristic or characteristics.” 2007 VVSG. See, e.g. INNOVATION CLASS.

clerk

The “election board officer designated or assigned to make the record of the election in the pollbook, tally list and challenge list in the precinct or district in which such officer is appointed.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.040. Cf. DEPUTY CLERK.

Clerk of County Commission

A position in West Virginia equivalent to COUNTY CLERK, having responsibility for voter registration and election administration.

clerk of the circuit court

Court clerks often have statutory roles in elections. For example, in Alabama, the clerk of the circuit court administers ABSENTEE VOTING and is a member of the APPOINTING BOARD. Ala. Code §17-6-1. Likewise in West Virginia.

clerk of county commission

In West Virginia, the official who registers voters and administers local elections.

clerk of the county court

WV?

clock drift

The onboard clock of an ELECTRONIC DEVICE shall not drift more than one minute within a 15-hour period of the clock is set. 2007 VVSG.

closed primary

A primary in which only voters registered with a specific party are eligible to vote for candidates of that party. 26 Okla. Stat. §1-104. A “PRIMARY ELECTION in which the voter receives a ballot containing only those PARTY-SPECIFIC CONTESTS pertaining to the political party with which the voter is affiliated, along with non-PARTY-SPECIFIC CONTESTS presented at the same election. ... Usually, unaffiliated voters are permitted to vote only on non-party-specific contests.” 2007 VVSG. Cf. BLANKET PRIMARY, MODIFIED OPEN PRIMARY, OPEN PRIMARY, SLIGHTLY AJAR PRIMARY.

club district

The “territory of the general election voting place or precinct in which the political party club is formed ..., whether a ward or township or a subdivision thereof.” S. C. Code §7-1-20(12).

CM

= CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT.

code channel

A columns of rectangular marks on an optical scan ballot next to the TIMING TRACK.

coded ballot

A ballot that has been marked as PROVISIONAL or CONTESTED. In DRE systems, coded ballots can be excluded from tabulation until they are determined to have been cast by eligible voters.

coding conventions

A “published, credible set of coding rules, conventions or standards ... that enhance the workmanship, security, integrity, testability, and maintainability of [software] applications.” “Coding conventions shall be considered published if and only if they appear in a publicly available book, magazine, journal, or new media with analogous circulation and availability, or if they are publicly available on the Internet.” “Coding conventions shall be considered credible if and only if at least two different organizations with no ties to the creator of the rules or to the manufacturer seeking CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT, and which are not themselves voting equipment manufacturers, independently decided to adopt them and made active use of them at some time within the three years before conformity assessment was first sought.” 2007 VVSG.

coercion

The illegal exercise of influence on a voter. “Any employer who attempts by coercion, intimidation, threats to discharge or to lessen the remuneration of an employee, to influence his vote in any election, or who requires or demands an examination or inspection by himself or another of an employee's ballot, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor ...” Ala. Code §17-23-10.

color adjustment

The ability of a voter, during a VOTING SESSION, to change the color in which the BALLOT is displayed. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

column

In an electronic voting system which utilizes a ballot card, “a space on a ballot card for punching the voter's vote arranged in a row running lengthwise on the ballot card.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24A-2.

combination ballot card and write-in ballot

A “BALLOT CARD with a separate card attached to it by perforation and which contains instructions and spaces for WRITE-INS.” Mich. Rules §168.771(1)(i).

combination wave

A test for susceptibility of an ELECTRONIC DEVICE to power surges typical of interference from lightning. The wave consists of an adjustable open circuit test voltage ranging from 2 to 6 kV, with 1.2/50 μ s (rise time/fall time) impulse waveform followed by a maximum short circuit current of 3 kA having an 8/20 μ s wave shape. 2007 VVSG. See also RING WAVE.

combined precinct

“Two or more PRECINCTS assigned the same polling place.” 2007 VVSG.

COMM pack

= COMMUNICATIONS PACK.

commercial off-the-shelf

Software that is commercially available and not made by the vendor of an voting system, therefore not under the control of that vendor. For example, the Microsoft Windows operating system is such software and is often incorporated into voting machines. This type of software presents a challenge to the examination of voting systems since its source code is usually proprietary and not open to inspection. Abbreviated COTS. The 2007 VVSG observe that “the expansion of COTS as Commercial Off-The-Shelf is no longer helpful, since much of what satisfies the requirements is non-commercial software that is not available in stores.”

commissioner

The “COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION in counties.” N.J.S. §19:1-1.

commissioner-in-charge

The local election official who supervises a precinct in Louisiana. La. R.S. §18:425. Cf. ELECTION COMMISSIONER.

Commissioner of Elections

Usually the chief operation officer directly administering elections in a state, generally reporting to the SECRETARY OF STATE, as in Louisiana and Pennsylvania.

Commissioner of Registration

A county official in New Jersey responsible for maintaining the roll of registered voters.

Commissioners Court

A local canvassing body in Texas.

Common Industry Format

A “format described in ISO/IEC 25062:2006, ‘Common Industry Format (CIF) for Usability Test Reports’.” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated CIF.

communications pack

A “device containing a printer and a modem used to print results at a polling place and transmit the results to the Central Counting Site.” 2004 Pasco ESP 6. Sometimes COMM PACK.

communications security

Because of the need for voting system components to communicate and the and potential vulnerability of such communications, it is crucial to be able to secure their transmission. Requirements that address both the integrity of transmitted information and protect the voting system from communications based threats form part of the security coverage of the 2007 VVSG.

community volunteer

A valid vocational designation for a candidate in California under certain circumstances. Cal. Elec. Code §13107.5(a).

complainant

A person who files a COMPLAINT in accordance with a state's ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE. Cf. RESPONDENT.

complaint

An allegation by a voter under HAVA that a jurisdiction has violated the voting system standards mandated at 42 U.S.C. §15481. The filing of a complaint initiates the ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE each state is required to set up 42 U.S.C. §15512.

completed system response time

The "time taken from when the voter performs some detectible action to when the voting system completes its response and settles into a stable state (e.g., finishes 'painting' the screen with a new page)." 2007 VVSG.

completeness

The property of a voting system by which every eligible voter is accounted for as either having voted or not voted.

component

An "element within a larger system; a component can be hardware or software. For hardware, it is a physical part of a subsystem that can be used to compose larger systems (e.g., circuit boards, internal modems, processors, computer memory). For software, it is a MODULE of executable code that performs a well-defined function and interacts with other components. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

composite abstract

A "document signed by the members of the State Board of Elections showing the total number of votes for each candidate and ballot proposal and the number of votes in each county. A composite abstract does not include precinct returns." A composite of the ABSTRACTS. N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-182(3).

computer

The term "means, but is not limited to, an electronic device that performs logical, arithmetic or memory functions by the manipulations of electronic or magnetic impulses and includes all input, output, processing, storage, software or communication facilities that are connected or related to such a device in a system or network." O.R.S §246.565(4)(a).

computer ballot

The “paper ballot prepared by the office of the secretary of state for use in conjunction with the optical scan precinct count system.” R.I. Genl. Laws §17-19-1(1).

Computer Election Systems

A voting system manufacturer during the 1970s that changed its name to American Information Systems (AIS) and merged with Business Records Corporation (BRC) to form Election Systems and Software (ES&S). Abbreviated CES.

computer network

The term “means, but is not limited to, interconnection of communication lines, including microwave or other means of electronic communication, with a computer through remote terminals or a complex consisting of two or more interconnected computers.” O.R.S. §246.565(4)(b).

computer program

The term “means, but is not limited to, a series of instructions or statements, in a form acceptable to a computer, that permits the functioning of a computer system in a manner designed to provide appropriate products from the computer system.” O.R.S. §246.565(4)(c).

computer program and processing accuracy board

“1. The county clerk shall appoint the members of the computer program and processing accuracy board no later than 7 days before the election in which they will serve.

2. The board shall verify that:

(a) Any invalid voting of a ballot will cause it to be rejected.

(b) Votes can be counted for each candidate and proposition.

(c) Any overvote for an office or proposition will cause a rejection of the vote for that office or proposition.

(d) Where multiple votes may be cast, the maximum number of votes permitted a voter cannot be exceeded without rejecting the vote for that selection, but any undervote will be counted.

(e) Neither a voter’s omission to vote nor his irregular vote on any particular office or proposition will prevent the counting of his vote as to any other office or proposition on the ballot.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.385.

computerized county

A “county which utilizes a computerized voter registration system which has been approved by the coordinator of elections.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(5).

computerized list

The database required to be maintained by each state comprising a “centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the State level that contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the State and assigns a unique identifier to each legally registered voter in the State.” 42 U.S.C. §15483(a).

concession

In general, an oral concession by a candidate that he has lost an election has no legal effect.

concurrent elections

Essentially distinct elections, e.g., involving different political subdivisions, held for convenience at the same time and place. “municipal primary and general elections are held at the same time, in the same manner, at the same polling places, and are conducted by the same precinct officials, using the same poll lists, as the statewide primary and general elections.” Wyo. Stat. §22-23-201.

conditional ballot

= PROVISIONAL BALLOT

configuration data

“NON-EXECUTABLE input to software, firmware, or HARDWIRED LOGIC, not including VOTE DATA.” 2007 VVSG

configuration identification

An element of configuration management, consisting of selecting the configuration items for a system and recording their functional and physical characteristics in technical documentation. 2002 FEC A-3

configuration item

An aggregation of hardware, software, or both that is designated for configuration management and treated as a single entity in the configuration management process. 2002 FEC A-3

configuration log

See VOTING SYSTEM CONFIGURATION LOG.

configuration management

The “discipline applying technical and administrative direction and surveillance to identify and document functional and physical characteristics of a configuration item, control changes to these characteristics, record and report change processing and implementation status, and verify compliance with specified requirements.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. Abbreviated CM.

configuration management plan

A “document detailing the process for identifying, controlling and managing various released items (such as code, hardware and documentation)” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

configuration status accounting

An “element of configuration management, consisting of the recording and reporting of information needed to manage a configuration effectively. This information includes a listing of the approved configuration identification, the status of proposed changes to the configuration, and the implementation status of approved changes.” FVSS Appendix.

conformance

“Fulfillment of specified requirements by a product, process or service.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

conformance testing

Testing to determine whether a product conforms to a standard. 2007 VVSG. Cf. INTEROPERABILITY TESTING.

conformity assessment

“Demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled.” “Conformity assessment encompasses the examination and testing of software and firmware; tests of hardware under conditions simulating the intended storage, operation, transportation, and maintenance environments; INSPECTION and evaluation of system documentation; and OPERATIONAL TESTS to validate system performance and functioning under normal and abnormal conditions. Conformity assessment also evaluates the completeness of the manufacturer's developmental test program, including the sufficiency of manufacturer tests conducted to demonstrate compliance with stated system design and performance specifications, and the manufacturer's documented quality assurance and configuration management practices. The assessment addresses individual system components or elements as well as the integrated system as a whole.” 2007 VVSG.

Congressional vacancy election

An “election held at a time other than the general election for the purpose of filling a vacancy in an unexpired term of a representative in congress.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(5).

console log

A “listing of the computer responses to program instructions and of instructions to the computer by the operator.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(10).

consolidated ballot

A “single ballot on which the candidates for each political party are separate from the candidates for any other political party and which also includes non-partisan offices and issues, listed after the candidates of each political party.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-22-020(3).

consolidated precinct

The “combination of two or more precincts” for specified purposes such as voting in SPECIAL ELECTIONS. N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-12.

conspiracy to deprive voters of a fair election

A crime defined in HAVA. “Any individual who knowingly and willfully gives false information in registering or voting in violation of section 11(c) of the National Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. §1973i(c)), or conspires with another to violate such section, shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, in accordance with such section.” 42 U.S.C. §15544(a).

constable

An elected peace officer in Pennsylvania, employed by the judicial branch, who maintains order at a polling place and ensures that voters may cast their votes without intimidation.

Constitutional officers

In Arkansas, “the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and Commissioner of State Lands.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(5).

Constitutional Officers Election Board

A Georgia body performing the function of a STATE CANVASSING BOARD.

contest

1. “(i) [T]he aggregate of candidates who run against each other or among themselves for nomination for, or election to, an office or multiple offices of the same category; or (ii) the positive and negative voting options for a question submitted to the voters ... ‘Contest’ includes, in a general election for an office, the write-in option.” Md. Elec. Code §1-101(m). A “decision to be made within an election, which may be a contest for office or a referendum, proposition and/or question. A single ballot may contain one or more contests.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. See also CONTROLLED CONTEST, CONTROLLING CONTEST, MULTI-SEAT CONTEST, RACE STATISTICAL CONTEST, UNIVERSAL CONTEST, VOTE-FOR MANY, VOTE FOR N OF M.

2. A “legal proceeding, other than a recount, instituted to challenge the determination of any election under the provisions of this title, or any municipal, school, or township election.” S.D. Code §12-22-1. An “adversary proceeding between a candidate for a public office who has received the greatest number of votes and any other candidate for that office or, in certain cases, any registered voter of the appropriate political subdivision, for the purpose of determining the validity of an election.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.042.

In most states, contests may be initiated only on specific statutory grounds, such as: malconduct, fraud or corruption on the part of any inspector, clerk, marker, returning officer, board of supervisors or other person. Ala. Code §17-15-1(1). Other grounds include that the winner was not eligible as a candidate at the time of election, illegal votes were cast or legal votes were rejected. In some states, initiating a contest may involve posting a bond. Ala. Code §17-15-50.

contest choice

The option selectable by a voter in a given BALLOT POSITION, e.g. the name of a candidate, the value “yes” or “No,” etc.

contest header

An area on BALLOT the in which the name of the CONTEST is displayed, possibly along with the number of candidates for which a vote may be cast.

contestant

= CONTESTOR. Texas Elec. Code §221.007.

contested ballot

A BALLOT cast by a voter whose legitimacy has been questioned. See also CODED BALLOT, PROVISIONAL BALLOT.

contestee

A “candidate whose nomination or election is being contested by a CONTESTOR.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-14.

contestor

A “person who initiates a proceeding to CONTEST the result of an election.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-14. Also CONTESTANT. Cf. CONTESTEE.

continuing ballot

With respect to INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, “a ballot that is not EXHAUSTED.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.53.030.

continuous roll

A type of VVPAT in which the paper record is maintained on a continuous roll of paper, such as an adding machine tape. This means that the first ballot image on the roll is that of the first voter, the last is of the last voter, and all others are maintained in the order in which they were cast. A simple comparison with the POLL LIST then reveals the voter of every voter in the precinct. The existence of continuous roll systems is curious because internal (electronic) ballot image records have been required of DRE systems since at least 1980, but their ordering must be randomized to prevent revealing votes.

control port

A PORT for “inter-system connection such as VOTING STATION to PRECINCT TABULATOR.” 2007 VVSG.

control subsystem

Software “resident in the voting or ballot counting device. It control the readying of equipment and software for election use, pre-election validation testing, and readiness testing prior to opening the polling place.” Fla. VSS Appendix.

controlled contest

See CONTROLLING CONTEST.

controller

A “component of a direct recording electronic voting system that allows the poll worker to add information to an ACCESS DEVICE to allow a voter to access the correct ballot style.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-510.

controlling contest

A CONTEST in which the voter’s choice determine the voter’s ability to vote in a second contest, referred to as the CONTROLLED CONTEST. It is sometimes seen in a RECALL ELECTION. In the CONTROLLING CONTEST, the voter indicates whether the incumbent should be recalled. Only if the answer is yes may the voter go on to the CONTROLLED CONTEST to select the desired replacement.

convenience voting

In general, the ability to vote at one’s convenience, e.g. at a time and/or place of one’s choosing. It often is used as a synonym for EARLY VOTING or ABSENTEE VOTING, but also refers to the ability of a voter to cast the proper ballot at any polling place in a jurisdiction, not just the one in which the voter is registered. This form of convenience voting is made possible by statewide registration systems, from which the proper BALLOT to be presented to the voter can be determined.

convention

1. A “meeting of delegates of a political party held for the purpose of designating the candidate or candidates to be endorsed by such party in a primary of such party for state or district office or for the purpose of transacting other business of such party.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-372(2).
2. A mechanism in some states for ratifying amendments to the U.S. Constitution. See, e.g., Mont. Code Ann. §13-26-101.

conversion subsystem

Software “resident in the voting or ballot counting device. It control the readying of equipment and software for election use, pre-election validation testing, and readiness testing prior to opening the polling place.” Fla. VSS Appendix.

COOP

= CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS.

coordinated election

An “election where more than one political subdivision with overlapping boundaries or the same electors holds an election on the same day and the eligible electors are all registered electors, and the county clerk and recorder is the coordinated election official for the political subdivisions.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(6.5).

Coordinator of Elections

The CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL in Tennessee, appointed by the SECRETARY OF STATE.

core logic

A “subset of APPLICATION LOGIC that is responsible for vote recording and tabulation.” 2007 VVSG.

corrected program

A vote tabulation computer program used in a RECOUNT replacing one that has been determined to be defective. Texas Elec. Code §214.046.

correction of ballot

HAVA requires that each voter be able to correct her ballot before it is cast.

correction tape

A “tape designed solely for use in correcting errors on data processing cards.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(11).

corrective action

“Action taken to eliminate the causes of an existing deficiency or other undesirable situation in order to prevent recurrence the each voter be able to correct her ballot before it is cast. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

COTS

= COMMERCIAL OFF-THE-SHELF.

count

1. “The process of totaling votes.” FVSS APPENDIX. The ”process by which votes marked on a ballot card are examined manually or electronically by a voting device and a determination is made as to whom or for what the votes are cast.” Okla. Stat. §26-6-102.1.
2. The total number of valid votes cast for a CANDIDATE or on a QUESTION.

counted ballot

A BALLOT which has been tabulated and whose result is included in the vote totals. A “voted ballot counted by the election or counting board in at least one race.” S.D. Rules §5:02:16:00(5). A “READ BALLOT whose votes are included in the vote totals. ... A

PROVISIONAL or CHALLENGED BALLOT that is not accepted may be read, but it is not counted.”

counter

1. A person who assist in the counting of ballots at a precinct. Alaska Stat. §15.10.140. Likewise, 26 Okla. Stat. §2-128.
2. A register, either mechanical or electrical, that holds vote totals.

counting board

“The term ‘counting board’ means those election officials charged with counting the ballots at the precinct in counties using paper ballots.” W.V.C. §3-1-29.

counting center

The “location or locations designated by the county auditor for the automatic tabulating and counting of ballots.” N.D.C.C. §16.1-06(3). The “computer facilities and surrounding premises designated by the chief election officer or the clerk in county elections where electronic voting system ballots are counted.” Hawaii Rev. Stat. §16-41.

counting judge

One of “the two judges, one from each major political party, who read each vote received by all candidates and each vote for and against all questions at a polling place.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115-447.1(1). Cf. RECEIVING JUDGE.

counting location

A “location selected by the county board of election commissioners with respect to all elections for the automatic processing or counting or both of votes.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(6).

counting poll watcher

A “person selected ... to witness the counting of ballots.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(16).

counting station

= CENTRAL COUNTING STATION.

counting station manager

The person “in charge of the overall administration of the central counting station and the general supervision of the personnel working at the station. Texas Elec. Code §127.002(e).

counting team

A body of persons who count ballots in a RECOUNT. Texas Elec. Code §213.005.

county

The principal unit of election administration in the United States. Even though the power to conduct elections is left to the states, it has historically been delegated to individual counties, possibly under the general supervision of a state body.

county auditor

In some states, such as Michigan, the chief local election official. Likewise in South Dakota and Washington.

county board

A casual term, usually denoting the COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS. Occasionally the term is formally defined in a statute, e.g., “‘County board’ means county board of elections in a county.” N.J.S. §19:1-1.

county board of election and registration

A county-level body that perform election duties in Georgia.

county board of elections

A body exercising supervisory authority over elections in a county.

County Board of Election Commissioners

In Arkansas, a three-person board responsible for conducting elections in a county, composed of the county chairman of the county committee of the majority party, the county chairman of the county committee of the minority party, and a third member appointed by the State Board of Election Commissioners (from a list of names submitted by the majority party).

county board of supervisors

A body exercising supervisory authority over, or performing certain functions in support of, elections in a county. In Arizona, the board appoints for every election precinct one inspector, one marshal, two judges and not less than two clerks of election. Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-531(A).

county canvassing board

The “body charged by law with the duty of canvassing absentee ballots, of ruling on the validity of questioned or challenged ballots, of the verifying all unofficial returns as listed in the auditor's abstract of votes, and the producing of the official county canvass report; it shall be composed of the county auditor, prosecuting attorney, and chairman of the board of the county legislative authority, or their designated representatives.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-261-010(3). Also used in Florida, Kansas and Wyoming.

county chair

In Texas, the party official responsible for conducting the party’s primary elections.

county chairman

“The county chairman of each political party represented on the ballot may appoint in writing two WATCHERS for each precinct.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1.27.

county clerk

In numerous states, the chief administrative officer of a county, responsible for the conduct of elections.

County Commission

The governing body in certain counties, often responsible for specific electoral functions, such as preparation of RETURNS for transmission to the SECRETARY OF STATE, as in Alabama and West Virginia.

County Commissioner of Elections

The senior election officer of a county in Iowa and Kansas.

county election

Any “PRIMARY, GENERAL or SPECIAL ELECTION, including a RECALL ELECTION ... for elective county office.” Stanislaus County (CA) Code §25.01.

County Election Commission

The body responsible for county election administration in Tennessee.

County Electoral Board

The body responsible for county election administration in Virginia.

county-level rotation

A form of BALLOT ROTATION used in California under which the ordering of candidates differs among supervisorial districts. Cf. STATE-LEVBL ROTATION.

county measure

Any “proposed county charter, any proposed amendment to a county charter, any proposition for the issuance of funding or refunding bonds of the county, any other question or proposition submitted to the voters of a county at any election held throughout an entire single county, any advisory question, or any bond proposal or any advisory question submitted to the voters of any public district although the boundaries of the district may be coterminous with those of the county.” Cal. Elec. Code §312. Cf. CITY MEASURE.

county officer

In Vermont, any “judge of probate, assistant judge of the superior court, state's attorney, sheriff, high bailiff, and justice of the peace.” 17 Vt. Stat. Ann. §2103(10).

county recorder

A county official having specified election responsibilities, such as conducting absentee voting. Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-542.

county registration commission

A body analogous to the VOTER REGISTRATION COMMISSION in other jurisdictions.

County Tax Assessor

In Texas, the official responsible for administering the county's voter registration program.

CRC

= CYCLIC REDUNDANCY CHECK.

credential issuance

A “determination of what BALLOT CONFIGURATION is appropriate for a given voter and creation of the VOTING CREDENTIALS necessary for BALLOT ACTIVATION.” 2007 VVSG.

crimes

BRIBERY, COERCION, DISCHARGING EMPLOYEE, DISCLOSURE BY VOTER, DISTURBING ELECTORS, DISTURBING POLLING PLACE, ELECTIONEERING, FALSE INFORMATION IN REGISTERING AND VOTING, FALSE SWEARING, FALSE VOTING, FALSIFYING ELECTION DOCUMENTS, INTERFERING WITH POLITICAL RIGHTS, IMPERSONATION, INTIMIDATION, UNLAWFUL OPENING OF BALLOT BOX, PLURAL VOTING, UNLAWFUL OPENING OF VOTING MACHINE, TAMPERING, UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF KEY, VOTE-BUYING, VOTE-CHANGING, VOTE-SELLING.

critical

A part, component or assembly, including software, is considered critical if its FAILURE may result in certain fatal defects in performance, such as faulty recording of a vote. 2007 VVSG.

cross

A type of acceptable mark on a paper or mark-sense ballot. See also CHECK MARK.

cross-endorsement

The ENDORSEMENT of a candidate by more than one political party. Sometimes “cross-party endorsement.” Also CROSS-PARTY ENDORSEMENT. Cf. CROSS-FILING.

cross-filing

The filing of the same candidate for election by more than one political party in the same CONTEST. Cf. CROSS-ENDORSEMENT.

cross-listing

= CROSS-FILING.

cross voting

The act of voting in a primary election “for a candidate of a party with whom the voter is not registered.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(v).

cross-party endorsement

= CROSS-ENDORSEMENT. “ENDORSEMENT of a given CONTEST CHOICE by two or more political parties. 2007 VVSG. This definition is too general since QUESTION choices are not subject to endorsement, as candidates are.

crossover

1. The act of voting STRAIGHT PARTY but then “crossing over” by selecting a candidate of another party in at least one office.
2. Casting a vote in a PRIMARY for a party other than one’s declared party.

crypto indicia

A class of VVPAT system in which encrypted strings or symbols, such as barcodes or hash codes, are printed on the paper record for security purposes, generally to prevent forgery or alteration of the ballot. Unfortunately, the voter is unable to read these indicia and therefore is unable to completely verify her ballot. For example, the security code may indicate that the ballot is a forgery, but the voter is unable to discover this fact in the course of voting. Cf. NO INDICIA.

cryptography

The use of mathematical methods of obscuring data so it cannot be read or compromised by unauthorized parties. Use of cryptography for security of voting records is a part of the security coverage of the 2007 VVSG. See DEVICE CERTIFICATE, DEVICE PUBLIC KEY, DEVICE SIGNATURE KEY, ELECTION COUNTER, ELECTION KEY CLOSEOUT RECORD, ELECTION PUBLIC KEY CERTIFICATE, ELECTION PUBLIC KEY DELETION RECORD, ELECTION SIGNATURE KEY, ELECTION SIGNATURE KEY USE COUNTER, SIGNATURE MODULE.

Crystal Reports

A piece of commercial software sometimes used in ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS for generating output reports.

cumulative report

A “listing of vote totals at a given point in tabulation, showing overall totals, as opposed to precinct-by-precinct totals.” 2004 Pasco ESP 6.

cumulative voting

“A VOTING VARIATION in which the voter is entitled to allocate a fixed number of votes (N) over a list of M CONTEST CHOICES or WRITE-INS. ... Unlike N-OF-M VOTING, cumulative voting allows the voter to allocate more than one vote to a given contest choice.” 2007 VVSG. Cumulative voting is increasing in popularity.

curbside voting

The practice of bringing voting equipment or a ballot out to an automobile parked near a polling place so that a disabled person may vote. Some jurisdictions specifically allow curbside voting by statute: “If any qualified voter is able to travel to the voting place, but because of age or physical disability and physical barriers encountered at the voting place is unable to enter the voting enclosure to vote in person without physical assistance, that voter shall be allowed to vote either in the vehicle conveying that voter or in the immediate proximity of the voting place.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-166.9. Some jurisdictions maintain that polling place voting must occur inside the actual polling place and do not allow curbside voting. A Sept. 30, 1993 finding by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice stated that curbside voting meets the PROGRAM ACCESS requirement of the ADA.

current candidates only

A method of tabulating WRITE-INS, in which only write-ins for candidates already listed in the ballot are counted. The opposite method I used in some states. In Pennsylvania, for example, a write-in may be counted only for a candidate who is not listed on the ballot. See also FREE-FOR-ALL.

custodian

The “person charged with the storing and caring for the voting machines when not in use in elections.” Ala. Code §17-9-1(11). Likewise, Ga. Code §21-2-2(4). In Virginia, “custodian of voting equipment.” Va. Code §24-2.632.

cut corner

A diagonal cut at the corner of a BALLOT to facilitate stacking in a single orientation.

cut-sheet

A type of VVPAT in which ballots of different voters are maintained on separate sheets of paper. There are two subdivisions of such systems. In some, such as the Avante system, the paper is fed from a CONTINUOUS ROLL, but when the voter has viewed the ballot it is cut by a knife so as to fall unattached into a secure bin. In other systems, such as AccuPoll, the ballot is printed by on letter-size paper and is VOTER-HANDLED. While cut-sheet systems obscure the order in which the ballots are cast, contributing to voter privacy, they do not maintain the ballot integrity achieved by continuous roll systems.

CVR

= CAST VOTE RECORD.

cyclic redundancy check

A quantity that is computed to determine whether a record or file has been altered, corrupted or transmitted erroneously. Abbreviated CRC.

daisy chain

A series of sequential connections between devices, usually to share a common power source or data path.

DAM

= DATA ACQUISITION MANAGER.

damaged ballot

A “ballot that has been torn, bent, or otherwise mutilated or rendered unreadable so that it cannot be processed by automatic tabulating equipment.” Utah. Admin. Rules §R623-2-3(D). A damaged ballot is normally examined by a CANVASSING BOARD to determine VOTER INTENT, if possible.

data accuracy

“Data accuracy is defined in terms of BALLOT POSITION ERROR RATE. This rate applies to the voting functions and supporting equipment that capture, record, store, consolidate and report the specific selections, and absence of selections, made by the voter for each ballot position. [Also,] the system’s ability to process voting data absent internal errors generated by the system. It is distinguished from DATA INTEGRITY, which encompasses errors introduced by an outside source. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

Data Acquisition Manager

An application program that forms part of the ES&S Unity suite of election management software. It’s purpose is to transfer election data from precinct scanning devices to a central tabulation station. Abbreviated DAM.

Data Encryption Standard

A Federal encryption standard specifying key lengths and a algorithm for encryption and decryption. Abbreviated DES.

data integrity

The invulnerability of the system to accidental intervention or deliberate, fraudulent manipulation that would result in errors in the processing of data. Cf. DATA ACCURACY. 2002 FEC A-3

data processing board

“The Data Processing Board will integrate the write-in results into the totals after the last precinct to arrive I the data processing area has been processed.” Tenn. Rules §1360-2-9-.06.

Datavote

(system) A punch-card voting system in which the cards are no prescored but the voter indicates preferences by applying a die to the card to create a clean chadless punch.

DAU

= DISABILITY ACCESS UNIT.

DC Team

= DELIVERY AND COLLECTION TEAM.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

DDOS attack

= DISTRIBUTED DENIAL-OF-SERVICE ATTACK.

death

“If the officers charged with the duty of processing absentee ballots are cognizant of the fact that the voter has died prior to the opening of the polls, they shall not open the envelope containing the absentee ballot.” N.H. Rev. Stat. §659:48. See also DECEASED VOTER.

deceased voter

A voter who dies after having cast an ABSENTEE BALLOT. Generally such a ballot is not to be counted. “If an absentee voter dies before the polls are opened on election day, and this fact comes to the attention of the clerk, registrar or any election official, he shall notify the warden who shall reject the ballot of the dead person.” Maine Rev. Stat. §21-A-761.

decentralized counting

The “counting and tabulation of BALLOTS at the polling place on election day.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

decertification

The process of removing certification from a system previous certified. “The State Board (1) may decertify a voting system previously certified if the State Board determines that the system no longer merits certification; and (2) shall decertify a previously certified voting system if the voting system no longer meets one or more of the [three mandatory] standards.” Md. Elec. Law §9-103. Revocation of EAC CERTIFICATION or STATE CERTIFICATION of voting system hardware and software. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

declaration of conformity

A declaration by a manufacturer that a voting system belongs to a specific CLASS under the 2007 VVSG.

declared write-in

In some jurisdictions, such as Colorado, a WRITE-IN vote is void unless the name selected appears on a pre-approved list of declared write-in candidates.

dedicated line

A telephone line connected to a single telephone device or modem and used only for communication of election information. 2007 VVSG.

defaced ballot

A ballot containing marks ultimately not desired by the voter, usually the result of an error or change of mind. Virtually the equivalent of SPOILED BALLOT. See Ky. Rev. Stat. 117.385(1). “If any paper ballot is unintentionally or accidentally defaced and rendered unfit for voting, the voter may deliver the defaced ballot to the officer of election and receive another.” Va. Code Ann. §24.2-645.

defective ballot

A ballot not prepared in accordance with the election law. Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-696.3. A ballot in which there is a discrepancy between the printed list of candidates and the official list of candidates in nomination, or a proper ballot that has been delivered to the wrong polling place. In general, use of a defective ballot does not invalidate any authorized selections made by a voter. §Iowa Code 49.101. Any “BALLOT CARD on which the number of write-in votes and votes cast on the ballot card for any office exceed the number allowed by law, and any ballot card which is bent or damaged so that it cannot be properly counted by automatic tabulating equipment;.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115-447.2(1).

defendant

“[T]hat person whose election or qualification is contested or those persons receiving an equal or larger number of votes, other than the CONTESTANT, when the body canvassing the returns declares that no one person has received the largest number of votes for the contested office.” 3 Guam Code Ann. §12101. See also CONTESTEE.

delay

“Each voter shall vote without undue delay.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.441.

delegate

1. A representative who vote to select political candidates at a CONVENTION.
2. A non-voting member of the U.S. House of Representatives elected from American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands.

delegate selection primary

A PRIMARY ELECTION held for the purpose of choosing DELEGATES.

delivery and collection team

A group of people responsible collectively for transporting VOTED BALLOTS.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

demonstration ballot

A “ballot of a distinctive color used to instruct voters in the use of the voting system.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.11.

demonstration ballot card

A “BALLOT CARD of a distinctive color used to instruct voters on the use of the voting device. The card shall have the word "DEMONSTRATION" printed or stamped on it.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(12).

demonstrator model

A “VOTING DEVICE on which voters are instructed in the use of the device.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(13).

denial-of-service attack

Abbreviated DOS.

Department of Health and Human Services

The government body charged under HAVA with making payments to states to make polling places accessible to the disabled. 42 U.S.C §15421. Abbreviated HSS.

Department of Justice

Under HAVA, the U.S. Department of Justice has two ex officio members on the BOARD OF ADVISORS. 42 U.S.C §15344. Abbreviated DOJ. See also CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, OFFICE OF PUBLIC INTEGRITY.

deposit

A type of VVPAT in which the paper ballot is VOTER-HANDLED but must be deposited into a ballot box before the voter leaves the polling place, as opposed to TAKE-HOME systems. Deposit systems subdivide into two classes, those in which the ballot must be deposited and scanned in order to count, and those in which counting is performed electronically after the voter indicates assent to the ballot. The risk in systems not requiring deposit is that the voter may remove the printed ballot from the polling place and use it as a receipt to claim payment in a VOTE-BUYING scheme. This is possible because the ballot has already been counted at the time it is removed by the voter.

deputy city clerk

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14. See also CITY CLERK.

deputy clerk

A “deputy clerk for early voting who is appointed ... to serve as the election officer in charge of the polling place for early voting.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.046. Cf. CLERK.

deputy moderator

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14. See also ASSISTANT MODERATOR, MODERATOR.

deputy registrar

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14. Cf. REGISTRAR.

deputy town clerk

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14. See also TOWN CLERK.

DES

= DATA ENCRYPTION STANDARD.

deselect

To cancel a voting selection prior to casting a vote, usually with reference to DRE MACHINES.

deselect feature

That feature of a DRE machine enabling a voter to deselect a selected candidate by pressing once again on the button or space next to the candidate’s name, thus toggling the selection.

design specification

A document in the TDP to “provide a high-level design of each voting system component.” 2007 VVSG.

designated bearer

“Any person who is identified and authorized by the applicant to obtain from the county clerk or to deliver to the county clerk the applicant's ballot.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(7).

detectable mark

“A MARK on a ballot that can be detected as a vote by a vote tabulating machine.” Jones.

development environment specification

A document in the TDP to “provide descriptions of the physical, personnel, procedural, and technical security of the development environment including configuration management, tools used, coding standards used, software engineering model used, and description of developer and independent testing.” 2007 VVSG.

device

A “physical contrivance and any supporting supplies, materials, and logic that together form a functional unit that performs assigned tasks as an integrated whole.” 2007 VVSG.

device certificate

A digital certificate that ties a DEVICE PUBLIC KEY to the unique identifier of a PROGRAMMED DEVICE. 2007 VVSG.

device identification placard

A human-readable plaque “permanently affixed to the external frame of any PROGRAMMED DEVICE containing [a SIGNATURE MODULE] that states, at a minimum, the same unique identification of the voting device contained in the DEVICE CERTIFICATE. 2007 VVSG.

device public key

A permanent key uniquely associated with a PROGRAMMED DEVICE and resident in a SIGNATURE MODULE on the device. 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated DSK.

device signature key

A PUBLIC KEY associated with a DEVICE SIGNATURE KEY and reflected in a DEVICE CERTIFICATE. 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated DSK.

Development Committee

The Technical Guidelines Development Committee of the Election Assistance Commission, established under HAVA. The chair of the Development Committee is the Director of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

diagram

An “illustration of the official ballot, when placed upon the machine, showing the names of the parties, offices and candidates, and statements of the questions, in their proper places, together with the voting devices therefor, and shall be considered a SPECIMEN BALLOT.” Ala. Code §17-9-1(3). Likewise, Ga. Code Ann. §21-2-310(2), La. R.S. §8:1351(3).

Diebold Election Systems

(vendor) See PREMIER ELECTION SOLUTIONS.

digital certificate

A digital identity document that can be used only by a person in possession of the private cryptographic key corresponding to the public key contained in the certificate.

digital signature

A bitstring attached to a document that is a function both of the document and the signer. It consists of a digest of the document encrypted with a private cryptographic key belonging to

the signer. Through the use of digital signatures both the identity of the signer and the integrity of the document can be verified. A digital signature is a particular form of ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE.

dimensional stability

(optical scan) The ability of an optical scan ballot to remain of constant size and shape when exposed to moisture.

dimple

A depression made in a punch-card by a stylus that fails to detach a CHAD. The interpretation of dimples is ambiguous since the voter may simply have changed her mind about a choice after pressing on a voting position or may have intended to vote in that position yet failed to do so properly.

direct electronic voting machine

A “voting machine that:

- (A) Records votes by means of a ballot display provided with mechanical or electro-optical components that may be actuated by the voter;
- (B) Process the data by means of a computer program;
- (C) Records voting data and ballot images in internal or external memory components; and
- (D) Produces a tabulation of the voting data stored in a removable memory component and in printed copy.” Ark. Code §7-5-532(A).

direct plurality vote

The “highest total vote ... received for a nomination at the primaries or caucuses in an entire ELECTION DISTRICT.” 8 Mass. Gen'l Laws §50:1.

direct primary

The “primary election held on the first Tuesday in March in each even-numbered year, to nominate candidates to be voted for at the ensuing general election or to elect members of a party central committee.” Cal. Elec. Code §316.

direct-record electronic, direct recording electronic

Descriptor for a machine that does not make use of a DOCUMENT BALLOT but records choices electronically. A “combination VEDB and TABULATOR that gathers votes via an ELECTRONIC VOTER INTERFACE, records voting data and BALLOT IMAGES in memory components, and produces a tabulation of the voting data. ... A typical DRE presents CONTEST CHOICES to the voter on an electronic monitor, and after the voter finishes the ballot the voter's votes are stored locally on the computer.” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated DRE.

direct-recording electronic voting equipment

A “computer driven unit for casting and counting votes on which an elector touches a video screen or a button adjacent to a video screen to cast his or her vote.” Miss. Code §23-15-531(b). See also DIRECT ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE.

direct-recording electronic voting system

“‘Direct-recording electronic voting system’ means a voting system that records votes by means of a ballot display provided by electro-optical devices that allows a voter to directly enter choices into electronic storage with the use of a touchscreen or other data entry device.

An alphabetic keyboard may be employed as an entry device to facilitate voting for write-in candidates. A voter's choices are stored in the direct-recording electronic voting system's internal memory devices and added to the choices of all other voters.” N.D.C.C. §16-1-06-12(4).

A “[v]oting system that records votes by means of a ballot display provided with mechanical or electro-optical components that can be actuated by the voter, that processes the data by means of a computer program, and that records voting data and cast vote records in internal and/or external memory components. It produces a tabulation of the voting data stored in a removable memory component and/or in printed copy.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

The “total combination of mechanical, electromechanical or electronic equipment, programs and practices used to define ballots, cast and count votes, report or display election results, maintain or produce any audit trail information, identify all system components, test the system during development, maintenance and operation, maintain records of system errors and defects, determine specific system changes to be made to a system after initial qualification, and make available any materials to the voter such as notices, instructions, forms or paper ballots.” Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/24C-2.

directly verifiable

A “voting system feature that allows the voter to verify at least one representation of his or her ballot with his/her own senses, not using any software or hardware intermediary. Examples include a marksense paper ballot and a DRE with a voter verifiable paper record feature. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. Cf. INDIRECTLY VERIFIABLE.

director of elections

A statewide post having administrative responsibility for conducting elections. “The director shall act for the lieutenant governor in the supervision of central and regional election offices, the hiring, performance evaluation, promotion, termination, and all other matters relating to the employment and training of election personnel, and the administration of all state elections as well as those municipal elections that the state is required to conduct. Alaska Stat. §15.10.105. Similarly in Iowa and Michigan.

directly verifiable

Allowing the voter to verify at least one representation of her ballot using her own senses, without the use of any software or hardware intermediary. Cf. INDIRECTLY VERIFIABLE.

disability

Any “physical, mental, or sensory impairment.” Ark. Code 7-5-311(c). “(a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual, (b) a record of such an impairment, or (c) being regarded as having such an impairment.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

disability access unit

An accessory for Hart InterCivic eSlate DRE terminals adding support for disabled and literacy-challenged voters. Abbreviated DAU.

disability access voting location

A “location designated by the county auditor for the conduct of IN-PERSON DISABILITY ACCESS VOTING.” Rev. Code Wash. §29A.46.010.

disability access period

The “period of time starting twenty days before an election until one day before the election,” during which voting may take place at a DISABILITY ACCESS VOTING LOCATION. Rev. Code Wash. §29A.46.020.

disabled

= HANDICAPPED.

disabled voter

Any “registered voter who qualifies for special parking privileges ..., or who is defined as blind ..., or who qualifies to require assistance with voting Rev. Code Wash. §29A.04.037. See also VOTER WITH DISABILITIES.

disaster recovery

The process of re-establishing polling places and recovering votes or ballots, if necessary, after a disaster, whether natural or otherwise. Abbreviated DR.

discarded ballot

An “unselected ballot which a voter discards prior to voting in a primary or special primary election.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

discharging employee

In some states, an employee cannot be fired for running for public office. “Discharging an employee because of nomination for or election to office consists of any employer discharging or causing to leave his, or their employ, temporarily or permanently, any person or persons because he or they have been nominated as a candidate for or elected to any position of honor, trust or emolument, to be voted for at any election.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-117.

disclosure by voter

“Any person who, within the election enclosure, discloses to any other person how he voted shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.” 26 Okla. Stat. §16-115. “If a voter shows or discloses to another person the candidates voted for or how the voter voted on a public question before the vote is registered, the vote may not be registered on the electronic voting system.” Ind. Code §3-11-14-29.

Disk Operating System

An operating system distributed by Microsoft Corporation before the introduction of Windows. Abbreviated DOS.

disputed ballot

1. A CHALLENGED BALLOT.
2. A “ballot whose validity has been questioned during the recount process.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(12). The problems with a disputed ballot must be resolved before the ballot can be counted. See also Texas Elec. Code §213.0111.

disrepair

The state of a voting machine or device that cannot be operated properly. Normally such equipment is taken out of service if the condition can be recognized and a spare or reserve machine put into use. See., e.g., W.V. Code §3-4A-18. “If a voting machine being used in an

election becomes out of order, it shall be repaired if possible or another machine substituted as promptly as possible.” Tenn. Code §2-7-119.

distinguished ballot

A ballot that bears a DISTINGUISHING MARK and thus cannot be counted.

distinguishing mark

1. A “mark on a ballot of a type or in a place not specifically permitted by [the Election Code], which indicates the apparent intent of the voter to make his ballot distinguishable.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(13). A “mark or feature making the ballot susceptible of identification.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1316. Use of distinguishing marks is not permitted since it raises coercion questions. “[I]f the district board canvassing the ballot or the county board, judge of the Superior Court or other judge or officer conducting a recount thereof, shall be satisfied that the placing of the marks to the right of the names was intended to identify or distinguish the ballot, the ballot shall be declared null and void.” N.J. Stat. Ann §19:16-3(c).

2. A number printed to the left of a candidate’s name on each ballot. Cal. Elec. Code §13118(b).

distributed denial-of-service attack

Abbreviated DDOS.

distribution repository

A REPOSITORY which provides software it receives to parties approved by the owner of the software.” 2007 VVSG.

district

A “subdivision of the state or of a county, city, village, or other political subdivision in which all registered voters residing within the district are entitled to participate in the election of any one or more candidates or in the determination by election of any question or proposition.” Nebraska Stat. §32-107. A subdivision within a WARD OR PRECINCT.

district board

The “district board of registry and election in an election district.” N.J.S. §19:1-1.

district board of election

A four-member board that conducts election activities in a New Jersey PRECINCT.

district captain

The chief election official at PRECINCT in Colorado. A “registered elector who is a resident of the district, is affiliated with a political party, and is designated or elected pursuant to political party rules of the county.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(9).

district election board

“All primaries and elections shall be conducted in each election district by a district election board consisting of a judge of election, a majority inspector of election and a minority inspector of election, assisted by clerks and machine inspectors in certain cases.” 25 Pa. Stat. §2671.

district elections official

An officer or board charged with performing the duties required of the clerk of a district Cal. Elec. Code §308.

district inspector

An official appointed to “oversee the procedures of a group of polling places and shall act as the personal agent and deputy of the election commissioner.” Neb. Stat. §32-225. Cf. PRECINCT INSPECTOR.

district office

An “ELECTIVE OFFICE for which only the electors in a DISTRICT ... may vote.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-372(4).

district type

A political subdivision within a PRECINCT. Examples include assembly, congressional, legislative, municipal, school, senate and supervisorial.

disturbing electors

The crime or disturbing or preventing, or attempting to prevent, any elector from freely casting his ballot. Ala. Code §17-23-8. See also DISTURBING POLLING PLACE.

disturbing polling place

The crime of “disturbing a polling place consists of creating any disorder or disruption at a polling place on election day or interfering with the orderly conduct of an election.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-114. See also DISTURBING ELECTORS.

diverter

An electromechanical device designed to deflect certain ballots into a special bag or area for further examination, e.g. ballots containing WRITE-INS, which require manual processing.

DNS

= DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM.

document ballot

A “ballot used with a voting system in which the voter individually is issued a ballot on which to indicate one or more votes. ‘Document ballot’ includes (i) a machine-read ballot, such as an optically scanned ballot; and (ii) a hand-counted paper ballot.” Md. Elec. Code Ann. §1-101(s). LEVER MACHINES and DRE MACHINES do not use document ballots. Cf. ELECTRONIC BALLOT.

DOJ

= DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Domain Name System

Abbreviated DNS.

dominant party in a precinct

That “political party whose candidate for election to the office of governor at the most recent regular state election at which a governor was elected received more votes than any other person received for election to that office in such precinct at such election.” Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §3501.01(G).

DOS

1. Abbreviation for DISK OPERATING SYSTEM.
2. Abbreviation for DENIAL-OF-SERVICE. See DENIAL-OF-SERVICE ATTACK.

DOS attack

= DENIAL-OF-SERVICE ATTACK.

double ballot

Two ballots folded so they appear to be a single ballot. Neither one counts, since there is no basis on which to prefer one over the other. Iowa Code §50.3. Likewise, Va. Code §24.2-661. Also DUPLICATE BALLOT, SHINGLE BALLOT.

double-check person

In Vermont, an election worker who has a specialized role in a RECOUNT. “The TALLY PERSON and the double-check person or persons each shall make a suitable mark for that candidate and/or BLANK BALLOTS, and/or SPOILED BALLOTS.” Vt. Stat. §2602f(a). See also CALLER, TALLY PERSON.

double vote

An attempt to vote for the same candidate more than once in the same office. A frequent method is to write in the name of a candidate twice in an N-OF-M CONTEST. A voting system must not allow a double vote except in CUMULATIVE VOTING.

DR

= DISASTER RECOVERY.

DRAM

= DYNAMIC RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY.

DRE

= DIRECT RECORDING ELECTRONIC.

DRE display

That component of a DRE which exhibits the BALLOT to the voter.

DRE machine

A VOTING MACHINE that records votes electronically instead of by DOCUMENT BALLOT.

DRE unit

A “direct recording electronic voting device which is a computer-driven unit for casting and counting votes on which a voter casts his or her votes through the use of a touch screen or VWD device.” Ga. Rules §183-1-12-.02.

DRE-VVPAT

A DRE having a VVPAT.

drier

Material that is added to printing ink to speed up drying.

driver

A “program or subprogram designed to control the operation of a specific piece of peripheral hardware, such as a card reader, printer, or disk drive. The driver takes into account the specific characteristics unique to the device.” Fla. VSS Appendix.

drop-off

1. The tendency of voters to vote for “important” offices listed near the beginning of the BALLOT and not to cast votes in later offices. See also BALLOT FATIGUE.
2. Sometimes defined on an office-by-office basis as the difference between the number of voters who appeared for voting and the actual number of votes cast for each office.

drop-out

A portion of camera-ready ballot copy that does not reproduce in printing.

drop vote

= NO VOTE.

DSK

= DEVICE SIGNATURE KEY.

dual candidacy

Running for more than one office at the same time, which is generally prohibited unless one of the offices is membership on a party committee. See La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:453.

dual person control

The precaution that two people should be required for the successful initiation of an administrative function of a voting system. 2007 VVSG.

duly registered voter

A “REGISTERED VOTER who resides at the address listed on the Board's records.” D.C. Code Ann. §1-1001.02(19). Also QUALIFIED REGISTERED ELECTOR REGISTERED QUALIFIED ELECTOR.

dummy ballot

A tentative layout of a ballot indicating text and illustration areas.

duplicate ballot

1. A “ballot for which a duplicate is made in order to be properly processed and counted due to damage, improper marking or some other reason which would prevent a counter from accurately counting the ballot in accordance with the voter's intent.” Utah Admin. Rule R623-2-3(E).
2. “[T]wo or more identical ballots stuck together given to one voter.” S.D. Rules 5:02:16:00(7). Also DOUBLE BALLOT.

duplicate ballot card

A “BALLOT CARD on which the word ‘DUPLICATE’ is printed, stamped, or written and which is used to transfer a voter's valid selections from the original ballot card.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(14).

duplicate check

The annual computerized review of the statewide voter file conducted by the Kansas Secretary of State.

duplication board

A board that duplicates damaged or mutilated ballots so they may be counted by automated equipment. Tenn. Rules §1360-2-9-.01(c), Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1765(2)(e). In Wyoming, a “duplicating board.” Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570, §4(x).

durability

The ability to withstand normal use without deterioration. 2007 VVSG.

dynamic random-access memory

The most common type of random-access memory in personal computers. It needs to be continually refreshed in order not to lose data and therefore requires continuous electrical power, so it is not suitable for long-term storage. Abbreviated DRAM.

dynamic voting system software

VOTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE that changes over time once it is installed on the voting equipment. Cf. SEMI-STATIC VOTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE, STATIC VOTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE.

e-voting

= ELECTRONIC VOTING.

EAC

= ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

EAC certification

A designation by the Executive Director of the ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION that a voting system conforms to the VOLUNTARY VOTING SYSTEM GUIDELINES as determined through testing by a VOTING SYSTEM TESTING LABORATORY accredited through the NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM established by NIST.

early ballot

A BALLOT cast by an EARLY VOTER. Alaska Stat. §16-545.

early recount

A RECOUNT that begins less than 18 hours after notice of recount is given, by consent of the necessary participants. Texas Elec. Code §213.010.

early voter

“[A] voter who votes in person before election day, and not by mail.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-5.1.

early voting

Voting that is conducted in a polling place prior to Election Day, usually for the convenience of person who would otherwise have to engage in ABSENTEE VOTING but may not have been able to satisfy its requirements. When early voting is conducted, the polls are generally open for a period of weeks before the election. In Louisiana, IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING. See also ON-SITE ABSENTEE VOTING.

Early Voting Ballot Board

In Texas, the board that counts early voted ballots.

early voting clerk

In Texas, the officer who conducts EARLY VOTING. The early voting clerk must conduct a daily audit during the early voting period “to ensure proper correspondence among the numbers of ballots provided on the machines, names on the poll list, and ballots cast on the machines. Texas Elec. Code §129.001(c).

earth port

A PORT for electrical ground connection. 2007 VVSG.

EBM

= ELECTRONICALLY-ASSISTED BALLOT MARKER.

EBM-marked paper ballot

A BALLOT marked by an EBM.” 2007 VVSG.

EBP

= ELECTRONIC BALLOT PRINTER.

eCM

= ESLATE CRYPTOGRAPHIC MODULE.

eCM Manager

A program used to generate cryptographic keys for use in digital signatures in the Hart InterCivic eSlate system.

ECOS

= EMPB-CAPABLE OPTICAL SCANNER.

ECVR

= ELECTRONIC CAST VOTE RECORD.

edit listing

A “computer generated listing of the names and ballot position numbers for each candidate and proposition as they appear in the program for each precinct.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24A2. Similarly in Minnesota.

editable interface

An interface of a VOTING DEVICE which permits a voter to modify and/or correct a ballot before it is cast. See also CORRECTION OF BALLOT.

EDM

= ELECTION DATA MANAGER.

EFS

= ENCRYPTION FILE SYSTEM.

ERM

= ELECTION REPORTING MANAGER.

EDX

= ELECTION DATA EXCHANGE.

EEPROM

= ELECTRICALLY ERASABLE PROGRAMMABLE READ-ONLY MEMORY

elderly

“65 years of age or older.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ee-6. Some states provide for special facilities for elderly voters, such as places to rest and a stylus with a large, easily graspable handle. Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.111. See also ACCESSIBLE.

election

The “procedure whereby the voters ... select persons to fill public offices or act on public questions.” Vt. Stat. §2103(11). The “process by which voters cast votes on one or more CONTESTS.” Md. Elec. Code §1-101(v)(1). The “choosing of a public officer or of a delegate to a party convention or the nominating of a candidate for public office by voters by means of a direct vote conducted under the election laws. The term does not include caucuses or conventions.” N.H. Rev. Stat. 652:1.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 defines “election” as follows:

“The term "election" means –

- (A) a general, special, primary, or runoff election;
- (B) a convention or caucus of a political party which has authority to nominate a candidate;
- (C) a primary election held for the selection of delegates to a national nominating convention of a political party; and
- (D) a primary election held for the expression of a preference for the nomination of individuals for election to the office of President.”

In the above definition, “and” undoubtedly means “or.”

See also BOND ELECTION, BOROUGH ELECTION, CHARTER ELECTION, CITY ELECTION, CONCURRENT ELECTIONS, COUNTY ELECTION, FEDERAL ELECTION, GENERAL CITY ELECTION, GENERAL ELECTION, GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTION, GENERAL VILLAGE ELECTION, INITIATIVE, JOINT ELECTION, LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION, LOCAL ELECTION, LOCAL SPECIAL ELECTION, MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION, MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NATIONAL ELECTION, PICK A PARTY, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY, PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, PRIMARY CITY ELECTION, PRIMARY ELECTION, RECALL ELECTION, REFERENDUM, REGULAR ELECTION, REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION, REGULAR PRIMARY ELECTION, RUNOFF ELECTION, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION, SCHOOL ELECTION, SECRETARIAL ELECTION, SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTION, SPECIAL ELECTION, SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION, SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE ELECTION, SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, SPECIAL REFERENDUM, SPECIAL VILLAGE ELECTION, STATE ELECTION, STATE GENERAL ELECTION, STATE PRIMARY ELECTION, STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION, TOWN ELECTION, TRIBAL ELECTION, VILLAGE DISTRICT ELECTION, VILLAGE ELECTION.

election administrator

The “person or persons appointed by the county auditor to election management positions ... and the state director of elections, assistant directors of elections, certification and training program staff members, and any other secretary of state election division employees designated by the director of elections.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-260-020(9). Likewise in Texas.

Election Assistance Commission

A federal agency established under HAVA to administer funds, serve as a clearinghouse for election information, supervise the development of the VVSG, administer the certification of VSTLS, and provide assistance to jurisdictions in holding elections. A bipartisan commission consisting of four full-time members appointed by the President. Abbreviated EAC.

Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors

See BOARD OF ADVISORS.

election bailiff

The election official in charge of a precinct in Mississippi. Miss. Code §23-15-231.

election board

A “persons appointed by each county or city clerk to assist in the conduct of an election.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.027. Likewise, Alaska Stat. §15.10.120 and in Iowa. A “group of election officers serving one precinct or a group of precincts in a polling place.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.049.

election board officer

A “person appointed to assist in the conduct of an election.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.050.

election board register

The “record of registered voters provided to election boards.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.053.

Election Canvassing Commission

The chief canvassing body in Florida, composed of the Governor, Secretary of State and Director of Elections.

Election Center

A non-profit organization created to “promote, preserve and improve democracy.” Under HAVA, the Election Center has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS.

election closeout record

An electronic record required to be produced when a election is closed out so equipment can be reset for a subsequent election. 2007 VVSG.

election coding

= ELECTION PROGRAMMING.

election commissioner

A county official appointed in large Nebraska counties to supervise elections. Nebraska Stat. §32-207. A local election official in Louisiana. “The clerk of the district court is ex officio parish custodian of voting machines in each parish, except that in any parish having a civil and a criminal district court the clerk of the criminal district court is ex officio parish custodian of voting machines.” La. R.S. §18:1354. Similarly in New York and West Virginia. See also CHIEF DEPUTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER.

election contest emergency

A situation requiring the holding of a REPEAT ELECTION. Iowa Admin. Code §721-21.1(15).

election counter

A feature of a SIGNATURE MODULE that “maintains a running count of each [ELECTION SIGNATURE KEY] generated. 2007 VVSG.

election cycle

1. In general, the “period between the beginning of a general election and the end of the following general election.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-3.1. The “period beginning on the first day persons are eligible to file declarations of candidacy and ending when the canvass is completed.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(23).
2. In an electronic voting machine, the sequence of all modes into which the machines may be placed from initial ballot loading through the opening and closing of polls and post-election testing.

Election Data Exchange

An open XML standard, consistent with IEEE 1622, for communicating election data, developed by Hart InterCivic. It allows specification of a complete ballot and election results. Abbreviated EDX.

Election Data Manager

An ES&S database system, part of the UNITY suite, that stores jurisdictional and election information for ballot setup. Abbreviated EDM.

Election Data Services

(vendor). A Washington DC firm that provides a range of election monitoring and redistricting services. Abbreviated EDS.

election database

“A data file or set of files that contains geographic information about political subdivisions and boundaries; all contests and questions to be included in an election; and the candidates for each contest.” FVSS Appendix.

Election Day

1. The day on which an election is held, whether in November or otherwise.
2. Art. I, Sec. 4 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress authority to prescribe the time and method of choosing members of Congress: “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.” Art. II Sec. 1 provides, in the case of electors for President and Vice-President, “The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.” Congress has exercised its power to determine a uniform date for presidential and Congressional elections: “The Tuesday next after the 1st Monday in November, in every even numbered year, is established as the day for the election, in each of the States and Territories of the United States, of Representatives and Delegates to the Congress commencing on the 3d day of January next thereafter.” 2 U.S.C. §7.

election day registration

The process of registering voters not in advance, but on ELECTION DAY, available in Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

election day officer

An official whose responsibilities begin and end on the day of an election.

election day worker

A POLL WORKER, in the District of Columbia.

election definition

= ELECTION PROGRAMMING.

election district

A geographic area whose voters share a common set of BALLOT STYLES. The “territory within which or for which there is a polling place or room for all voters in the territory to cast their ballots at any election. N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:1-1. A “municipality that is not divided into wards.” Wisc. Stat. §5.02(4)(c). An “administrative division in which voters are entitled to vote in CONTESTS that are specific to that division, such as those for state senators and delegates. ... An election district may overlap multiple PRECINCTS, and a precinct may overlap multiple election districts (see SPLIT PRECINCT).” 2007 VVSG.

election district record

The “electronic records or the print out reflecting said electronic records as designated by the respective county department of elections.” 15 Del. Code §101(23).

Election Division

In Indiana, the principal election supervisory body.

election emergency

Any “occurrence, or threat thereof, whether accidental, natural, or caused by human beings, in war or in peace, that results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property to the extent it will prohibit an election officer's ability to conduct a safe and orderly election.” Fla. Stat. §101.732(3).

election inspector

One of the statutory members of a county election board in North Dakota. N.D.C.C. §16.1-05-01. In other states, INSPECTOR OF LECTION. Likewise in Rhode Island.

election integrity assurance committee

“The state executive committee of any political party authorized to conduct political party primaries shall form an election integrity assurance committee for each congressional district.” In the event of a failure of the proper officials to perform in a timely manner, the committee will be called upon to take “appropriate action to insure that such duties are performed in order to secure the orderly conduct of the primary.” Miss. Code §23-15-271.

election judge

“A presiding election judge and an alternate presiding judge shall be appointed for each election precinct in which an election is held.” Texas Elec. Code §32.001. The presiding judge may appoint ELECTION CLERKS for a single election. In the 2007 VVSG, the election judge id narrowly defined only in terms of a particular role with respect to the voting system: “The election judge has the ability to open the polls, close the polls, and generate reports.”

election jurisdiction

A “municipality, school district, county, or special election district having responsibility for operating electronic voting systems to be used at an election.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.16.

election key closeout record

A feature of a SIGNATURE MODULE that creates and outputs a record when the private key components of an [ELECTION SIGNATURE KEY] is destroyed. 2007 VVSG.

election laws expert

“The Secretary of State shall designate at least one (1) member of his staff to become knowledgeable of the election laws as they pertain to elections in the State of Arkansas for the purpose of answering procedural questions concerning elections and to aid the candidates and their agents in filing for election” Ark. Code §7-1-106.

election management system

1. “A set of processing functions and databases within a Voting System that define, develop and maintain election databases; perform election definition and setup functions; format ballots; count votes; consolidate and report results; and maintain audit trails.” FVSS APPENDIX. Abbreviated EMS. A later definition from the 2007 VVSG is more specific: “TABULATOR used to prepare ballots and programs for use in casting and counting votes and to consolidate, report, and display election results. ... This device receives results data from the VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICES, accumulates the results, and reports the accumulated results. Typically, the election management system will interact with several different classes of voting devices. The EMS receives election results from electronic media devices in one or more of four connections: modem, local bus, direct serial, and/or local area Ethernet.”

2. The “computer programs and databases managed by the Commissioner of Elections and used by the Commissioner of Elections and the departments of elections to maintain voter registration records, to manage absentee voting, maintain election officer information, maintain polling place information, structure elections and for other purposes.” 15 Del. Code §101(24).

election marshal

“The election marshal shall preserve order at the polls and permit no violation of the election laws and for that purpose is vested with powers of a constable from the opening of the polls until the count of the ballots is completed.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-535.

election mode

The status of an electronic voting machine, i.e. whether it is set for pre-election testing, post-election testing, or actual voting in an election. Cf. ELECTION STATE.

election observer

A person “designated by the county political party central committee chair person to observe the counting of ballots and related elections procedures.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-260-020(12).

election officer

Any “officer who has a duty to perform relating to elections under the provisions of any statute, charter, or ordinance.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.055. Any “MODERATOR, DEPUTY MODERATOR, ASSISTANT MODERATOR, TOWN CLERK, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK, CITY CLERK,

DEPUTY CITY CLERK, WARD CLERK, SELECTMAN, SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST, REGISTRAR, DEPUTY REGISTRAR.” N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14.

election official

1. Generally, a person responsible for overseeing part of the election process, from a POLLWORKER to the state’s CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER. “Election official’ means an individual who is charged with any duties relating to the conduct of an election.” Wisc. St. §5.02(4e). Some states define the term with precision, e.g. “officers of elections, judges, voting machine operators, precinct and assistant precinct registrars, and inspectors.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(8). In Arkansas, a “person who is a member of the county board of election commissioners or a person who is a poll worker designated by a county board of election commissioners to be an election clerk, election judge, or election sheriff.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(8). See also VOTING OFFICIAL.
2. In the 2007 VVSG, a “CENTRAL ELECTION OFFICIAL, ELECTION JUDGE, OR POLL WORKER.”

election programming

= BALLOT PROGRAMMING.

election public key certificate

A digital certificate created at the time an ELECTION SIGNATURE KEY is created for each TABULATOR. The certificate is signed with the signing (private) key corresponding to the election signature key. See CRYPTOGRAPHY.

election public key deletion record

An electronic record created when the signing key corresponding to an ELECTION SIGNATURE KEY is destroyed. See CRYPTOGRAPHY.

election qualification code

A “unique code generated for each election and transferred to every IVOTRONIC and PEB to be used for that election.” 2004 Pasco ESP 6. The code is a computer-generated eight digit number that is specific to an election. It’s purpose is to ensure that voting machines receive the correct removable media. Abbreviated EQC. Sometimes QUALIFICATION CODE.

election records

“Election records’ includes but is not limited to accounting forms, certificates of registration, pollbooks, certificates of election, signature cards, all affidavits, absentee voter applications, absentee voter lists and records, absentee voter return envelopes, voted ballots, unused ballots, spoiled ballots, and replacement ballots.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(11).

election register

The list of voters who presented themselves for voting at a polling place.

Election Reporting Manager

An ES&S tabulation and results reporting program that is part of the UNITY suite. Abbreviated ERM.

election results board

A board appointed “to prepare the final unofficial election results report for posting at each precinct and at the computer center.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1774.

election returns

While the term has the informal meaning of the “results of an election,” it is precisely defined in some state statutes, generally encompassing “that which is returned to the county by the local boards of election.” In New Mexico, it is “the certificate of the precinct board showing the total number of votes cast for each candidate, or for or against each proposed constitutional amendment or other question, and may include statements of canvass, signature rosters, poll books, tally books, machine printed returns and, in any canvass of returns for county candidates, the original certificates of registration in the possession of the county clerk, together with the copies of certificates of registration in the office of the county clerk.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-8.

election review

The “process of examining all or a part of a county's election policies and procedures and includes the review of any documentation of those procedures.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-260-020(1).

election setup records

The “electronic records generated by election tabulation software during election setup to define ballots, tabulation instructions, and other functions related to the election.” Col. Code §1-7-510(1).

election sheriff

An officer responsible for maintaining order at the polls. “Each election sheriff shall do the following: (1) Except as provided in subsection (b), attend the polls in the appointed precinct from the opening of the polls to the conclusion of the count. (2) Preserve order at the polls. (3) Enforce the election laws under the direction of the precinct election board. (4) Upon direction from a member of the precinct election board, request assistance from a law enforcement officer ... if a violation of law within the polls, or within fifty (50) feet of the polls, has occurred or appears imminent. Ind. Code §3-6-6-35.

election signature key

A PUBLIC KEY, unique to each TABULATOR and each election, used to protect electronic records from alteration. Abbreviated ESK. See CRYPTOGRAPHY.

election signature key use counter

A feature of a SIGNATURE MODULE that maintains count of the number of times an ELECTION SIGNATURE KEY is generated. 2007 VVSG.

election state

With respect to the Sequoia Advantage system, a process step within an ELECTION MODE.

election supervisor

The chief election official in a Georgia county having an appointed election board. An assistant to DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS in Alaska. Alaska Stat. §15.10.110.

election supplies

Such “blank books, blank forms, pamphlets and things other than ballots and equipment as may be necessary to enable the provisions of [the election law] to be carried out properly.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:9-1.

Election Systems and Software

(vendor) A subsidiary of the McCarthy Group that provides voting equipment and election services. It was founded originally as American Information Systems (AIS) in 1979, then merged with Business Records Corporation (BRC) in 1980 and changed its name to Election Systems and Software in 1981. Abbreviated ES&S.

election translator

A person, usually a Native American, who performs language translation services at a New Mexico polling place.

election verification

“Confirmation that all recorded votes were counted correctly.” See, generally, VERIFICATION.” 2007 VVSG.

election year

The “calendar year within which a particular election is held.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(15).

electioneering

Any “activity which is intended to influence voting at an election.” Wisc. Stat. §12.03(4). In is generally a CRIME to attempt to influence voters within a certain distance from a POLLING PLACE. “Electioneering too close to a polling place on election day consists of any form of campaigning, including the display of campaign signs or distribution of campaign literature, the soliciting of signatures to any petition or the canvassing or polling of voters, except exit polling by news media, within one hundred (100) yards of the building in which the polling place is located.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-113.

elective office

Nebraska has a rather comprehensive definition: “any office which has candidates nominated or elected at the time of a statewide primary election, any office which has candidates nominated at the time of a statewide primary election and elected at the time of a statewide general election, any office which has candidates elected at the time of a statewide general election, any office which has candidates nominated or elected at a city or village election, and any office created by an act of the Legislature which has candidates elected at an election.” Nebraska Stat. §32-109.

elector

1. = VOTER.
2. A person entitled to cast a vote for President in the ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

electoral board

The “board or other authority empowered to hold a general or special election.” S.C. Code §7-1-20(5). A “board appointed ... to administer elections for a county or city.” Va. Code §24.2-101.

electoral division

“An area set off for election purposes. It may include the entire State.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(16).

electorate

“All the voters eligible to vote in an election in the state or a political subdivision.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-20.

electrical fast transient burst

A test for susceptibility of an ELECTRONIC DEVICE to power surges resulting from switching loads in other circuits. It consists of a “burst of repetitive fast transients with a waveform of 5/50 ns, each burst lasting 15 ms, from a 2 kV source.” 2007 VVSG.

electrically erasable programmable read-only memory

Abbreviated EEPROM.

electromagnetic compatibility

The ability of an ELECTRONIC DEVICE to work properly when connected to other devices in a given electromagnetic environment without adversely affecting or being affected by them. 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated EMC.

electronic ballot

“A ballot which utilizes electronic media or computerized systems for presenting the names of the offices and candidates and statements of questions to be voted on and for recording votes.” Ala. Code §17-24-2(6).

electronic ballot display

A “graphic representation of a ballot on a computer monitor or screen on which a voter may make vote choices for candidates and questions for the purpose of marking a nonelectronic ballot or securely transmitting an electronic ballot to automatic tabulating equipment in the polling place.” Minn. Stat. §206.56(7a).

electronic ballot marker

“[E]quipment that is part of an electronic voting system that uses an ELECTRONIC BALLOT DISPLAY or AUDIO BALLOT READER to: (1) mark a nonelectronic ballot with votes selected by a voter; or (2) securely transmit a ballot electronically to automatic tabulating equipment in the polling place.” Minn. Stat. §206.56(7b). Cf. MANUAL MARKING DEVICE.

electronic ballot printer

1. A device that prints voted ballots for tabulation on a different device. Abbreviated EBP.
2. An “EBM that prints an entire ballot, including BALLOT STYLE-DEPENDENT dependent content.” 2007 VVSG.

electronic cast vote record

See CAST VOTE RECORD. Abbreviated ECVR.

electronic device

A “voting device that uses electricity.” 2007 VVSG. This definition is too general in that it would include an electrically operated level machine, which contains no electronics.

electronic pollbook

A device or hardware/software combination which takes the place of a paper POLLBOOK, maintaining records of registered voters and sometimes used to prepare electronic credentials

such as tokens or VOTER ACCESS CARDS to activate a voting machine with the BALLOT STYLE appropriate for a particular voter.

electronic recount

A “RECOUNT of electronic voting system ballots on automatic tabulating equipment.” Texas Elec. Code §214.041.

electronic signature

An “electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with a contract or other record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.” 15 U.S.C. §7006(5). Cf. DIGITAL SIGNATURE.

electronic storage format

A “computer disk or other information storage and retrieval medium approved by the [Maryland] State Board.” Md. Election Code Ann. §1-101(x).

electronic system ballot

A “ballot designed for use with an electronic voting system.” Texas Elec. Code §121.003(9).

electronic transmission

The use of “hardware and software components to send data over distances both within and external to the polling place and to receive an accurate copy of the transmission.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-22.1(52). “A vote total that is transmitted electronically is not considered an official return.” 21-A Me. Rev. Stat. §809-A(2).

electronic vote capture system

An electronic system that both accepts choices from a voter and tabulates them, including both DRE machines and ACCESSIBLE BALLOT PRINTERS. Abbreviated EVCS.

electronic vote counting system

“A system in which votes are recorded on an electronic ballot or on a paper ballot or on a ballot card by means of marking or by means of punching, and such votes are subsequently counted and tabulated by automatic tabulating equipment at one or more counting location.” Ala. Code §17-24-2(1).

electronic vote tabulating device

A “device used to electronically scan a marked paper ballot for the purposes of tabulation;” Ark. Code §7-1-101(9).

electronic vote tabulating (EVT) marksense voting system

A “voting system which records and counts votes and produces a tabulation of the vote count using one ballot card imprinted on either or both faces with text and voting response locations. The marksense or optical scan vote tabulating voting system records votes by means of marks made in the voting response locations.” N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.12.7(M).

electronic vote tabulation

The counting of votes by electronic means. Abbreviated EVT.

electronic voter interface

A “component of an electronic VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE that communicates ballot information to the voter and accepts input from the voter.” 2007 VVSG. A “subsystem within a DRE voting

system which communicates ballot information to a voter in Video, Audio, or Braille form and which allows the voter to select candidates and issues by means of vocalization or physical actions.” Fla. VSS Appendix.

electronic voting

A means of voting in which one or more steps of the capture or tabulation process are performed by electronic equipment. Abbreviated E-VOTING.

electronic voting committee

A five-member committee that oversees electronic voting in Alabama, consisting of a representative appointed by the Secretary of State, a representative appointed by the Attorney General and one judge of probate appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, one member from the House of Representatives and one member from the Senate, to be appointed by the presiding officer of each house. The JUDGE OF PROBATE acts as chairman. Ala. Code §17-24-4.

electronic voting machine

A “voting machine that displays a full-face ballot, whereby votes are cast by pushing a vote indicator button on the face of the machine or a voting machine that displays a paging ballot, whereby votes are cast by selecting a vote indicator by touching the screen or using available tools on the voting system.” La. R.S. §18:1351(12)(b).

electronic voting system

A “voting system in which each part of the process is done electronically.” Nebraska Stat. §32-110.01. “‘Electronic voting system’ means a system, or the combination of electronic voting systems and devices authorized under this chapter, that may employ a marking device in conjunction with ballots or the use of a touchscreen or other data entry device and automatic tabulating equipment for the recording, tabulating, and counting of votes in an election.” N.D.C.C. §16-1-06-12(5).

electronic voting system device

“‘Electronic voting system device’ means a single unit of an electronic voting system.” N.D.C.C. §16-1-06-12(6).

electronically-assisted ballot marker

A machine that aids a disabled voter in marking a DOCUMENT BALLOT. A “VEDB that produces an executed, human-readable paper ballot as a result, and that does not make any other lasting record of the voter's votes. ... One kind of EBM presents CONTEST CHOICES to the voter on an electronic monitor; after the voter finishes the ballot, the voter's choices are printed on a paper ballot that is the only record of the voter's choices. However, vote-by-telephone systems that are in use at the time of this writing are also EBMS. The voter uses an audio interface (remotely) and a paper ballot is produced (centrally). An EBM may mark ballot positions on a preprinted ballot or it may print an entire ballot (the latter kind are called EBPs); however, in any event, the ballot produced is assumed to be human readable and comparable to an MMPB.” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated EBM. Also ACCESSIBLE BALLOT PRINTER.

electronically generated ballot

Any “BALLOT other than a paper ballot that is physically marked by the voter using a writing instrument or a mechanical device.” Alaska Stat. §15.60.010(6).

eligible elector

= QUALIFIED VOTER. A “person who possesses all of the qualifications necessary to entitle the person to be registered to vote, whether or not the person is in fact so registered.” Iowa Code §39.3(6)

eligible voter

= LEGAL VOTER.

ELVIS

The centralized voter registration system of Kansas. An acronym for “Election Voter Information System.

EMC

= ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY.

emergency

A situation requiring postponement of ordinary election activities. “The governor may, upon issuance of an executive order declaring a state of emergency or impending emergency, suspend or delay any qualifying of candidates, absentee voting in person, or elections. The governor shall take such action only upon the certification of the secretary of state that a state of emergency exists.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:401.1(B). The states do not have the power to delay elections for FEDERAL OFFICES. “If an emergency occurs that will adversely affect the conduct of an election at which candidates for federal office will appear on the ballot, the election shall not be postponed or delayed.” Iowa Admin. Code 721-21.1(12). See also ELECTION EMERGENCY.

emergency ballot

A BALLOT to be used in the event of voting machine failure. “If for any cause a voting machine fails to operate, the district board shall use the supply of emergency ballots that are on hand at the opening of the polls.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:53B-3.

emergency registration application

In Colorado, an application for voter registration received after the registration books have been closed for a particular election. Colo. Rev. Stat. §1-2-217.5.

emergency voting system change

A “modification to correct a vital, but defective, part of a program or the program's executable image, as used in the voting system. The modification must correct a defect that would prevent an election from being conducted in an efficient and orderly manner, including programming a voting system, performing canvassing, or obtaining final election reports.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-21.5.

emission limit

An upper bound on the power than an ELECTRONIC DEVICE is permitted to radiate, to avoid interference with nearby devices. 2007 VVSG.

EMPB

= EBM-MARKED PAPER BALLOT.

EMPB-capable optical scanner

An “OPTICAL SCANNER used to count EMPBs.” 2007 VVSG.

EMS

= ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

enclosure port

A PORT through which electromagnetic radiation and disturbance may pass. 2007 VVSG.

encoder

A device used by a POLL WORKER to activate a VOTER ACCESS CARD with information concerning the appropriate ballot style to be presented to the voter.

encouraged

In the 2007 VVSG, “is encouraged” indicates “an optional recommended action.” See also SHOULD. Cf. MAY.

encryption

The “process of obscuring information by changing plain text into ciphertext for the purpose of security or privacy. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. See also ASYMMETRIC ENCRYPTION, SYMMETRIC ENCRYPTION.

Encryption File System

A feature of the Windows operating system that allows files to be stored in encrypted form for security purposes. Abbreviated EFS.

end card

A “data processing card which instructs the computer that all ballots of a precinct have been counted.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(15).

end-to-end

1. With reference to security, “supporting both VOTER VERIFICATION and ELECTION VERIFICATION.” 2007 VVSG.
2. Referring to the “entire elections process, from election definition through the reporting of final results.” 2007 VVSG.

end-to-end accessibility

The ability of a voting system to provide ACCESSIBILITY for all aspects of a VOTING SESSION. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

endorsed candidate

1. A candidate having an ENDORSEMENT, i.e. one who has been nominated by a political party.
2. A candidate having more than one ENDORSEMENT, i.e. a candidate who is CROSS-ENDORSED, which requires special programming to avoid the possibility of a voter casting more than one vote for the candidate.

endorsement

1. The nomination of a candidate by a political party. “Approval by a political party (e.g., as the candidate that the party elects to field in a particular contest and/or as the candidate that should receive straight party votes). A CONTEST CHOICE may be endorsed by more than one party.” 2007 VVSG. See also CROSS-ENDORSEMENT.

2. The required facsimile of the signature of the secretary of state on a ballot in New Hampshire. N.H. Rev. Stat. §656:17.

EQC

= ELECTION QUALIFICATION CODE.

error correcting code

A “coding system that allows data being read or transmitted to be checked for errors and, when detected, corrects those errors.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

error notification

The capability to alert a voter that a DOCUMENT BALLOT has been improperly voted (e.g. contains an OVERVOTE), before she leaves the polling place. This is done by inserting the ballot into a counting machine and returning it to the voter if it contains an error.

error rate

The “ratio of the number of errors that occur to the volume of data processed. ... The specific error rate used in the BENCHMARK for voting system accuracy is REPORT TOTAL ERROR RATE.” 2007 VVSG. HAVA requires that a voting system used in an election for Federal office have an error rate that “shall comply with the error rate standards established under section 3.2.1 of the voting system standards issued by the FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION” in effect on the date of enactment of HAVA, that is, 1 in 500,000. See BALLOT POSITION ERROR RATE, BIT ERROR RATE, MISFEED RATE, REPORT TOTAL ERROR RATE.

ES&S

= ELECTION SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE.

escrow

The act of placing a copy of a vendor’s voting system source code in the hands of an independent agent, who is obligated to release the source code to a jurisdiction upon the occurrence of stated events, such as an allegation of tampering. The need for escrow is premised on the claim by the vendors that voting system source code contains trade secrets, which should not have to be exposed to jurisdictions in the normal course. However, there is no guarantee that any code deposited into escrow actually conforms to the compiled code installed in voting machines, and the protection afforded by escrow is illusory. Nevertheless, many states rely on code escrows for election integrity: “The process by which a third party having no direct or indirect financial interest with a vendor holds, for safekeeping, the source code, including all changes or modifications and new or amended versions. A financial interest would exist if the third party, for instance, included a vendor's stocks in its portfolio.” Cal. Regs. §20623. Similarly in New York. N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §7-208.

“Ballot tally software program source code(s) (or hereinafter: `source code') shall be placed in escrow in order to:

- (a) Protect and enhance the integrity of elections by ensuring that ballot tally software programs used in California elections have not been tampered with or otherwise altered and that elections continue to accurately reflect the will of the voters as expressed by their votes on computer-read ballots;
- (b) Create a record of all versions, including changes or modifications of the source code materials placed in escrow;

(c) Create a record of all applications for access to the source code materials placed in escrow
(d) Unless otherwise superseded by a contract between a vendor and an election jurisdiction, preserve the necessary source code information to permit the election jurisdiction to continue the use and maintenance of the source code in the event the vendor is unable, or otherwise fails, to provide maintenance.” Cal. Regs. §20611. See also Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-040(5).

escrow ballot

A form of PROVISIONAL BALLOT in Massachusetts that is not counted unless an election is contested.

escrow company

Any “business certified by the Secretary of State to store source code.” Cal. Regs. §20625.

escrow facility

The “physical location in which the source code may be stored. No election jurisdiction may act as an escrow facility to store its own source code.” Cal. Regs. §20624.

escrow repository

A REPOSITORY which holds software it receives until formal requests for the software are received and approved.” 2007 VVSG.

ESK

= ELECTION SIGNATURE KEY.

eSlate

A DRE product of Hart Intercivic.

eSlate cryptographic module

A physical USB device containing a cryptographic key used in the Hart InterCivic eSlate system for controlling access to administrative functions. Abbreviated ECM.

established political party

A “political party which, at either of the last two general elections, polled for its candidate for any statewide office, more than two percent of the entire vote cast for the office.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.013(10).

established village

An “unincorporated community that is in (1) the unorganized borough and that has 25 or more permanent residents; or (2) an organized borough, has 25 or more permanent residents, and (A) is on a road system and is located more than 50 miles outside the boundary limits of a unified municipality, or (B) is not on a road system and is located more than 15 miles outside the boundary limits of a unified municipality.” Alaska Stat. §15.07.060(h).

EVCS

= ELECTRONIC VOTE CAPTURE SYSTEM.

EVT

= ELECTRONIC VOTE TABULATION.

examiner

A person having authority to conduct a voting system examination for CERTIFICATION purposes. See, e.g., Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1701(g).

excess ballot

A BALLOT cast in excess of the number of voters who appeared at the polls. The states differ on what do to when it is determined that excess ballots have been cast. Unfortunately, it is not feasible to determine which ballots are the ones in excess. The most common resolution is to replace all ballots in the ballot box and draw out and destroy or sequester that number of ballots equal to the excess. S.D. Rules §5:02:16:09.

exhausted ballot

With respect to INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, “a ballot on which all available choices have been used; for example, all choices made on the ballot have become votes for the various candidates so indicated or contain choices for eliminated candidates or both and no other choices remain.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.53.030(4). Cf. CONTINUING BALLOT.

expanded receiving board

“A STANDARD RECEIVING BOARD ... and one additional team of poll clerks.” W. Va. Code §3-1-29(a)(2).

expedited recount

A rapid statutory RECOUNT procedure available in offices in which a majority vote is required to win and votes were cast for more than two candidates. Texas Elec. Code §212.081. Sometimes the term is used informally, particular in legal pleadings, to request faster processing than is required by statute.

experimental use

Use of a VOTING SYSTEM that has not yet been CERTIFIED. “With the approval of the State Board, the governing body of any county, city, or town may provide for the experimental use at an election in one or more election districts or precincts of a voting or counting system which it might legally adopt without a formal adoption thereof, and its use at such election shall be valid for all purposes.” Va. Code §24.2-630.

exposure of count

The process of revealing vote totals to the public at the close of voting at a POLLING LOCATION. Ark. Code §7-5-527.

extensible markup language

A markup language in which semantic content is conveyed by surrounding text with named tags in pointed brackets, as in <entry>Here is some text</entry>. It is referred to as “extensible” since the set of defined tags can be augmented at will, unlike in such other markup languages as HTML. Abbreviated XML. XML is extremely useful for data sharing since the definitions of the tags can be exported along with the data and XML-encoded documents can easily be parsed and transformed into other encodings. It is used in some voting systems to express ballot definitions and tabulation reports.

extension

An additional function, feature, and/or capability included in a voting system but not defined in the VVSG. 2007 VVSG.

exterior circulation route

“That part of a CIRCULATION ROUTE from the street or parking area to the point of entry to the polling place building.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.103(1)(e).

extraneous mark

(opscan) A MARK, including a perforation, smudge or fold, that lies outside of a VOTING TARGET hence is not to be counted as a vote. 2007 VVSG.

extremely inclement weather

One of a class of emergency situations that may result in the postponement of an election. A “natural occurrence, such as a rainstorm, windstorm, ice storm, blizzard, tornado or other weather conditions, which makes travel extremely dangerous or which threatens the public peace, health and safety of the people or which damages and destroys public and private property.” Iowa Admin. Code 721-21.1(1). See also NATURAL DISASTER, OTHER DISASTER.

fail-safe voting

A method under the NVRA “by which a registered voter who has changed his address within the same jurisdiction may vote at any polling place within that jurisdiction, even if his name is not on the roster of registered voters at that polling place.” N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.3.7(B). A limited form of provisional voting. Similarly, Ark. Code §7-1-101(10).

failsafe ballot

A ballot for use in FAIL-SAFE VOTING. “There must be provided for each voting place a number of failsafe ballots, or ballots containing only the races for federal, statewide, countywide, and municipalwide offices, not to exceed five percent of the registered qualified voters at the voting place.” S. C. Code §7-13-430(C). A failsafe ballot is a limited form of PROVISIONAL BALLOT. If the voter’s name is not on the registration list for a reason other than his having moved, he is not eligible for a failsafe ballot.

failure

An “event that results in (a) loss of one or more functions, (b) degradation of performance such that the device is unable to perform its intended function for longer than 10 seconds, (c) automatic reset, restart or reboot of the voting device, operating system or application software, (d) a requirement for an unanticipated intervention by a person in the role of POLL WORKER or technician before the test can continue, or (e) error messages and/or AUDIT LOG entries indicating that a failure has occurred. ... In plain language, failures are equipment breakdowns, including software crashes, such that continued use without service or replacement is worrisome to impossible. Normal, routine occurrences like running out of paper are not considered failures.” 2007 VVSG.

failure rate

The “ratio of the number of FAILURES that occur to the volume of data processed. ... Failures may be divided, for example, into user-serviceable and non-user-serviceable categories, and the measure of volume varies by device class.” 2007 VVSG. Cf. ERROR RATE, MEAN TIME BETWEEN FAILURES.

fairness

A “method by which a registered voter who has changed his address within the same jurisdiction may vote at any polling place within that jurisdiction, even if his name is not on the roster of registered voters at that polling place.” N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.3.7(B).

false information in registering and voting

A crime defined in HAVA. “Any individual who knowingly commits fraud or knowingly makes a false statement with respect to the naturalization, citizenry, or alien registry of such individual in violation of section 1015 of title 18, United States Code, shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, in accordance with such section.” 42 U.S.C. § 15544(b).

“Any person who knowingly provides false information in order to vote or register to vote ... shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.” Ala. Code §17-23-12.

false negative mark

“A MARK on a ballot that meets the legal definition of an ACCEPTABLE MARK but that is, on some occasion, not detected by a vote tabulating machine as a vote. False negative marks may be MARGINAL MARKS or RELIABLY IGNORED MARKS.” Jones.

false positive mark

“A MARK on a ballot that does not meet the legal definition of an ACCEPTABLE MARK but that is, on some occasion, detected by a vote tabulating machine as a vote. False positive marks may be MARGINAL MARKS or RELIABLY DETECTABLE MARKS.” Jones.

false swearing

“False swearing consists of taking an oath required by the Election Code with the knowledge that the thing or matter sworn to is not true and correct.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-108.

false voting

False voting consists of: (i) Voting, or offering to vote, with the knowledge of not being a qualified elector entitled to vote at the election; (ii) Voting, or offering to vote, in the name of another person or under a false name; (iii) Knowingly voting, or offering to vote, in a precinct other than that in which qualified to vote; (iv) Voting, or offering to vote, more than once in an election.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-106. Also ILLEGAL VOTING.

falsifying election documents

The crime of falsifying election documents “consists of performing any of the following acts with the intent to deceive or mislead an elector or an election official:(i) Printing, distributing or displaying false instructions for voting or for the conduct of an election;(ii) Printing, distributing or displaying any official ballot, sample ballot, facsimile diagram, ballot label or pretended ballot which includes the name of a person not entitled by law to be on the ballot, or omits the name of a person entitled by law to be on the ballot, or otherwise contains false information or headings; (iii) Defacing, altering, forging, making false entries in or changing in any way a petition, certificate of nomination, registration record or election return required by law; (iv) Preparing or submitting a false certificate of nomination, registration record or election return.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-107.

fault

A “flaw in design or implementation that may result in the qualities or behavior of the voting system deviating from the qualities or behavior that are specified in the VVSG and/or in manufacturer-provided documentation. 2007 VVSG.

fax ballot

An “ABSENTEE BALLOT processed by facsimile transmission.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-53-1. Faxed ballots are permitted in several states, including Alaska.

FCA

= FUNCTIONAL CONFIGURATION AUDIT.

FEC

= FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

FEC Standards

Voluntary voting system performance and testing standards developed by the FEC. Now known as the FEDERAL VOTING SYSTEM STANDARDS.

Federal ballot

A ballot restricted to Federal offices provided to an OVERSEAS VOTER. Texas Elec. Code. §114.001.

Federal election

Unfortunately, this term does not always mean an election for FEDERAL OFFICE. “[A]n election held to: (A) Nominate a political party’s candidate for congress or its candidates for elector for president and vice president; (B) Determine the presidential preference of a political party’s members; or (C) Choose a member of congress or electors for president and vice president.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(9). A “general or primary election in which an elector may vote for individuals for the office of president of the United States or for the United States congress.” Mont. Code Ann. §13-1-101(12). HAVA uses the term “Federal election” nine times (other than in the proper name “Federal Election Commission”) and “election for Federal office” 16 times. Neither term is defined in the statute, nor do they mean the same thing.

Federal Election Commission

A body primarily concerned with oversight of campaign financing that promulgated sets of voluntary voting system standards in 1990 and 2002 known as the FEC STANDARDS which have now been supplanted by the VOLUNTARY VOTING SYSTEM GUIDELINES. Abbreviated FEC.

Federal Information Processing Standards

“Standards for federal computer systems developed by NIST. These standards are developed when there are no existing industry standards to address federal requirements for system interoperability, portability of data and software, and computer security.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. Abbreviated FIPS.

Federal office

A term that used, but nowhere defined, in HAVA, whose requirements pertain only to voting for such offices. When Governor Foster of Louisiana requested clarification of the term from the Justice Department, he received a letter dated May 22, 2003 from Lori Day Sharp, Advisor to

the Attorney General, stating that “Section 3 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, 42 U.S.C. §§1973gg-1(1)&(2) ("NRVA"), defines "election" and "federal office" as those terms appear in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. §431(1) & (3)). Other definitions or descriptions of the scope of elections for federal office appear in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-1(a)(1) & §1973ff-6(3); the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984, 42 U.S.C. §1973ee-6(3); and the Civil Rights Act of 1960, 42 U.S.C. §1974.” “The term "Federal office" means the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.” 2 U.S.C. §431(3).” Cf. FEDERAL BALLOT, FEDERAL ELECTION.

Federal Postcard Absentee Ballot Application

The “official post card form, containing both an absentee voter registration application and an absentee ballot application, for use by the States as required by 42 U.S.C. §1973ff.

Federal Postcard Application

= FEDERAL POSTCARD ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

A program, operated by the Department of Defense, to provide assistance to UOCAVA voters. Under HAVA, the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program is a member of the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated FVAP.

Federal Voting System Standards

Abbreviated FVSS.

Federal write-in absentee ballot

The ABSENTEE BALLOT provided for in UOCAVA for voters who do not receive state ABSENTEE BALLOTS. 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-2(a). Abbreviated FWAB.

feed jam

(optical scan) An error condition in which the mechanism that feeds BALLOTS into the scanner jams.

feminine

See MASCULINE.

field examiner

“The Secretary of State may appoint a field examiner who shall instruct and assist municipal election officials ...” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-608.

field race

A RACE in which more than one candidate is to be elected. Also MULTI-SEAT CONTEST, VOTE-FOR-MANY.

filing officer

An “officer authorized by law to receive designations and declarations of candidacy, certificates and acceptances of nomination or any other nomination papers.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.057.

final canvass

The “canvass from which the official result of an election is determined.” Texas Elec. Code §1.005(5).

final processing

With respect to ABSENTEE BALLOTS, the “reading of ballots by an electronic vote tallying system, but does not include tabulation.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-225(2). Cf. INITIAL PROCESSING.

find

To “determine and deliver a FINDING.” 2007 VVSG.

finding

The “result of a formal evaluation by a test lab or accredited expert; verdict.” 2007 VVSG.

finisher

A “Secretary of State certified vendor which processes sheets or unfinished ballot cards to make ballot cards to be used in California elections.” Cal. Regs. §20205

FIPS

= FEDERAL INFORMATION PROCESSING STANDARDS.

firmware

“Computer programs (software) stored in read-only memory (ROM) devices embedded in the system and not capable of being altered during system operation.” FVSS Appendix. It occupies a middle position between hardware and software, firmware being more difficult to change than software, but easier to change than hardware.

first assistant secretary of state

In Louisiana, the first assistant secretary may perform all of the electoral functions of the SECRETARY OF STATE. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:421.

first primary

An initial PRIMARY ELECTION. In case a state requires the winner to achieve a majority a SECOND PRIMARY may need to be held as a RUNOFF ELECTION. “In each year in which a general election is held, a first primary election for nomination of candidates of political parties shall be held on the Tuesday 9 weeks prior to the general election. Each candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast in each contest in the first primary election shall be declared nominated for such office. A second primary election shall be held ... in every contest in which a candidate does not receive a majority.” Fla. Stat. §100.061.

first recount

A RECOUNT in which “all ballots that were originally counted by the optical scan equipment are to be counted again by the optical scan equipment producing another MACHINE COUNT.” 8 N.C. Admin. Code §09.0107(a). Cf. INITIAL BALLOTING.

first-time voter

A REGISTERED VOTER who has not previously voted in a federal election in a particular state.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(11). Such a voter may be required to produce more identification than a voter who has voted before.

flash memory

A non-volatile electronic memory device that retains data even when its electrical power is removed.

fled voter

= FLEEING VOTER, although “fled” is more appropriate since the voter’s status of fleeing is usually not realized by poll workers until she has fled.

fleeing voter

A voter who departs the voting booth prior to registering her vote and cannot be recalled, possibly leaving the voting machine in a state such that the fleeing voter’s partial choices are visible to the next voter. The voting system must provide the capability to spoil the fleeing voter’s choices, since they do not clearly represent an intent to cast a vote. W. Va. Code §3-4A-9(13)(I). The residue of a fleeing voter is an ABANDONED BALLOT. Also FLED VOTER.

flush header

(opscan) A sheet of optical scan paper that is scanned to indicate that the results of a particular precinct should be deleted or “flushed,” generally because of a counting error.

format

A “term used to distinguish the pattern of prescoring of unfinished ballot cards or ballot cards (e.g. 312-, 228-, 52-Hole).” Cal. Regs. §20206

free-for-all

A method of counting WRITE-INS, in which a vote is tabulated whether or not the name written is also listed on the ballot.

FPCA

= FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION.

full-face ballot

Cf. MULTI-FACED BALLOT, PAGING BALLOT MACHINE.

full recount

A “RECOUNT of all the precincts in which votes were cast for the nomination or office for which a candidate received a vote or on any measure that appeared on the ballot.” O.R.S. §258.006(6).

functional configuration audit

An exhaustive verification of every system function and combination of functions cited in the vendors' documentation. The audit verifies the accuracy and completeness of the system's Voter Manual, Operations Procedures, Maintenance Procedures, and Diagnostic Testing Procedures. 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. Abbreviated FCA.

functional test

“Functional testing is performed to confirm the functional capabilities of a voting system. ... Functional tests cover the full range of system operations. They include tests of fully integrated system components, internal and external system interfaces, usability and accessibility, and security. During this process, election management functions, ballot-counting logic, and

system capacity are exercised.” 2007 VVSG. An “empirical test performed to verify or validate the accomplishment of a function or a series of functions.” Cal. Proc. §1827.

fundamental representation

“For voting systems that create more than one representation of the voter’s ballot (such as one electronic and one on paper), the fundamental representation is the representation that is used for the initial vote tabulation.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

FVAP

= FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

FVSS

= FEDERAL VOTING SYSTEM STANDARDS.

FWAB

= FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT.

general city election

A GENERAL ELECTION for city offices. Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.059. Cf. GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

general custodian

A statutory position in Texas whose occupant has charge of election records for a political subdivision. Texas Elec. Code §66.001.

general election

1. “‘General election’ means an election required to be held on a fixed date recurring at regular intervals.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.073. Usually, the annual November election, as opposed to a PRIMARY or SPECIAL ELECTION. The “biennial election for national or state officers, members of Congress and of the general assembly, county and township officers, and for the choice of other officers or the decision of questions as provided by law.” Iowa Code §39.3(7). An “election in which voters, regardless of party affiliation, are permitted to select candidates to fill public office and vote on ballot issues.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

2. In Guam, “an election held throughout the Territory.” 3 Guam Code Ann. §1107.

general municipal election

An election “held pursuant to the provisions of a special charter of an incorporated city.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.059. Cf. GENERAL CITY ELECTION.

general or special election

The “regular biennial or annual elections for election of United States, state, district, county, township, and municipal officials and the special elections to fill vacancies therein and special elections to approve any measure.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(12).

general primary election

Seemingly a contradiction in terms, this is either of:

1. A PRIMARY ELECTION. Texas Code §41.007.

2. A RUNOFF ELECTION following a PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY. Ark. Code §7-7-203(a).

General Registrar

In Virginia, a municipal official charged with conducting elections. Va. Code §24.2-114.

general support system

An “interconnected set of information resources under the same direct management control which shares common functionality. A system normally includes hardware, software, information, data, applications, communications, and people.” OMB Circular No. A-130, “Security of Federal Automated Information Resources.” Abbreviated GSS.

general village election

The “annual or biennial election for village officers.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §15-102(1).

General Services Administration

The U.S. agency charged with making payments to states under HAVA. Abbreviated GSA. See ADMINISTRATOR.

glass box testing

= WHITE BOX TESTING. Testing based on the assumption that the structure of the system under test is completely known.

glue code

A form of middleware used to integrate disparate components of a system, as with wrappers or other means of encapsulation. 2007 VVSG.

GO/NO GO gauge

(opscan) A gauge used to determine whether an optical scan ballot is of sufficiently constant width to be used.

grain

(opscan) The direction in which the fibers of optical scan ballot are oriented, which is the direction most resistant to change in shape when exposed to tension or moisture.

gripper edge

(opscan) The leading edge of an optical scan ballot that is “grabbed” by a printing press during printing.

GSA

= GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GSS

= GENERAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

guard rail

A barrier to keep members of the public away from voters who are in the act of voting. “The polls shall be provided with a guard rail, so that no one except as herein authorized shall approach nearer than five feet to the booths in which the voters are preparing their ballots.” S.C. §Code 7-13-130.

guidelines

The VOLUNTARY VOTING SYSTEM GUIDELINES.

hand count board

A board appointed “to tally those ballots designated by electors to be counted without the use of any machine or device.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1765(3).

hand-counted ballot

A “ballot designated to be counted by hand in precincts where precinct tabulators are not available.” Alaska Stat. 15-060.010(10).

hand-eye recount

A fully MANUAL RECOUNT in which the ballots are manipulated by hand and read by eyeball., without the use of any automated equipment. 8 N.C. Admin Code §09.0109.

handicapped

“[H]aving a temporary or permanent physical disability.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ee-6(4). “Those with impaired vision, impaired hearing, or impaired mobility, including wheelchair users and those who are ambulatory but who are nevertheless impaired by age, disability or disease.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.103(1)(f). The preferred term is DISABLED. See also ACCESSIBLE.

hanging chad

(obs.) A CHAD that is connected to a card by one or two corners.

Hardware Programming Manager

(ES&S) A component of the ES&S Unity suite that places data on removable media for use in voting and tabulating machines. Abbreviated HPM.

hardwired logic

“Logic implemented through the design of an integrated circuit; the programming of a Programmable Logic Device (PLD), Field-Programmable Gate Array (FPGA), Peripheral Interface Controller (PIC), or similar; the integration of smaller hardware components; or mechanical design (e.g., as in lever machines).” 2007 VVSG.

Hare system

A voting method in which voters rank the candidates in order of preference. In the first round, only first choices are counted. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes is eliminated and voting proceeds to the next round. The second choices on those ballots are tallied and those votes are redistributed to each of the remaining candidates accordingly. The process continues until one candidate finally receives a majority of the votes cast and is declared the winner. See INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING.

Hart Intercivic, Inc.

(vendor) A privately held U.S. corporation headquartered in Austin, Texas that has been providing election equipment and services since 1912.

hash function

A “function that maps a bit string of arbitrary length to a fixed length bit string. Approved hash functions satisfy the following properties: 1. (One-way) It is computationally infeasible to find any input that maps to any pre-specified output, and 2. (Collision resistant) It is computationally infeasible to find any two distinct inputs that map to the same output.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. Hash functions are used to verify the integrity of messages or data.

HAVA

= HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002. See also STATE PLAN, TITLE I FUNDS, TITLE II FUNDS.

head moderator

The registrar of voters “shall designate one of the MODERATORS so appointed or any other elector of such town to be the head moderator for the purpose of declaring the results of elections in the whole municipality.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-169.

header card

A “card or ballot which is coded to indicate to a central counter the precinct identity of the marksense ballots that follow immediately.” Ala. Admin. Code §307-X-1-.01(7).

header code bar

(ES&S opscan) A set of marks on an optical scan ballot to identify a particular BALLOT STYLE.

header sheet

A “data processing document which is coded to indicate to the computer the precinct identity of the ballots that will follow immediately and may indicate to the computer how such ballots are to be tabulated.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24B-2.

Help America Vote Act of 2002

A federal statute, Public Law 107-252, now codified at 42 U.S.C. §15301ff, passed in the wake of the Florida voting disaster of 2000, that establishes the ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION, provides for federal funds for jurisdictions to upgrade their voting systems, sets up a scheme for testing voting systems and imposes new standards on voting systems used in election for FEDERAL OFFICES. Abbreviated HAVA.

Help America Vote Foundation

A federally chartered nonprofit charitable corporation established under HAVA, at 42 U.S.C. §15526, to, among other objectives, to “mobilize secondary school students (including students educated in the home) in the United States to participate in the election process in a nonpartisan manner as poll workers.”

hesitation mark

A “a small mark made by resting a pen or pencil on the ballot.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-26.1(49). Similarly, 2007 VVSG. Hesitation marks may be difficult to distinguish from votes, particularly if made with a felt-tip pen, which causes marks to spread the longer the pen is held to the BALLOT.

hickey

A printing imperfection resulting from dirt on the press or foreign matter in the paper.

high-speed central count marksense ballot tabulator

A “self-contained optical scan ballot tabulator, that uses an automatic ballot feeder to process ballots placed in the tabulator in any orientation. Ballots are processed at high-speed and the tabulator has a built in sorting system to divert processed ballots into appropriate bins.” N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.12.7(N).

homeless individual

Any “person who has a nontraditional residence, including but not limited to, a shelter, day shelter, park bench, street corner, or space under a bridge.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/1-3(23).

homomorphic encryption

A special form of encryption in which the sum of two numbers can be determined even though the numbers are encrypted, and without decrypting the numbers. Homomorphic encryption can be used in verification schemes since the voter can reveal her encrypted vote for each candidate without revealing the vote itself, and the sum of the votes can be calculated without knowing the individual vote of any voter.

honesty

The property of a voting system that prevents a voter from voting more than once or changing another’s vote.

hospital absentee ballot

An “ABSENTEE BALLOT provided to voters confined to a health care facility on the day of a primary or election.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-010(7).

hostile fire zone

A “geographical area in which forces are assigned on official temporary duty and placed in imminent danger of being exposed to hostile fire or explosion of hostile mines.” Utah Code §2-A-3-403(3).

HPM

Abbreviation for HARDWARE PROGRAMMING MANAGER

HSS

= DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

human factors

The 2007 VVSG list 15 human factors associated with voting: ACCESSIBILITY OF PAPER RECORDS, ADJUSTABILITY, ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY, BALLOT CHECKING AND CORRECTION, CHOICE OF FONT AND CONTRAST, COLOR ADJUSTMENT, END-TO-END ACCESSIBILITY, ICONS AND LANGUAGE, LEGIBILITY, NOTIFICATION OF BALLOT CASTING, PLAIN LANGUAGE, POLL WORKERS, SYNCHRONIZED AUDIO AND VIDEO, TIMING, VOTER-EDITABLE BALLOT DEVICE.

humidity

High humidity may interfere with the proper operation of electronic circuits and may also cause SWELLING of optical scan BALLOTS. Humidity tests form part of the 2007 VVSG.

IACREOT

= INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY RECORDERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS, AND TREASURERS

icons and language

The requirement that voter instruction on a VOTING DEVICE cannot rely on icons alone, but must be accompanied by text. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

identification number

“A voting machine must bear a number that will distinguish it from any other machine.” Ind. Code §3-11-5-19.

identifying mark

A mark on a ballot that can be used to identify the voter. In general, ballots containing identifying marks are void since they can be used to promote COERCION or vote-buying. Iowa Admin. Code §721-26.14(50).

IDS

= ISYSTEM IDENTIFIER.

IDS

= INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEM.

IEEE

= INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS

IFES

= INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS.

IFC file

(ES&S) A file known as an “interface file” that contains information about precincts, candidates and propositions, that is generated by BALLOT IMAGE MANAGER and is used to provide input to HARDWRAE PROGRAMMING MANAGER.

IFF file

(ES&S) A file known as an “intermediate interface file” that is created using ELECTION DATA MANAGER and is used to provide input to BALLOT IMAGE MANAGER.

illegal vote

A “vote that is not legally countable.” Texas Elec. Code §221.003(b). “A voter who cast an illegal vote may be compelled, after the illegality has been established to the satisfaction of the tribunal hearing the contest, to disclose the name of the candidate for whom the voter voted or how the voter voted on a measure.” Texas Elec. Code §221.009.

illegal voting

Casting a vote in contravention of law. Voting more than once at any election in a state, or depositing more than one ballot for the same office, or knowingly attempting to vote when not entitled to do so. Ala. Code §17-23-1. See also FALSE VOTING. A voter who casts an illegal vote may be required to reveal it so that the totals can be rectified. There is no privacy protection for illegal votes. See, e.g., Texas Elec. Code §221.009. It does not appear to be illegal to satisfy the eligibility requirements of more than one state simultaneously, nor to thus cast more than one vote for President.

imperfect mark

(opscan) A MARK that is intended as a vote but which does not conform to the manufacturer’s specifications. 2007 VVSG. Cf. EXTRANEIOUS MARK, PERFECT MARK.

impersonation

A person who impersonates a registered voter and, as such, offers to vote at any election, is guilty of a ... felony. S.D. Codified Laws §12-26-7.

implementation statement

“A statement by a manufacturer indicating the capabilities, features, and optional functions and extensions that have been implemented in a voting system.” 2007 VVSG.

improper ballot

A ballot not marked in accordance with law, hence not to be counted. Miss. Code §23-15-547.

in-precinct counting

= PRECINCT COUNT. The “recording and counting of ballots on automatic tabulating equipment provided by the election authority in the same precinct polling place in which those ballots have been cast.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C-2.

in-use state

A VOTING STATE of a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE when the device has been activated for a VOTING SESSION and a ballot has been presented to a voter. 2007 VVSG.

inactive elector

An “individual who failed to vote in the preceding federal general election and whose name was placed on an inactive list.” Mont. Code Ann. §13-1-101(14).

inactive list

A “list of INACTIVE ELECTORS.” Mont. Code Ann. §13-1-101(15).

inactive voter

A registered voter whose address is believed to have changed and who has failed to respond to notice to confirm his address. Utah Code §20A-1-102(29). “An inactive voter must be allowed to vote, sign petitions, and have all other privileges of a registered voter.” Utah Code §20A-2-206(4)(c)(ii).

incapacitated absentee voter

A “voter who, due to incapacity, is unable to complete his ballot.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:57-2. The definition is incorrect in that it fails to incorporate the word “absentee.”

incident report

A “record made by election judges in the polling place on election day of unusual events that occurred in that polling place on election day.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.18a.

incoming voting list

The “list of all of the voters in a municipality which is used by election officials at a voting place to record which voters have been issued a ballot at an election.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(21).

incoming voting list tape

The “list of all of the voters in a municipality which is used by election officials at a voting place to record which voters have been issued a ballot at an election.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(21).

incumbent

A “candidate for the same office which he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers, and was elected to that office by a vote of the people.” Cal. Elec. Code §13107(a)(2). See also APPOINTED INCUMBENT.

independence

The ability of a disabled voter to vote without requiring a human assistant to whom her vote would be revealed.

independent ballot

“Ballots voted for any person whose name does not appear on the machine as a nominated candidate for office, are referred to ... as independent ballots.” Iowa Code §52.16.

independent candidate

1. A “person who is running for nomination or election to a public office but who does not represent a political party.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xvi). A “candidate in a nonpartisan election or a candidate in a partisan election who is not the nominee of a political party.” Texas Elec. Code §1.005(9).
2. Confusingly, there is a party known as the Independent Party, so a candidate of that party would be referred to as an “Independent candidate.”

independent testing authority

(deprecated) A “provider of engineering, testing or evaluation services, certified by the National Association of State Election Directors as qualified to conduct QUALIFICATION TESTING on voting systems.” Fla. VSS Appendix. Abbreviated ITA. The new term is VOTING SYSTEM TESTING LABORATORY.

independent voter-verifiable record

“Records produced by a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE that supports VOTER VERIFICATION (e.g., VVPAT and EBM).” 2007 VVSG.

Indiana ballot

A ballot containing a list in columns of all candidates of each party, enabling the voter to cast a STRAIGHT-PARTY VOTE by marking the top on one column to vote for every candidate in that column. Also PARTY-COLUMN BALLOT. Cf. MASSACHUSETTS BALLOT.

inFusion

A software application of Hart InterCivic that converts external data for importation into BOSS.

information security

“Protecting information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide integrity, confidentiality, and availability. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

indirectly verifiable

Allowing the voter to verify a representation of her ballot by using a software or hardware intermediary. Cf. DIRECTLY VERIFIABLE.

initial balloting

The process of tabulating ballots before any RECOUNT. 8 N.C. Admin. Code §09.0107(a). Cf. SECOND RECOUNT.

initial processing

“All steps taken to prepare ABSENTEE BALLOTS for tabulation, except for the reading of ballots by an electronic vote tallying system. Initial processing includes, but is not limited to: Removal of the security envelope from the return envelope; removal of the ballot from the security envelope; manual inspection for damage, for write-in votes, and for incorrect or incomplete marks; duplication of damaged and write-in ballots; and other preparation of ballots for final processing.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-225. Cf. FINAL PROCESSING.

initial recount

A preliminary RECOUNT to which a candidate is entitled by law if certain grounds are present. Texas Elec. Code §212.022. In Texas, no ground is required to obtain an initial recount if voting was conducted using an ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM. Texas Elec. Code §212.0241.

initial system response time

The “time taken from when the voter performs some detectible action (such as pressing a button) to when the voting system begins responding in some obvious way (such as an audible response or any change on the screen).” 2007 VVSG.

initiative

A method of having laws enacted by the public directly instead of through a legislative body. “The people may propose and enact laws by the initiative.” Wyo. Stat. §22-24-101. The “process by which the electors of the District of Columbia may propose laws ... and present such proposed laws directly to the registered qualified electors of the District of Columbia for their approval or disapproval.” D.C. Code Ann. §1-1001.02(10). Cf. REFERENDUM.

innovation class

A CLASS of voting systems that claim to exhibit SOFTWARE INDEPENDENCE but which do not use INDEPENDENT VOTER-VERIFIABLE RECORDS, hence for which there may not be testable requirements in the VVSG. 2007 VVSG.

inoperative equipment

The states vary widely in providing a procedure to be followed if a voting machine is found not to be working during an election. “When any voting or counting device becomes inoperative in whole or in part while the polls are open, the officers of election shall immediately notify the electoral board. If possible, the electoral board shall dispatch a qualified technician to the polling place to repair the inoperative device. All repairs shall be made in the presence of two officers of election representing the two political parties or, in the case of a primary election for only one party, two officers representing that party. If the device cannot be repaired on site, the electoral board shall, if possible, substitute a device in good order for the inoperative device, and at the close of the polls the record of both devices shall be taken, and the votes shown on their counters shall be added together in ascertaining the results of the election. No voting or counting equipment, including inoperative equipment, shall be removed from the plain view of the officers of election or from the polling place at any time during the election.” Va. Code §24.2-642.

in-person absentee voting

= EARLY VOTING. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1309.1.

in-person disability access voting

A “procedure in which a voter may come in person to a DISABILITY ACCESS LOCATION and cast a ballot during the DISABILITY ACCESS VOTING PERIOD.” R.C.W. §29A.46.030.

in-precinct counting

The “recording and counting of ballots on automatic tabulating equipment provided by the election authority in the same precinct polling place in which those ballots have been cast.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C-2.

in-person voting

“Voting that occurs at a polling place under the supervision of POLL WORKERS.” 2007 VVSG. Also POLL-SITE VOTING.

insider

A person who has access to voting equipment in a manner not available to voters, particularly unsupervised access.

inspecting poll watcher

A “person selected ... to witness the receipt and safe deposit of voted and counted ballots.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(30).

inspection

The “examination of a product design, product, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgment, with general requirements.” 2007 VVSG.

inspection board

The “subdivision of the COUNTING BOARD consisting of at least two (2) individuals responsible for inspecting ballots for improper marking, OVERVOTING, WRITE-INS, damage to the ballot and CHAD removal.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(gg).

inspector

The “inspector shall be the principal administrative officer of the precinct election board.” 26 Okla. Stat. §2-216. Likewise in Wisconsin.

inspector of election

One of two ELECTION OFFICIALS, of different parties, who have “shall have charge of the ballots and shall furnish them to the voters.” N.H. Rev. Stat. §658:25.

instant runoff voting

A voting method in which voters indicates their choices in ranked order (first choice, second choices, etc.). The first choices are then counted. The winner is required to have a majority of the votes tallied. If no candidate has a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest number of first-choice votes is eliminated and the ballots are retallied. On any ballot containing a first choice for the eliminated candidate, the second choice is elevated to first choice. The tally proceeds in this manner until some candidate has a majority. Up to ties, this method must produce a winner. Clear tiebreaking rules must be announced in advance. The runoff is

referred to as “instant” since no additional voting is required (i.e. no runoff election) since the winner can be determined by pure computation from the ballots already cast.

A “system of voting whereby voters may rank three or more candidates for the same office in order of preference, so that voters may indicate a first choice, a second choice, and so on for as many of the candidates for the office as they wish, up to the maximum number of choices allowed.” Wash. House Bill 1390 (2003). See also CHOICE, CONTINUING BALLOT, EXHAUSTED BALLOT, NEXT CHOICE, LAST PLACE CANDIDATE, REMAINING CANDIDATES, STAGE. Abbreviated IRV. Also PREFERENCE VOTING, RANKED CHOICE VOTING, RANKED ORDER VOTING.

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

Under HAVA, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers names a representative to the DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. Abbreviated IEEE.

instruction ballot

= SAMPLE BALLOT. N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:49-4. Likewise, SC.

integratability

The “physical and technical aspects of connections between systems and devices, which include hardware and firmware, protocols, etc. ... Systems and devices that are integratable are designed such that components of systems may be compatible or can be made compatible with each other through some moderate amount of effort, for example, by writing ‘GLUE CODE’.” 2007 VVSG.

integrity

Assurance “against improper information modification or destruction, and ensuring information non-repudiation and authenticity.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

Integrity Election Management System

A software product of Sequoia Voting Systems.

Intelligent Device Adapter

(ES&S) A device for transmitting election data from memory devices to DATA ACQUISITION MANAGER or ELECTION REPORTING MANAGER. Abbreviated IDA. See also SMART PACK READER.

interested party

All “persons charged with any duty under the election laws ... any manufacturer of or dealer in mechanical voting machines, voting devices or components thereof and agents of such manufacturer or dealer and any person otherwise affected by [the election rules].” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1701(h).

interface file

See IFC FILE.

interface specification

A document in the TDP to “describe external interfaces (programmatic, human, and network) provided by each of the computer components of the voting system (examples of components are DRE, Central Tabulator, Independent Audit machine).” 2007 VVSG.

interfering with political rights

In some states, an employer may not interfere with an employee's right to run for public office. The offense consists of "an employer making, adopting, enforcing or attempting to enforce any order, rule, regulation or policy forbidding or preventing any employee from becoming a candidate for public office or for a position on any public board or commission or making, adopting, enforcing or attempting to enforce any order, rule, or regulation controlling or attempting to control such employee's vote on any question at any public election, or in any public position or board or in any office to which such employee may be appointed or elected." Wyo. Stat. §2-26-116.

intermediate interface file

See IFF FILE.

intermediate political party

Any "political party organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors received less than twenty per cent but not less than ten per cent of the total vote cast for such office at the most recent regular state election." Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §3501.01(F)(2). Cf. MINOR POLITICAL PARTY.

internal audit log

A "human readable record, resident on the VOTING MACHINE, used to track all activities of that machine. This log records every activity performed on or by the machine indicating the event and when it happened." 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

Internet

The Internet provides a temptingly convenient but dangerous channel for distributing election software and transferring ballots. Once a voting system or machine has been connected to the Internet, even for a short time, it is difficult to make any reliable statement about its security, including the presence or absence of spyware, viruses or other malware. Some states have dealt with the problem by forbidding such connection. Maine has an absolute prohibition: "Connections of any voting devices ... via the Internet to centralized vote collection equipment may not be employed by election officials of the State. Networking of voting machines, Internet-enabled or otherwise, is prohibited." 21-A Me. Rev. Stat. §809-A(1). Maine also prohibits direct voting over the Internet: "Use of the Internet for the casting of votes on-line is prohibited." 21-A Me. Rev. Stat. §809-A(3). In North Dakota, "any direct-recording electronic voting system procured or used in the state may not transmit uncounted votes or ballots through the internet." N.D.C.C. §16.1-06.14(13). "A vote tabulating system must: ... c) Not be connected to, or operated on, any electronic network including, but not limited to, internal office networks, the internet, or the world wide web. A network may be used as an internal, integral part of the vote tabulating system but that network must not be connected to any other network, the internet, or the world wide web." Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-040(3). "A direct recording electronic voting system shall not be connected to the Internet at any time." Cal. Elec. Code §19250(f).

Internet voting

Voting in which votes are cast over the Internet. Abbreviated I-VOTING.

International Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Treasurers

Under HAVA, the International Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Treasurers has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated IACREOT.

International Foundation for Election Systems

A non-profit organization in Washington DC that provides technical assistance to strengthen electoral processes in transitional democracies. Website: <http://www.ifes.org>. Abbreviated IFES.

interoperability testing

The “determination through OPERATIONAL TESTING of whether existing products are able to cooperate meaningfully for some purpose. It consists of bringing together existing products, configuring them to work together, and performing a functional test to determine whether the operation succeeds.” 2007 VVSG. Cf. CONFORMANCE TESTING.

interstate former resident

A “former resident and registered voter in ... Missouri [who moves] to another state after the deadline to register to vote in any presidential election in the new state and who otherwise possesses the qualifications to register and vote in such state.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.275(2). See also INTRASTATE NEW RESIDENT, NEW RESIDENT.

intimidation

“Intimidation consists of: (i) Inducing, or attempting to induce, fear in an election official or elector by use of threats of force, violence, harm or loss, or any form of economic retaliation, for the purpose of impeding or preventing the free exercise of the elective franchise or the impartial administration of the Election Code; or (ii) Soliciting the contribution of funds, other items of value or election assistance to the campaign of any candidate, candidate’s committee, political action committee or sponsors of a ballot proposition, by use of threats of physical violence or any form of economic or official retaliation.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-111.

intrastate new resident

A “registered voter of [Missouri] who moves from one election authority's jurisdiction in the state to another election authority's jurisdiction in the state after the last day authorized in this chapter to register to vote in an election and otherwise possesses the qualifications to vote.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.275(3). See also INTERSTATE FORMER RESIDENT, NEW RESIDENT.

intrusion detection system

Software that detects attempts to penetrate a system’s security, usually referring to intrusions over the Internet, which it may warn of or repel. Abbreviated IDS.

invalid ballot

A ballot that is not to be counted for any of a number of specified reasons. An “official cast ballot discovered at the time the votes are counted which does not comply with the requirements for voting or is not an official ballot. An invalid ballot is not to be counted for determining the number of cast ballots.” 25 C.F.R. §81.1(j). “A ballot is invalid and no votes on that ballot may be counted if it is found folded together with another ballot or it is marked so as to identify the voter.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.60.040.

invalid vote

A that is cast but is not in compliance with law, e.g. an OVERVOTE.” 21-A Maine Rev Stat. §21-A-696-2.

iReport

(ES&S) A web-based program for election results reporting that allows jurisdictions to customize their own reports.

irregular ballot

“Ballots voted for any person whose name does not appear on the ballot as a nominated candidate for office are referred to ... as ‘irregular ballots’.” R.I. Gen. Laws §17-19-31.

IRV

= INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING.

issue

= QUESTION.

issue area

The “area(s) on or between lines separating ISSUES.” Ark. Register §108.00.02-003.300(c). Cf. CANDIDATE AREA.

ITA

= INDEPENDENT TESTING AUTHORITY.

i-voting

= INTERNET VOTING.

iVotronic

A DRE product of ES&S.

iVotronic Image manager

(ES&S) A Java application that is part of the ES&S Unity suite for designing bitmap ballots for the IVOTRONIC. Abbreviated IVIM.

IVVR

= INDEPENDENT VOTER-VERIFIABLE RECORD. Also referring to a voting system that achieves SOFTWARE INDEPENDENCE through INDEPENDENT VOTER-VERIFIABLE RECORDS. 2007 VVSG.

JBC

= JUDGE’S BOOTH CONTROLLER.

jelly switch

A TACTILE INPUT device for the disabled that can be operated by using only minimal pressure from a finger, pencil, stylus or other device. Commonly used as an assistive interface in voting systems.

jogging

(opscan) The process of gently shuffling optical scan ballots to keep them from sticking together while being fed through a scanner.

joint candidates

Two or more candidates who must be voted for or against together and not separately. The “two candidates for the office of governor and the office of lieutenant governor for whom one vote cast at any general election is applicable to both offices.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(20).

joint election

An election in which two or more political subdivisions conduct voting in the same POLLING PLACE. Texas Elec. Code §271.002.

judge

1. A. In many states, the county courts exercise supervisory authority over various aspects of the election administration. For example, in Alabama, the judge of the county probate court (JUDGE OF PROBATE) provides ballots and supplies for elections.
2. An ELECTION OFFICIAL who supervises election activities at the local (precinct) level, and therefore referred to as an ELECTION JUDGE. Both court judges and election judges have roles in the electoral process, rendering the term “judge” alone ambiguous and confusing. See also PICKUP JUDGE, RETURN JUDGE, SUPERVISORY JUDGE.

judge of election

A local poll official having charge of election proceedings. In some precincts, as in Pennsylvania, judges are elected. “All primaries and elections shall be conducted in each election district by a district election board consisting of a judge of election, a majority inspector of election and a minority inspector of election, assisted by clerks and machine inspectors in certain cases.” 25 Pa. Stat. §2671. In other states they are appointed, usually by the COUNTY CLERK or equivalent. Wyo. Stat. §22-8-101.

judge of probate

“The judge of probate is the chief elections official of the county and shall serve as chair of the canvassing board.” Ala. Code §17-1-8(b).

judge’s booth controller

The computer terminal used to manage Hart eSlate DRE machines at a POLLING PLACE. Abbreviated JBC.

judicial office

The “office filled by any judicial officer.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.064.

jurisdiction

A body having authority to conduct or supervise elections. An ELECTION JURISDICTION.

Karro-Wang protocol

A secure Internet voting protocol designed to remedy certain drawbacks of SENSUS, described in the paper “Towards a Practical, Secure, and Very Large Scale Online Election,” by J. Kerro and J. Wang (1999), available at

<http://www.site.uottawa.ca/~malassaf/TA/thu-a-0830-karro.pdf>

key

1. A physical key for locking and unlocking voting machines, ballot boxes and other equipment for storing election materials.
2. A number or string used as data to an encryption or decryption program.

key envelope

An envelope containing keys to voting machines in a precinct. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:553(A).

key management

“Activities involving the handling of cryptographic keys and other related security parameters (e.g., passwords) during the entire life cycle of the keys, including their generation, storage, establishment, entry and output, and zeroization.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

key pair

A term from PUBLIC-KEY CRYPTOGRAPHY, referring to two keys that are mathematically related – a PUBLIC KEY for encrypting data and a corresponding PRIVATE KEY for decrypting data. The public key may safely be revealed since examining it reveals nothing about the private key.

kiosk voting

A voting method intermediate between voting at a polling place and fully remote (e.g. Internet) voting. The voter casts her vote at a kiosk installed and maintained by election authorities.

LAN

= LOCAL-AREA NETWORK.

last place candidate

With respect to INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, “a candidate who has received the fewest votes among the candidates who remain at any STAGE. Two or more candidates simultaneously become last place candidates when their combined votes are equal to or fewer than all votes for the candidate with the third highest vote total.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.053.030(6).

Last Precinct Report

(ES&S) A report containing a summary of vote totals for the last precinct read by a ballot scanner.

LAT

= LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST.

late ballot

A ballot permitted by statute to be cast after the normal deadline because of an unusual occurrence such as illness or death in the voter’s immediate family. See LATE VOTING.

late voting

“A qualified voter is eligible to vote a LATE BALLOT ... if the voter has a sickness or physical condition ... that originates on or after the day before the last day for submitting an application for a ballot to be voted by mail.” Texas Elec. Code §102.001. A late ballot may also be cast if there is a death in the voter’s immediate family. Texas Elec. Code §103.001.

LBE

= LOCAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

LCD

= LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY.

League of Women Voters

A nonpartisan political organization founded in 1920 and dedicated to promoting an open governmental system and educating the public about voting methods and voting rights. Abbreviated LWV.

LED

= LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE.

legacy library unit

A concept relating to software transparency in the use of extrinsic code. A COTS or THIRD-PARTY CALLABLE UNIT that does not “throw exceptions when exceptional conditions occur” and hence must be wrapped in a callable unit that detects error conditions and throws exceptions. 2007 VVSG.

legal voter

A person “entitled to vote, and who do vote, at the time and in the manner prescribed in and by such statute upon the public question submitted; and for the purpose of ascertaining what is the percentage of the legal voters of any district defined in such statute, upon the public question therein directed to be submitted, the persons who do not vote at such election, the persons who do not vote upon the public question and the persons whose ballots may be declared invalid, shall not be estimated, counted or considered.” N.J. Stat. Ann §19:3-6. Note that not every ELIGIBLE VOTER is a “legal voter.”

legally registered elector

An “individual whose application for voter registration was accepted, processed, and verified as provided by law.” Mont. Code Ann. §13-1-101(18).

legibility

The requirement that voters with poor vision be able to read a BALLOT and any accompanying instructions. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

legislative submission

The “power of the voters to approve or reject legislation which has been referred to them by the Legislature.” 3 Guam Code Ann. §17102(c).

lever machine

A mechanical device that registers votes on counters through a system of rods and gears. Invented in 1892, the function of the lever machine, according to its inventor, was “to protect mechanically the voter from rascaldom,” referring to the rampant practice of stuffing ballot boxes when paper ballots were used. Manufacture of lever machines ceased in the United States in 1972, although some 14% of the popular vote in 2004 was cast on such machines. Lever machines are now illegal in some states, e.g. North Carolina (N.C. Gen. Stat. §163.165.4A(a1)) and for STATE ELECTIONS in Maine (21-A Me. Rev. Stat. §809(3-A)(B)).

lever machine voting system

A “voting system on which the voter casts a vote by pressing a lever and the vote is mechanically recorded by the machine.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163.165.4A(a1).

Lieutenant Governor

Chief election officer in AK, HI, MN, UT.

light-emitting diode

A semiconductor device that emits light when current is applied to it. The diodes have an extremely long life and do not have fragile filaments as do ordinary light bulbs. Abbreviated LED.

lighting

“Every voting device or booth shall be provided with a means of providing sufficient light to enable voters while in the voting booth to read the ballots or ballot labels.” 15 Del. Code Ann. §5001A(b).

limited ballot

A ballot that is provided to an elector who has changed county of residence within Texas but is still registered to vote in his original county of residence. The elector may vote only on statewide office and offices appearing on the ballot of both his original county and his new county. Tex. Elec. Code §112.001.

limited political party

A “political group which organizes for the purpose of selecting candidates for electors for President and Vice-President.” Alaska Stat. §15.60.010(14).

liquid crystal display

A technology for displaying data to a user requiring minimal electrical power and offering high reliability. Abbreviated LCD.

listing board

A “board established by special law in a particular city or town to prepare lists of persons of voting age resident in the city or town and perform certain other duties in connection with said lists.” Mass. Gen'l. Laws §50:1.

local-area network

Abbreviated LAN.

local board of elections

Abbreviated LBE.

local canvass

The “canvass of the precinct election returns.” Wisc. St. 5.02(9). Similarly, Texas Elec. Code §1.005(11).

local election

1. An election in a political subdivision that is smaller than a state. A “a municipal, county, or district election.” Cal. Elec. Code §328.
2. Any “election which deals with the selection of persons to fill public office or the settling of public questions solely within a single municipality. ‘Local election’ also means an election to settle a public question in several municipalities, in which the municipalities must unanimously concur if the question is to be approved.” Vt. Stat. §2103(18). A “a regular or special election held by a borough, city, school district, or regional educational attendance area.” Alaska Stat. §15.60.010(15).

local election official

The “the municipal clerk or principal officer charged with duties relating to elections.” Minn. Stat. §200.02(21).

local office

“‘Local office’ means any elective office other than a state or national office.” Wisc. St. §5.02(9).

local primary

A PRIMARY ELECTION for “nominations of candidates entitling the nominated candidates to have their names printed on the official ballots at municipal elections in incorporated cities and towns.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-203.

local special election

A “SPECIAL ELECTION called by the governing body of a local political subdivision in which all registered voters of the local political subdivision may vote.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(36).

locked

See SEALED.

log

A record of events that occur in connection with an election, used for auditing purposes or to reconstruct happenings during the election. Also, a record of events relating to the design and development of a voting system. Section 5.7 of the 2007 VVSG lists a large number of event types which must be logged. The 2007 VVSG identify three types of log attack goals for which defenses must be provided: undetectable creation, removal or alteration of a log entry. Logs must contain a SYSTEM IDENTIFIER, unique event identifier, TIMESTAMP, indication of success or failure of the event, the identifier of the user triggering the event (if not a voter) and the resources requested during the event. 2007 VVSG. See AUDIT LOG, CONFIGURATION LOG, CONSOLE LOG, INTERNAL AUDIT LOG, MAINTENANCE LOG, PROBLEM LOG, SOFTWARE IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION LOG, SOFTWARE INTEGRITY VERIFICATION LOG, VOTING SYSTEM CONFIGURATION LOG.

logic and accuracy test

A test to determine whether a voting device is operating properly and whether its ballot is set up correctly. Testing “the tabulator setups of a new election definition to ensure that the content correctly reflects the election being held (i.e., contests, candidates, number to be elected, ballot styles, etc.) and that all voting positions can be voted for the maximum number of eligible candidates and that results are accurately tabulated and reported.” 2005 VVSG V1, APPENDIX A. The purpose of logic and accuracy testing is to detect malfunctioning and misconfigured devices before polls are opened. It is not a defense against fraud.” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated LAT.

logic defect

A “fault in software, firmware, or HARDWIRED LOGIC.” 2007 VVSG.

logical correctness

A condition signifying that, for a given input, a computer program will satisfy the program specification (produce the required output). 2002 FEC A-4.

long-term absentee voter

In Oregon, a resident who is absent from their place of residence. Possible long term absentee voters include: a person serving in or discharged 30 days or less from the United States Armed Forces, a United States Merchant Marine; or a temporarily living outside of the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia, or the spouse of a long term ABSENTEE VOTER.

loophole primary

A PRIMARY ELECTION in which political convention delegates are selected rather than an individual candidate, a “preference” for whom is determined in a separate election. The delegates may not be required to vote at the convention for the candidate preferred by the voters.

lost ballot

A BALLOT that was delivered to a polling place but cannot be accounted for after the election.

lost vote

A vote that was cast but is not available for tabulation and that cannot be recovered, or a vote that a voter intended to cast but did not succeed in casting.

lot

1. A random procedure for resolving a TIE VOTE. “In all elections where there is a tie between the two highest candidates for the same office, for all county or precinct offices, it shall be decided by lot by the sheriff of the county in the presence of the candidates; and in the case of the office of circuit judge, senator, representative or any state officer not otherwise provided for, the Secretary of State shall, in the presence of the Governor, and such other electors as may choose to be present, decide the tie by lot.” Ala. Code §17-1-3.
2. A group of ballots as separate for counting. “In counting the ballots, the election clerks shall separate them into distinct lots. Each of these lots must consist of 50 ballots, except for one lot, which may have less than 50 ballots. They shall place with each lot a statement of the count in that lot and the names of the election clerks who made the count.” 21-A Maine Rev. Stat. §695(2).
3. A process for determining the order of candidates in the ALTERNATION method of BALLOT ROTATION. when the number of candidates exceeds the number of precincts in a municipality

LWV

= LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

machine certificate

A certificate attesting to certain facts concerning an individual voting machine, such as the number shown on the PROTECTIVE COUNTER at the opening of the polls. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:553(B)(6).

machine count

A “ballot count produced by a voting system that uses machines.” 8 N.C. Admin. Code §09.0107(a).

machine inspector

The “county board of elections shall, prior to each primary and election, appoint for each additional voting machine to be used in such district, one qualified registered elector of the county to serve as machine inspector therein for such primary or election.” 25 Pa. Stat. §2674.

machine-readable ballot component

(ES&S, opscan) A portion of an optical scan ballot that is detected and read by a scanner, including a TIMING MARK, CANDIDATE OVAL, and ORIENTATION BAR.

machine-rejected ballot

A BALLOT that is not machine-readable, including a ripped or torn ballot, a ballot voted with an instrument that cannot be read by the machine, or a ballot with extraneous marks within the read head path.

magisterial district

A term that describes several different types of political subdivision.

1. In Pennsylvania, a district whose local court is presided over by a magistrate.
2. In Virginia and West Virginia, a nonfunctioning civil division smaller than a county.

mail ballot

1. A ballot to be submitted by mail. Oregon votes entirely by mail for PRIMARY and GENERAL ELECTIONS. Ore. Rev. Stat. §254.465(1).
2. A “ballot used in a mail ballot election and does not include:
 - (a) A MAIL BALLOT PRECINCT BALLOT;
 - (b) An absentee ballot issued at the request of the voter.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-238-020(3).

mail ballot election

An “election conducted entirely by MAIL BALLOT where:

- (a) Only issues or nonpartisan offices are on the ballot;
- (b) The election is not being held in conjunction with a state primary or any general election; and
- (c) The election involves precincts not regularly voting by mail at primary and general elections.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-238-020(2). See also Mont. Code §13-19-205.

mail ballot packet

The “packet of information provided by the designated election official to eligible electors in the mail ballot election. The packet includes the ballot, instructions for completing the ballot, a secrecy envelope, and a return envelope.” Col. Stat. §1.7.5-103(5).

mail ballot precinct

Any “precinct containing less than two hundred active registered voters at the closing of voter registration ... in which the county auditor has determined to conduct the voting by mail ballot.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-010(13).

mail ballot precinct ballot

A “ballot used in a precinct with fewer than two hundred active registered voters regularly voting by mail in primary, general, and special elections.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-238-020(4).

mail-in ballot

= MAIL BALLOT.

maintainability

The “ease with which maintenance actions can be performed based on the design characteristics of equipment and software and the processes the manufacturer and ELECTION OFFICIALS have in place for preventing FAILURES and for reacting to failures. Maintainability includes the ability of equipment and software to self-diagnose problems and to make non-technical election workers aware of a problem.” 2007 VVSG.

maintenance log

A “written record which contains all information relating to system testing, performance of scheduled and non-scheduled maintenance requirements recommended by the vendor or manufacturer of such equipment, and all service visits performed by vendor or manufacturer.” Cal. Proc. §1830.

major interface

An interface “at the level of those identified in the system overview. ... These are interfaces between subsystems and components, not CALLABLE UNITS.

major political party

A “political organization whose candidate for any one (1) of the offices of the United States house of representatives, governor or secretary of state, received not less than ten percent (10%) of the total votes cast for that office in the most recent general election.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xvii). Cf. MINOR POLITICAL PARTY.

majority party

This term has no uniform definition. The “political party to which the incumbent Governor belongs, if the incumbent Governor is a member of a principal political party. If the incumbent Governor is not a member of one of the two principal political parties, ‘majority party’ means the principal political party whose candidate for Governor received the highest number of votes of any party candidate at the last preceding general election.” Md. Election Code Ann. §1-101(cc). “[T]he political party whose members hold the largest number of seats in the combined houses of the general assembly.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(11). The party “whose candidates were elected to a majority of the constitutional offices of this state in the last preceding general election.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(13). Cf. MINORITY PARTY.

malicious code

Software that performs an illicit function, possibly in addition to a legitimate one. A “program that is inserted into a system, usually covertly, with the intent of compromising the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the victim’s data, applications, or operating system (OS) or of otherwise annoying or disrupting the victim. For a number of reasons, ELECTRONIC DEVICES associated with voting systems may be targeted by malware. Malware is inclusive of viruses, worms, Trojan horses, and malicious mobile code, as well as combinations of these, known as blended attacks. Malware also includes attacker tools such as backdoors, rootkits, and keystroke loggers.” 2007 VVSG.

malware

= MALICIOUS CODE.

malware detection software

Software, such as “antivirus software, antispymware software, and rootkit detection,” which “can identify common known malware that attempts to infect an ELECTRONIC DEVICE, as well as identify infections on the device.” Malware detection software is mandatory for ELECTION MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE under the 2007 VVSG.

manager

The “chief manager and the assistant managers required to conduct primaries and elections in any precinct.” Ga. Code Ann. §21-2-2(11).

manager of election

In South Carolina, one of three ELECTION OFFICIALS appointed to conduct voting at a POLLING PLACE. S.C. Code §7-13-72.

mandatory recount

A that must be conducted if certain conditions are satisfied. For example, in North Dakota, a recount must be conducted for any office in a general election in which the top two candidates are separated by less than one-half percent of the highest total. N.D.C.C. §16.1-06-01(1).

manual audit capacity

HAVA requires that a voting system used in an election for Federal office “produce a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity for such system.”

manual inspection

The “process of inspecting each voter response position on each voted ballot upon breaking the seals and opening the ballot containers from the precincts or, in the case of precinct counting systems, prior to the certification of the election.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-261-005(1).

manual marking device

Any “approved device for directly marking a ballot by hand with ink, pencil, or other substance which will enable the ballot to be tabulated by means of automatic tabulating equipment.” Minn. Stat. §206.56(7b). Cf. ELECTRONIC BALLOT MARKER.

manual recount

A RECOUNT performed without resort to automated equipment. Texas Elec. Code §214.002. See also HAND-EYE RECOUNT.

manually marked paper ballot

1. An “IVVR VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE consisting of a paper ballot and a writing utensil.
2. A “paper ballot that was marked by a person using a writing utensil.” 2007 VVSG.

manufacturer

1. An “entity with ownership and control over a voting system submitted for testing.” 2007 VVSG.
2. A “Secretary of State certified vendor which processes card stock to make sheets or unfinished ballot cards, or to make ballot cards by a continuous process involving a single machine, to be used in California elections.” Cal. Regs. §20207.

manufacturer testing

Testing of a voting system by its manufacturer prior to submission for CERTIFICATION.

marginal mark

A “mark within a voting target that does not conform to manufacturer specifications for a reliably detectable vote. ... The word "marginal" refers to the limit of what is detectable by an OPTICAL SCANNER, not the margin of the page.” 2007 VVSG.

mark

A “character or symbol which is distinguishable and noticeable to a reasonable person but which does not identify or reveal the voter in a primary, general or special election.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-400. See ACCEPTABLE MARK, ALIGNMENT MARK, APPROPRIATE MARK, CHECK MARK, CROSS, DETECTABLE MARK, EXTRANEIOUS MARK, FALSE NEGATIVE MARK, FALSE POSITIVE MARK, HESITATION MARK, IDENTIFYING MARK, MARGINAL MARK, MISINTERPRETED MARK, PERFECT MARK, PLUS MARK, PRESCRIBED MARK, RANDOM MARK, RELIABLY DETECTABLE MARK, RELIABLY IGNORED MARK, STRAY MARK, TIMING MARK

mark recognition character ink

(opscan) A special ink for printing optical scan ballots that does not contain carbon black or iron particles and is thus not recognized by the scanner. Abbreviated MRC INK.

mark sense ballot

A “machine-readable ballot which utilizes paper for presenting the names of the offices and candidates and statements of questions to be voted and on which the voter marks his or her choices in designated voting response locations.” Ala. Admin. Code §307-X-1-.01(8).

mark sense mark

A “properly cast vote on a optical scan voting system which can include blackening the oval or filling in the blank space in an arrow or line.” 33 Pa. Bull. 31, p. 3935 (Aug. 2, 2003).

mark sense voting system

“A system by which votes are recorded by means of marks made in voting response fields designated on one or both faces of a ballot card or series of cards.” FVSS Appendix.

marking device

“‘Marking device’ means a device for marking ballots with ink or other substance, or any other method for recording votes on ballots in a manner that the votes may be tabulated and counted by automatic tabulating equipment.” N.D.C.C. §16-1-06-12(7). Similarly, Ark. Code §7-1-101(14), Ohio Rev. Code §3506.01(A).

marksense

A technology “by which votes are recorded by means of marks made in voting response fields designated on one or both faces of a ballot card or series of cards. Marksense systems may use an optical scanner or similar sensor to read the ballots. Also known as OPTICAL SCAN. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

masculine

“‘Masculine’ includes the feminine, and the masculine pronoun wherever used in this Title shall be construed to include the feminine.” N.J.S.A. §19:1-1. This provision does not indicate that New Jersey has unresolved gender issues, but is typical of state statutes that were overwhelmingly drafted using the masculine pronoun.

mask

A “piece of material with defined areas for each voting position, into which holes are punched corresponding only to the voting positions appearing on the BALLOT LABEL.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(17).

Massachusetts ballot

A ballot that clumps candidates by office rather than by party, thus discouraging STRAIGHT-PARTY VOTING. Also OFFICE-BLOC BALLOT. Cf. INDIANA BALLOT.

master file

A data file containing information about a jurisdiction’s geographical components, political subdivisions and repetitive CONTESTS.

master index

An alphabetical list of all persons registered in a District of Columbia PRECINCT and eligible to vote in an election, including each person’s name, address, party affiliation (where applicable), and single member district (where applicable).

master index clerk

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in the District of Columbia who reads aloud the name, address, and party affiliation from the Master Index as each voter appears at a POLLING PLACE.

master register

The “list of all registered voters in the state which is maintained by the director of elections.” Alaska Stat. §15.60.010(15).

MBB

= MOBILE BALLOT BOX.

MCOS

= MMPB-CAPABLE OPTICAL SCANNER.

mean time between failures

A measure of the frequency of FAILURE of a device or system, specifically the average time between failures. This measure has been supplanted in the 2007 VVSG by FAILURE RATE. Abbreviated MTBF.

mean time to failure

The average time from the point at which a device or system is put into operation until its first failure. The concept is most useful for items which cannot be repaired, i.e., for which the first failure is the final failure. Abbreviated MTTF.

measure

“‘Measure’ includes any of the following submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at an election: (a) A proposed law. (b) An Act or part of an Act of the Legislative Assembly. (c) A revision of or amendment to the ... Constitution. (d) Local, special or municipal legislation. (e) A proposition or question.” O.R.S. §246.012(8). The “action proposed or question presented on the INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM or LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION.” 3 Guam Code Ann. §17102(d).

measure register

The record that reflects the total votes cast for and against a specific ballot issue. This record is augmented as each ballot is cast on a DRE or as digital signals from the conversion of voted paper ballots are logically interpreted and recorded. 2002 FEC A-5

measure lever voting machine

A “machine that directly records a voter’s choices via mechanical lever-actuated controls into a counting mechanism that tallies the votes without using a physical ballot.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. A LEVER MACHINE.

mechanical recording device

A “device

1. Which mechanically or electronically compiles a total of the number of votes cast for each candidate and for or against each measure voted on; or
2. To which a list of offices and candidates and the statements of measures to be voted on may be affixed and into which a card may be inserted so that the votes cast for each candidate and for or against each measure may be indicated by punching the card with reference to the list.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.032.

mechanical voting machine

A “voting machine that displays a full-faced ballot and whereby votes are cast by moving a lever.” La. R.S. §18:1351(12)(a).

mechanical voting system

A “system of voting whereby a voter may cast his vote:

1. On a device which mechanically or electronically compiles a total of the number of votes cast for each candidate and for or against each measure voted on; or
2. By punching a card or marking a paper ballot which is subsequently counted on an electronic tabulator, counting device or computer.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.033.

MegaProfile

(ES&S) A VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM for medium to large jurisdictions.

member of the merchant marine

One of the classes of voters entitled to the absentee voting provisions of UOCAVA. “An individual (other than a member of a uniformed service or an individual employed, enrolled, or maintained on the Great Lakes or the inland waterways)— (A) employed as an officer or crew member of a vessel documented under the laws of the United States, or a vessel owned by the United States, or a vessel of foreign-flag registry under charter to or control of the United States; or (B) enrolled with the United States for employment or training for employment, or maintained by the United States for emergency relief service, as an officer or crew member of any such vessel.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-6(4).

memory card

The “electronic card (PCMCIA card) on which the ballot styles for a particular precinct are electronically stored and which is inserted into the direct recording electronic voting unit (DRE) to program the DRE unit for voting and on which vote totals are recorded for the DRE unit during the voting process.” Ga. Rules §183-1-12-.02.

memory chip

An integrated circuit chip used to hold election data such as ballot setup information, vote totals and/or CAST VOTE RECORDS.

memory device

A removable storage medium on which CAST VOTE RECORDS and other election information can be retained.

memory device transport container

A receptacle designed for secure transport of a MEMORY DEVICE from a POLLING PLACE to a facility where TABULATION will occur.

memory pack

A “device capable of storing electronically the totals of a precinct ballot counter.” Ala. Admin. Code §307-X-1-.01(10).

merchant marine

See MEMBER OF THE MERCHANT MARINE.

Mercuri method

A method of voting in which the voter has the opportunity to review a paper record of her vote before it is cast on electronic equipment. The paper record, called a PAPER TRAIL, is retained so as to be available in case a RECOUNT is performed. Named for its popularizer, Rebecca Mercuri, although the first published suggestion of a paper trail for voting appeared in two contributions to the March 1986 issue of Risks Digest by Mike McLaughlin and Tom Benson.

merged ballot

A BALLOT listing CONTESTS from more than one BALLOT STYLE for ease of tabulation. In some OPEN PRIMARIES, the voter is given a merged ballot listing candidates from all parties and is instructed to vote only in contests applicable to a single party. 2007 VVSG.

messenger

“The county clerk may appoint messengers to deliver ballot boxes, poll books, keys, election supplies and other materials pertaining to the election.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-2-20(A).

metal seal

A “seal of high tensile strength that is approved by the secretary of state.” Mich. Comp. Laws §168.14a(b).

military address

The “mailing address of a MILITARY VOTER other than his residence address in his ELECTION DISTRICT.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §10-102(4).

military ballot

The “ballot prepared, printed and supplied for use by the MILITARY VOTER for a GENERAL ELECTION, PRIMARY ELECTION or SPECIAL ELECTION.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §10-102(3).

military elector

“Any of the following:

1. An individual in military service and the individual's spouse and dependents.

2. An individual in the merchant marine and the individual's spouse and dependents.
3. An individual in a religious or welfare group officially attached to and serving with the armed forces of the United States and the individual's spouse and dependents.
4. An individual who is a civilian employee of the United States outside the territorial limits of the United States, whether or not the individual is subject to the civil service laws and whether or not the individual is paid from funds appropriated by Congress, and the individual's spouse and dependents.” 25 Pa. C.S. §1102.

military service

As defined in New York, the “military service of the state, or of the United States, including the army, navy, marine corps, air force, coast guard and all components thereof, and the coast and geodetic survey, the public health service, the national guard when in the service of the United States pursuant to call as provided by law, and the cadets or midshipmen of the United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, United States Air Force Academy and United States Coast Guard Academy.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §10-102(1).

military service ballot

A “ballot for use by a MILITARY SERVICE VOTER.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:57-2.

military service voter

A “qualified elector under the Constitution and the laws of this State who comes within one of the following categories:

- (a) Persons in the MILITARY SERVICE and their spouses and dependents.
- (b) Persons in a veterans' hospital who have been in the military service in any war in which the United States has been engaged and have been discharged or released from such service.
- (c) Civilians attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States and their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:57-2.

military voter

The New York State term for a MILITARY SERVICE VOTER: A “qualified voter of the state of New York who is in the actual military service ... and by reason of such military service is absent from his election district of residence on the day of registration or election, or a voter who is discharged from such military service within thirty days of an election and the spouse, parent and child of such voter accompanying or being with him or her, if a qualified voter and a resident of the same election district.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §10-102(2).

minor political party

A “political organization whose candidate for any one (1) of the offices of the United States house of representatives, governor or secretary of state, received not less than two percent (2%) nor more than ten percent (10%) of the total votes cast for that office in the most recent general election.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xviii). Cf. MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY.

minority party

“[T]he political party whose members hold the second largest number of seats in the combined houses of the general assembly.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(12). That “political party whose candidates were elected to less than a majority of the constitutional offices of this state in the

last preceding general election or the political party which polled the second greatest number of votes for the office of Governor in the last preceding general election if all of the elected constitutional officers of this state are from a single political party.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(15) Cf. MAJORITY PARTY.

mirroring

In general, replicating copies of ballots to guard against machine or memory failure. “Keeping two or more memory systems or computers identical at all times, so that if one fails the other can continue without any disruption of service.” CIVTF Appendix A.

misfeed

(opscan) The failure of an optical scanner to accept a physical BALLOT. A misfeed can be caused by misadjustment of the scanner or a defect in the BALLOT itself (such as a crumpled edge or SWELLING).

misfeed rate

(opscan) The “ratio of the misfeed total to the total BALLOT volume.” 2007 VVSG. The acceptable misfeed rate is capped at 1 in 500.

misinterpreted mark

“A MARK on a ballot that is misinterpreted by a vote tabulating machine; this term includes both FALSE POSITIVE and FALSE NEGATIVE MARKS.” Jones.

misread ballot

A ballot that causes a ballot reader to produce an error indication. A ballot that is misread twice is considered a SPOILED BALLOT in some jurisdictions. N.M. Admin Code §1.10.12.14.

misspelling

“Misspelling or abbreviations of the names of write-in candidates shall be disregarded if the individual for whom the vote was intended can be clearly ascertained from the ballot.” Minn. Stat. §204C.22(8).

misvote

1. A vote that is cast for a candidate or on an issue that differs from the choice intended by the voter.
2. A vote that fails to conform to statute. “Any overvote or misvote for one or more offices shall not invalidate the entire ballot.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:53A-10.

mix-net

A cryptographic protocol executed by a set of servers, known as mix-servers, that provides anonymity for a group of senders. Their individual messages can be encrypted and mixed so that after decryption it is not possible to determine which message emanated from a particular sender. The application to electronic voting is that ballots can be made public without compromising voter privacy.

mixed mode

= SPLIT TICKET. W.V.C. §3-4-8(8).

mixed ticket

= SPLIT TICKET. W.V.C. §3-4-8(8).

MMPB

= MANUALLY-MARKED PAPER BALLOT.

MMPB-capable optical scanner

An OPTICAL SCANNER that is able to read MANUALLY-MARKED PAPER BALLOTS.

mobile ballot box

A Hart Intercivic products, consisting of a PC Card used to transport either ballot data files, or CAST VOTE RECORDS. Abbreviated MBB.

mobile registration

Any “registration held outside the central registration in the office of the department of elections for each respective county and excluding registrations held within the district on registration days designated by the department of elections.” 15 Del. Code §101(12).

mock election

A demonstration election held in a polling place, often on Election Day and for the purpose of education school children. 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §4:090.

model

A “mechanically operated model or miniature of the whole or a part of the face of the voting machine, illustrating the manner of voting.” La. R.S. §18:1351(5).

modem

A device, usually internal to computer when it is present, that allows data communications over telephone line. Modems are sometimes used in voting machines to transfer unofficial vote totals to a central tabulation facility since the transmission is extremely fast relative to physical transport and more accurate than spoken telephone voices. “If the equipment includes a modem for the electronic transmission of election results, the precinct officials may transmit the results after a printed copy has been made.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-22.241(52). Some states forbid modem operation during tabulation: “[The] general custodian of election records shall ensure that ... no modem access to the tabulating equipment is available during the tabulation.” Texas Elec. Code §127.1231(a). Other states require modem transmission capability: “The vote tabulator must contain an RS-232 data communications capability to transmit totals over regular voice grade telephone lines.” N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.20.10(L).

moderator

An official who preserves order at a polling place. Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-230. Likewise, N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14. See also ASSISTANT MODERATOR, DEPUTY MODERATOR, HEAD MODERATOR.

modification

Any “change in either software, firmware, hardware, or procedure for use that directly affects the operation of the voting system that will require reexamination of certified equipment.” Cal. Proc. §1832.

modified open primary

A primary that is part-way between open and closed. A voter that is registered with a party can only vote in that party’s primary. A voter that is unaffiliated can vote in any single party’s primary by effectively becoming a member of that party for one day. Such primaries are held

in California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island and Utah. Also SLIGHTLY AJAR PRIMARY. Cf. CLOSED PRIMARY, OPEN PRIMARY.

modified system

A voting system which was previously certified but has been subsequently modified, necessitating further inspection. Fla. VSS Appendix.

module

A “structural unit of software or analogous logical design, typically containing several CALLABLE UNITS that are tightly coupled. ... Modular design requires that inter-module coupling be loose and occur over defined interfaces. A module should contain all elements needed to compile or interpret successfully and have limited access to data in other modules. A module should be substitutable with another module whose interfaces match the original module. In software, a module typically corresponds to a single source code file or a source code / header file pair. In object-oriented languages, this typically corresponds to a single class of object.” 2007 VVSG. The term is not used consistently in the VVSG; sometimes it refers exclusively to software and sometimes solely to hardware, e.g. SIGNATURE MODULE.

monitor

A “computer program that detects, interprets, and executes a function designated by closure of a switch or keyboard input.” Fla. VSS Appendix.

motor voter

A colloquial term for the NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT,

MRC ink

= MARK RECOGNITION CHARACTER INK.

MTBF

= MEAN TIME BETWEEN FAILURES.

MTTF

= MEAN TIME TO FAILURE.

M2B3

= MULTIPLE MOBILE BALLOT BOX BAY.

multi-faced ballot

Cf. FULL-FACE BALLOT.

multi-seat contest

See FIELD RACE, VOTE-FOR-MANY.

multiple mobile ballot box bay

Abbreviated M2B3.

municipal board of elections

In North Carolina, a city body exercising the functions of a COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

municipal clerk

The town clerk in or for a municipality. Conn. Stat. §9-1(a). Likewise in Wisconsin. The municipal clerk in these jurisdictions is responsible for VOTER REGISTRATION.

municipal election

An “election to be held in and for a single municipality only, at regular intervals.” N.J.S. §19:1-1.

municipal general election

The “the election held in municipalities and special districts on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each odd-numbered year.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(38).

municipal office

An “ELECTIVE OFFICE for which only the electors of a single town, city, borough, or political subdivision ...may vote, including the office of justice of the peace.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-372(7).

municipal primary election

An “election held to nominate candidates for municipal office.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(41).

municipal ward

WI

municipality

Any “city, town, borough, village, or township.” N.J.S. §19:1-1.

mutilated ballot

An “official ballot that has been damaged to the extent that it is not possible to determine the choice the voter intended to make. There are two kinds of mutilated official ballots: (1) A ballot that is mutilated and not cast. In this case, the mutilated ballot may be exchanged for a new one ... (2) A ballot that is mutilated and cast. A mutilated cast ballot is to be counted in the same manner as a spoiled cast ballot.” 25 C.F.R. §81.1(I)

N-of-M voting

A “VOTING VARIATION in which the voter is entitled to allocate a fixed number of votes (N) over a list of M CONTEST CHOICES or WRITE-INS, with the constraint that at most 1 vote may be allocated to a given contest choice.” 2007 VVSG. Also VOTE-FOR-MANY. See also CUMULATIVE VOTING.

NACO

= NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

NACRC

= NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY RECORDERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS, AND TREASURERS.

named block exit

A concept relating to software transparency. The “ability to exit a specific block from within an arbitrary number of nested blocks, as opposed to only being able to exit the innermost block, without resorting to goto.” 2007 VVSG.

NASED

= NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS.

NASS

= NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE.

National Association of Counties

Under HAVA, the National Association of Counties has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated NACO.

National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Treasurers

Under HAVA, the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Treasurers has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated NACRC.

National Association of Secretaries of State

Under HAVA, the National Association of Secretaries of State has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated NASS.

National Association of State Election Directors

Under HAVA, the National Association of State Election Directors has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS and two members to the DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. Abbreviated NASED.

National Certification Test Report

Examination and testing of a voting system using qualification test standards to determine whether the system complies with the qualification performance and other requirements of the GUIDELINES.

National Certification Testing

The report of results of independent testing of a voting system by an accredited test lab which is delivered to the EAC with a recommendation regarding granting a CERTIFICATION NUMBER.

National Conference of State Legislatures

Under HAVA, the National Conference of State Legislatures has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated NCSL.

national election

An election involving the entire electorate of a country. In the United States, a PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

National Governors Association

Under HAVA, the National Governors Association has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated NGA.

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology is the chair of the DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. Abbreviated NIST.

national certification

A misnomer describing the processing of testing a voting machine by an INDEPENDENT TESTING AUTHORITY to verify that it conforms to the VOTING SYSTEM STANDARDS. It is a

misnomer because there is nothing “national” about the standards, and the correct term should be “qualification” rather than “certification.”

national office

Almost the same as, but not identical to FEDERAL OFFICE, *q.v.* “National office’ means the offices of president and vice president of the United States, U.S. senator and representative in congress.” Wisc. Stat. §5.02(12).

national party

A “party established and admitted to the ballot in at least one state other than Hawaii or one which is determined by the chief election officer to be making a bona fide effort to become a national party.” 2 Hawaii Rev. Stat. §11-93.

National Software Reference Library

A NOTARY REPOSITORY component of NIST that maintains copies of software along with hash codes to form REFERENCE DATA SETS that can be used to establish that a given program is bona fide. Abbreviated NSRL.

National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program

The testing program established under Section 231 of HAVA, by which NIST certifies VSTLS. Abbreviated NVLAP.

National Voter Registration Act

An act, passed in 1993, to allow citizens to register to vote as they renew their driver’s licenses. 42 U.S.C. §1973gg et seq. Abbreviated NVRA. Also MOTOR VOTER.

Nationally Recognized Test Laboratory

In Texas, a precondition to submission of a voting system for CERTIFICATION is a summary report from a Nationally Recognized Test Laboratory declaring that the system meets Federal voting system requirements. 1 Texas Admin. Code. §81.60. In effect, a VSTL. Abbreviated NRTL.

natural disaster

One of a class of emergency situations that may result in the postponement of an election. A “natural occurrence, such as a fire, flood, blizzard, earthquake, tornado, windstorm, ice storm, or other events, which threatens the public peace, health and safety of the people or which damages and destroys public and private property.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-21.1(1). See also EXTREMELY INCLEMENT WEATHER, OTHER DISASTER.

navigation

The process by a voter of moving her attention around various portions of a BALLOT and the facilities provided by a VOTING DEVICE to facilitate such movement.

NCSL

= NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES.

Neff’s protocol

“Verifiable Mixing (Shuffling) of ElGamal Pairs,” available at <http://theory.lcs.mit.edu/~rivest/voting/papers/Neff-2004-04-21-ElGamalShuffles.pdf>.

new citizen

Any “person who meets all requirements of an ELECTOR of, and has established residency in, the State of California, except that he or she will become a United States citizen after the 15th day prior to an election but on or before the seventh day prior to that election.” Cal. Elec. Code §331. Cf. NEW RESIDENT.

new election

Invalidating the official election and holding a second one is a very rare event, but may be justified under certain circumstances. In North Carolina, the standard is set forth by statute: “The State Board of Elections may order a new election, upon agreement of at least four of its members, in the case of any one or more of the following:

- (1) Ineligible voters sufficient in number to change the outcome of the election were allowed to vote in the election, and it is not possible from examination of the official ballots to determine how those ineligible voters voted and to correct the totals.
- (2) Eligible voters sufficient in number to change the outcome of the election were improperly prevented from voting.
- (3) Other irregularities affected a sufficient number of votes to change the outcome of the election.
- (4) Irregularities or improprieties occurred to such an extent that they taint the results of the entire election and cast doubt on its fairness.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-182.13.

new party

Any “political group which has filed a valid petition and is entitled to place its list of candidates on the ballot at the next general or special election.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.013(16).

new resident

A “person who moves to this state after the last date authorized in this chapter to register to vote in any presidential election.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.275(3). See also INTERSTATE FORMER RESIDENT, INTRASTATE NEW RESIDENT.

new voting equipment system

“Voting equipment that is operated in a materially different way or that functions in a materially different way than the equipment being replaced.” Utah Code §20A-5-402.7(1).

next choice

With respect to INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, “the highest ranked CHOICE for a remaining candidate that has not become a vote at a previous STAGE.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.053.030(7).

NGA

= NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION.

nickname

A “familiar or shortened form of a proper name by which an individual is commonly known.” Wisc. Stat. 5.02(12m).

NIST

= NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

no float

(ES&S) An option in BALLOT IMAGE MANAGER whereby a CONTEST appears in the same position on each BALLOT STYLE; that is, the position of the contest does not float.

no indicia

A class of VVPAT system in which no encrypted strings or symbols, such as barcodes or hash codes, are printed on the paper record for security purposes, to preserve voter-verifiability. Unfortunately, such systems, particularly of the CUT-SHEET variety, may be susceptible to BALLOT STUFFING or BALLOT FORGERY. Cf. CRYPTO INDICIA.

no-party ballot

A ballot on which no party affiliations are associated with candidates. N.D.C.C. §16.1-06-08.

no vote

The failure of a voter to have a vote recorded for an office or question on which she was entitled to vote. A pure “no vote” results when no attempt to vote is recorded, in which case it is not known whether the voter voluntarily chose not to vote or did not follow instructions. Some jurisdictions consider an overvote to be a no vote because the result is the same, namely invalidation of the vote in the relevant office. In some cases, a voting position is designated as a “no vote” so the voter may positively indicate an intention not to vote. Also DROP VOTE.

no-vote button

A “button the election judge uses to clear a BALLOT DISPLAY when an elector fails to enter any votes on the DRE machine.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(kk).

nominee

A “CANDIDATE who has become entitled ... to a place on the ballot.” 3 Guam Code Ann. §1115.

non-affiliated elector

A voter who is not “affiliated with any political party.” Ore. Rev. Stat. §254.370 (1).

non-ballot voting

Voting without the use of DOCUMENT BALLOTS, as with DIRECT-RECORDING ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS.

non-coercibility

= UNCOERCIBILITY.

non-English speaking person

A “a person whose native speaking language is a language other than English, and who continues to use his or her native language as his or her primary means of oral and written communication.” D.C. Code Ann. §1-1031.01.

non-executable

“Declarative or informative in nature; not subject to interpretation or compilation as programming language instructions.” 2007 VVSG.

non-partisan

Not affiliated with a political party. A “candidate who is not a candidate of any political party and who is running for an office for which party candidates may not run.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.013(17).

non-partisan ballot

A “primary election ballot that lists all nonpartisan races and ballot measures to be voted on at that primary.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.008(7).

non-partisan election

An “election that is not a. PARTISAN ELECTION.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(23.3).

non-partisan office

An “elected office for which a political party may not nominate a candidate.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.0675. Cf. PARTISAN OFFICE.

non-party-specific office

= NON-PARTISAN OFFICE.

non-visual access

Access to voting that does not require the ability to see. HAVA. “Synthesized speech, Braille and other output methods not requiring sight.” W. Va. Code §3-1C-3(2).

non-volatile memory

“Memory in which information can be stored indefinitely with no power applied. Static RAM, ROMs and EPROMs are examples of nonvolatile memory.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

notary repository

An REPOSITORY which distributes software integrity information, such as digital signatures and hash values. 2007 VVSG.

notice of intention

The “notice filed with the recall election official by a recall committee for the purpose of initiating a recall effort.” N.J. S.A. §19:27A-3.

notification of ballot casting

The requirement that the voter be given positive indication that a BALLOT has been cast successfully. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

NRTL

= NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TEST LABORATORY.

NSRL

= NATIONAL SOFTWARE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

null ballot

= BLANK BALLOT.

NVLAP

= NIST NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.

NVRA

= NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT.

oath of voter

A voter in Kentucky whose name is not on the PRECINCT ROSTER may vote open executing a oath of voter declaring that he is eligible to vote.

object code

The “binary code produced by a compiler or assembler that can be executed directly by a computer without further simplification. A machine-language program is written in object code.” Fla. VSS Appendix. Cf. SOURCE CODE.

observation board

A board appointed to observe central counting procedures in Montana. Mont. Admin. Rules. §44.3.1765(2)(a).

observational test

An “OPERATIONAL TEST conducted on voting devices during an election, by real voters, to establish confidence that the VVPR is produced correctly when assistive technology is used.” 2007 VVSG.

observer

= WATCHER. N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-45. WI.

OEVT

= OPEN-ENDED VULNERABILITY TESTING. 2007 VVSG.

officer of election

1. Any “person who, under color of any Federal, State, Commonwealth, or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, authority, custom, or usage, performs or is authorized to perform any function, duty, or task in connection with any application, registration, payment of poll tax, or other act requisite to voting in any general, special, or primary election at which votes are cast for candidates” for FEDERAL OFFICE. 42 U.S.C. §1974e.
2. A “person appointed by an ELECTORAL BOARD ... to serve at a polling place for any election.” Va. Code §24.2-101. Likewise, TN.

Office of Public Integrity

Under HAVA, the Chief of the Office of Integrity of the DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (or his designee) is a member of the BOARD OF ADVISORS.

official ballot

A ballot “distributed by the election officer to the election judges to be given to voters to record their votes.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(41). The “list of offices and candidates and the statements of measures appropriate for use with that system in combination with the device upon which a vote is registered is an official ballot.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.175. The “material displaying the names of the candidates nominated and a statement of the questions submitted.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:47-1.

Unfortunately, the term is quite troublesome since it conflates at several separate notions: (1) the list of candidates officially running in the election; (2) the document or screen on which the voter indicates choices; and (3) the evidentiary record from which the ultimate tally is made.

In some jurisdictions requiring a VVPAT, it is unclear what the official ballot is, if there is any at all. Some statutes provide that the electronic record governs, but that if there is any inconsistency with the paper record, the paper record is the official ballot. In Nevada, the paper record must be “printed and serve as an official record for a recount, as necessary.” Nevada Rev. Stat. §293B.084(2)(b). Thus Nevada appears to distinguish between an “official ballot” and an “official record.”

official canvass

The “public process of processing and tallying all ballots received in an election, including, but not limited to, provisional ballots and absentee ballots not included in the semifinal official canvass. The official canvass also includes the process of reconciling ballots, attempting to prohibit duplicate voting by absentee and provisional voters, and performance of the manual tally of 1 percent of all precincts.” Cal. Elec. Code §335.5.

official endorsement

A notation affixed to a ballot to indicate that it is genuine. “(a) the information on the ballot that identifies: (i) the ballot as an official ballot; (ii) the date of the election; and (iii) the facsimile signature of the election officer; and (b) the information on the ballot stub that identifies: (i) the election judge's initials; and (ii) the ballot number.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(42).

official observer

A person designated to observe the counting of ballots. 2 Hawaii Rev. Stat. §16-45. An “observer officially appointed by the Secretary of State or an observer appointed by the United States government and approved by the Secretary of State. Official observers may be present in all phases of the election process, but are subject to rules and regulations as prescribed by the Secretary of State, and such other duties as may be assigned by the Secretary of State.” 8 Code Colo. Reg. §1505-8-1-1.

official register

The “book furnished election officials by the election officer” that contains information about registered voters. Utah Code §20A-1-102(44).

official returns

“The returns produced by the vote tallying system, to which have been added the counts of questioned ballots, write-in votes, and absentee votes, constitute the official returns of the primary or election in that county. “ Wash. Rev. Code §29A.60.120(3). “A vote total that is transmitted electronically is not considered an official return.” 21-A Maine Rev. Stat. §809-A(2).

official tally tape

The “first tape produced by an electronic tabulating machine that tallies the final vote totals at the conclusion of voting and that is attached to the zero tape produced by the machine prior to the start of voting.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(27-A).

official write-in candidate

= DECLARED WRITE-IN. One who has “filed a write-in candidate's certificate of announcement and have been certified according to [law].” W. Va. Code §3-4A-27(c)(7).

OMR

= OPTICAL MARK READING. Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-503(a).

on-site absentee voting

See EARLY VOTING.

one-of-M, 1-of-M

“N-OF-M VOTING where N = 1.” 2007 VVSG.

one percent manual tally

The “public process of manually tallying votes in 1 percent of the precincts, selected at random by the elections official, and in one precinct for each race not included in the randomly selected precincts. This procedure is conducted during the official canvass to verify the accuracy of the automated count.” Cal. Elec. Code §336.5.

ongoing absentee ballot

A “ballot provided to voters who have requested in writing to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each ensuing election for which he or she is entitled to vote, and provided to voters who are certified participants in the ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-010(6).

open ballot

A ballot which is exposed to the public. “In all elections by the people, the mode of voting shall be by ballot; but the voter shall be left free to vote by either open, sealed or secret ballot, as he may elect.” W.Va. Const. Art. IV, §4-2. West Virginia is the only state having such a provision.

open-ended vulnerability testing

An unstructured set of tests “to discover architecture, design and implementation flaws in the system which may not be detected using systematic functional, reliability, and security testing and which may be exploited to change the outcome of an election, interfere with voters’ ability to cast ballots or have their votes counted during an election, or compromise the secrecy of [the] vote. The goal of OEVT also includes attempts to discover logic bombs, time bombs or other Trojan Horses that may have been introduced in the system hardware, firmware or software for said purposes.” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated OEVT.

open primary

A primary in which any registered voter may vote, even if not registered with a political party, but must vote for candidates of only one party and must declare a choice of party to election officials. Current open primary states are California, Louisiana and Washington. Cf. BLANKET PRIMARY, CLOSED PRIMARY, MODIFIED OPEN PRIMARY, PICK A PARTY PRIMARY, SELECTIVE PRIMARY, SLIGHTLY AJAR PRIMARY.

open source

A method of software development in which the source code is made publicly available for testing and comment by a wide audience. Not only is the level of public confidence in the software raised by its transparency, but the size of the viewing community increases the chance that errors will be detected. The Open Voting Consortium, www.openvotingconsortium.org, is developing an open source voting system.

open state

A composite VOTING STATE of a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE which includes the ACTIVATED STATE and the SUSPENDED STATE. 2007 VVSG.

open voting

A method of voting in which the voter's ballot is voluntarily exposed. W. Va. Code §3-4-8(1).

operational environment

The collection of "all software, hardware (including facilities, furnishings and fixtures), materials, documentation, and the interface used by the election personnel, maintenance operator, poll worker, and voter, required for voting equipment operations." 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

operational test

A "test conducted on voting equipment in an active (operational) state." 2007 VVSG.

opscan

= OPTICAL SCAN.

optical mark reading

Abbreviated OMR.

optical mark reading equipment

Any "apparatus necessary to automatically examine and count votes as designated on paper ballots." Miss. Code Ann. 23-15-503(b).

optical scan

"Optical scan" means a procedure in which votes cast on a paper ballot are tabulated by means of examining marks made in voting response locations on the ballot with an optical reader." N.D.C.C. §16-1-06-12(8). Also MARKSENSE.

optical scan ballot

A "ballot that is marked by using a specified writing instrument to fill in a designated position to record a voter's candidate, question, or issue choice and that can be scanned and electronically read in order to tabulate the vote." Ohio Rev. State. §3506.21(A).

optical scan voting system

An "electronic voting system ... in which the voter records votes by marking with a pencil or other device, including an ELECTRONIC BALLOT MARKER, a ballot on which the names of candidates, office titles, party designation in a partisan primary or election, and a statement of any question accompanied by the words 'Yes' and 'No' are printed." Minn. Stat. §206.90(1).

optical scanner

A "TABULATOR that counts votes recorded by means of marks made on the surface of a paper ballot." 2007 VVSG.

optically scanned ballot

A "paper ballot designed to be read by an optical scanning machine." Alaska Stat. §15.60.005(20).

optional recount

A RECOUNT that can be requested by a losing candidate for nomination or election. if the margin of loss is greater than that required for an AUTOMATIC RECOUNT. Minn. Stat. §204C.35(2).

orientation bar

(opscan) A preprinted mark on an optical scan ballot that enables the scanner to determine the ballot's orientation.

other disaster

One of a class of emergency situations that may result in the postponement of an election. An "occurrence caused by machines or people, such as fire, hazardous substance or nuclear power plant accident or incident, which threatens the public peace, health and safety of the people or which damages and destroys public and private property." Iowa Admin. Code 721-21.1(1). See also EXTREMELY INCLEMENT WEATHER, NATURAL DISASTER.

out of band communication

"Communication through some means other than the primary channel under discussion. If the primary communication channel is the Internet, then out-of-band channel might be via U.S. mail, or a voice telephone connection, or any other channel that does not involve the Internet." The concept is important because compromise of a communication channel does not expose out of band messages. CIVTF Appendix A.

out of order

See DISREPAIR.

out-of-precinct voting place

A voting place for a precinct that is located outside that precinct. Such a place may be provided if there is no suitable place within the precinct. N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-130.1.

out-of-state voter

A voter who is out of his state of domicile but within the territorial limits of the United States. See, e.g., Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.103.

outer space

While this is not likely to be an issues of concern to most jurisdictions, Texas, home to the Johnson Space Center, specifically provides that astronauts may vote from outer space 1 Texas Admin. Code §4:81.35.

oval

(opscan) An elliptical area on an optical scan ballot for the voter to mark to indicate a selection. Also CANDIDATE OVAL. "A mark that touches the oval on an optical scan ballot shall be counted as a vote; any mark that does not touch the oval and is not in the oval may not be counted as a vote." S.D. Rules §5:02:09:22.

oval position

(opscan) The location of an OVAL on a ballot.

oval width

(opscan) Not the width of the OVAL per se, but the thickness of the oval's boundary line.

overflow

The inability of a memory location or data structure, such as an array, to accommodate data larger than a certain size or value. The 2007 VVSG define certain overflow conditions, such as array overflow, counter overflow, numeric overflow and stack overflow, which must be checked expressly by software.

overlay

See TEMPLATE.

override

With respect to STRAIGHT-PARTY voting, the selection in one or more offices of a candidate not of the party being voted for. Also SCRATCH VOTE.

overseas citizen

An individual who resides outside the territorial limits of the United States and who, but for such residence, would be a qualified elector. The term does not include a MILITARY ELECTOR. 25 Pa. C.S. §1102.

overseas federal election voter

1. = OVERSEAS VOTER.
2. Any “person in military service who, by reason of active duty or service, is absent on the date of an election from the place of residence in New Jersey where the person is or would be qualified to vote, and any citizen of the United States residing abroad who (1) immediately prior to his departure from the United States was domiciled in New Jersey and (a) was registered to vote, or had all the qualifications to register and vote, in New Jersey; or (b) had all the qualifications to register and vote in New Jersey other than having attained 18 years of age but has since attained that age; or (c) would, but for residence, have the qualifications to register and vote in New Jersey; (2) does not maintain a residence in the United States and is not registered or qualified to vote elsewhere in the United States; and (3) holds a valid passport or card of identity and registration issued under authority of the Secretary of State of the United States.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:52-2(d).

overseas voter

A voter who is entitled to the benefit of UOCAVA.

“ ‘Overseas voter’ means

(A) an absent uniformed services voter who, by reason of active duty or service is absent from the United States on the date of the election involved;

(B) a person who resides outside the United States and is qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States; or

(C) a person who resides outside the United States and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-6(5).

Note that an overseas voter need not necessarily be outside the United States on the day of an election. Sometimes OVERSEAS FEDERAL ELECTION VOTER., e.g. N.J.S.A. §19:59-2(d).

overvote

A “condition of a voted ballot in which more votes have been cast for an ISSUE or OFFICE than the number of votes that the voter is lawfully entitled to cast.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.21.

Generally no vote at all is counted for any office that is overvoted, but there are exceptions. In a vote-for-many office, for example, in Iowa, if a voter writes in the same name more than once in the write-in spaces, exactly one of the votes will count despite the overvote. Iowa Code §49.99. Cf. UNDERVOTE.

overvoted ballot

A “BALLOT on which the voter has voted for more than the number of candidates to be elected for that office, or in both the affirmative and negative on a ballot question. N.M. Admin. Code 1.10.12.7(P). There is a significant difference between PRECINCT COUNT and CENTRAL COUNT systems with respect to correcting overvoted paper ballots. In a PRECINCT COUNT system, the voter is present while the ballot is tabulated and can be informed that an overvote exists and be given the opportunity to make a correction. In a CENTRAL COUNT system, the ballot is tabulated outside the voter’s presence and no correction can be made.

P&M System

= PAPER AND MARKSENSE VOTING SYSTEM.

paging ballot machine

A voting machine in which the ballot is presented in pages rather than FULL-FACE. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:553.1.

Paillier system

A cryptographic protocol useful in electronic voting, invented by Pascal Paillier in 1999. A vote for a candidate (1 = for, 0 = against) is blinded through multiplication by a power of a large random number) and then encrypted using Paillier’s protocol. The protocol has the property that the votes of all the voters (each of which is secret because of the randomization factor), when multiplied together and then decrypted, yield the total number of votes for the candidate. The protocol can be used for END-TO-END VERIFICATION.

panic lever

A “lever the election judge uses to clear the votes when an elector fails to enter any votes on a lever voting machine.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(mm). Cf. NO-VOTE BUTTON.

paper and marksense voting system

= PAPER-BASED VOTING SYSTEM. An obsolete term from the 1990 FEC Standards. Abbreviated P&M SYSTEM.

paper-based device

“A voting device that records votes, counts votes, and/or produces a report of the vote count from votes cast on paper cards or sheets.” 2007 VVSG.

paper-based voting system

“A voting system ... that records votes, counts votes, and produces a tabulation of the vote count, using one or more ballot cards.” FVSS Appendix. See also PAPER-BASED DEVICE.

paper ballot

A “paper vote sheet that is either counted by hand or by use of automatic tabulating equipment.” Ark. Register §108.00.02-003.300(f). A “piece of paper on which the ballot for a particular election or primary has been printed, on which a voter may record his or her choices

for any candidate or for or against any measure, and that is to be tabulated manually.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.007(2).

paper ballot voting system

The “method of recording votes which are counted manually.” Hawaii Rev. Stat. §16-21. Cf. VOTING MACHINE SYSTEM.

paper record

A “paper BALLOT IMAGE or summary that is a copy of the electronic record and that is verifiable by a voter.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

paper record copy

A “an auditable document printed by a voter verified paper audit trail component that corresponds to the voter's electronic vote and lists the contests on the ballot and the voter's selections for those contests. A paper record copy is not a ballot.” Cal. Elec. Code §19251(e).

paper trail

See VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER AUDIT TRAIL.

parallel monitoring

= PARALLEL TESTING.

parallel testing

The testing of randomly selected voting machines during an election. A “process designed to detect the potential presence of malicious code in the software of a voting machine. It requires a specific number of voting machines to be removed from random poll sites before voting begins. These machines are then test-voted throughout election day.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-510. This method was proposed by Michael Shamos in 2003 to detect systems programmed to behave differently while the polls are open, thus defying pre- and post-election LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING. Also PARALLEL MONITORING.

parish

The Louisiana equivalent of a COUNTY.

parish board of supervisors

The body that supervises elections in a Louisiana parish.

parish custodian

A local election official in Louisiana. “The clerk of the district court is ex officio parish custodian of voting machines in each parish, except that in any parish having a civil and a criminal district court the clerk of the criminal district court is ex officio parish custodian of voting machines.” La. R.S. §18:1354.

partial bloc voting

A method of voting in which the voter is allowed to vote for n out of m candidates, but the $k > n$ candidates receiving the highest totals will be elected. Cf. BLOC VOTING.

partial count ballot

An ABSENTEE BALLOT or QUESTIONED BALLOT that can be counted only for certain races because the voter voted in a district in which he or she was not registered. In such cases, statewide races and ballot measures count. If the voter votes within his or her state Senate

district, the Senate race will count if the voter is registered in either of the two House districts that share the Senate district.

partial recount

A “RECOUNT in fewer than the total number of election precincts involved in an election.” Texas Elec. Code §211.002(3). See also Ore. Rev. Stat. §258.006(8).

partially punched vote card

A “vote card with chad(s) in which only one (1) corner is broken or separated from the card.” Ark. Register §108.00.02-003.300(g). Cf. CANDIDATE AREA.

partisan ballot

A “ballot which contains a distinctive code associated with the major political party of the voter and on which is clearly printed the name of the party.” Nev. Rev. Stat. 293B.300.

partisan election

An “election in which the names of the candidates are printed on the ballot along with their affiliation. The existence of a partisan election for the state or for a political subdivision as a part of a coordinated election does not cause an otherwise nonpartisan election of another political subdivision to become a partisan election.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(23.6). Cf. NON-PARTISAN ELECTION.

partisan office

A “public office for which a candidate may indicate a political party preference on his or her declaration of candidacy and have that preference appear on the primary and general election ballot in conjunction with his or her name.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.110. “An elected office for which candidates run as representatives of a political party.” FVSS Appendix. Cf. NON-PARTISAN OFFICE.

party

A “political organization which has qualified to participate in a primary or general election.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(28).

party ballot

A “primary election ballot specific to a particular major political party that lists all partisan offices to be voted on at that primary, and the candidates for those offices who affiliate with that same major political party.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.008(6).

party certificate

A “written statement or receipt signed by the secretary or chair of the county committee or of the state committee, as the case may be, of the political party evidencing the name and title proposed to be used by the candidate on the ballot, the position the candidate seeks, payment of the fees, and filing of the party pledge, if any, required by the political party.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(16).

party-column ballot

= INDIANA BALLOT.

party designation committee

An “organization, composed of at least twenty-five members who are electors, which has, on or after November 4, 1981, reserved a party designation with the Secretary of the State.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-372(8).

party-endorsed candidate

“[I]n the case of a candidate for state or district office, a person endorsed by the convention of a political party as a candidate in a primary to be held by such party, and (B) in the case of a candidate for municipal office or for member of a town committee, a person endorsed by the town committee, caucus or convention, as the case may be, of a political party as a candidate in a primary to be held by such party.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-372(9).

party observer

A representative of a political party who is permitted to observe an AUDIT of an ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM. Wash. Rev. Code §29A.60.185.

party office

The “office of delegate or alternate to the national convention of a political party or member of the State, county or municipal committees of a political party.” N.J.S. §19:1-1.

party-specific contest

A “CONTEST such that eligibility to vote in that contest is restricted based on political party AFFILIATION or lack thereof.” 2007 VVSG.

party voter

Any “any qualified voter who is eligible to vote at the primary election of a political party.” R.I. Gen. Laws §17-1-2(8).

password strength

The resistance of a password to compromise by guessing or brute force. 2007 VVSG.

paste-in

A label, preprinted with one or more candidate names, that can be pasted on or attached to a ballot.

paster

A “sticker that is used to correct the name of a candidate on ballots whenever: (1) a new candidate is appointed or selected ...; or (2) a change must be made to correct any error; after the ballots are printed and before the election.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-35.

pause and resume

The ability of a VOTING STATION to allow the voter to stop any audio presentation and resume it on request. Under the 2007 VVSG, an AUDIO-TACTILE INTERFACE must provide pause and resume.

PCA

= PHYSICAL CONFIGURATION AUDIT.

PCMCIA card

A removable card that can be plugged into a computer, usually a laptop, to allow data exchange between the computer and the card. Such cards are used in voting machines to

contain ballot information or to transfer vote totals and ballot images to a central counting device. "PCMCIA" stands for "Personal Computer Memory Card International Association."

PCOS

= PRECINCT-COUNT OPTICAL SCANNER.

PEB

= PERSONAL ELECTRONIC BALLOT.

Pennsylvania method

A rule, unique to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for interpreting OVERRIDES to STRAIGHT-PARTY VOTES on electronic voting systems.

penetration testing

= VULNERABILITY TESTING.

perfect ballot index

A "BENCHMARK used in the VPP. The ratio of the number of CAST BALLOTS containing no erroneous votes over the number of cast ballots containing one or more errors (either a vote for an unintended choice, or a missing vote)." 2007 VVSG.

perfect mark

(opscan) A MARK that conforms to the manufacturer's specifications. 2007 VVSG. Cf. IMPERFECT MARK.

permanent advance voter

A person who has registered as a disabled voter and hence receives an advance ballot automatically before each election. Kan. Stat. Ann. §25-1124(d).

permanent paper record

A "paper record upon which shall be printed in human readable form the votes cast for each candidate and for or against each public question on each ballot recorded in the voting system. Each permanent paper record shall be printed by the voting device upon activation of the marking device by the voter and shall contain a unique, randomly assigned identifying number that shall correspond to the number randomly assigned by the voting system to each ballot as it is electronically recorded." 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C-2.

person in charge of an election

The local official responsible for the safe conduct of an election. The "county auditor in all cases except local elections for a municipality, school district, township, or other political subdivision, in which case it is the officer having the position comparable to the auditor in that unit of government if not specifically designated by law." S. Dak. Code §2-1-3(7).

personal assistive device

A "device that is carried or worn by an individual with some physical impairment whose primary purpose is to help compensate for that impairment." 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

personal electronic ballot

A "cartridge containing ballot information that is inserted into the IVOTRONIC terminal to activate the correct ballot for a voter." 2004 Pasco ESP 7. Abbreviated PEB.

personal identification number

Abbreviated PIN.

personnel deployment and training requirements

A document required as part of the TDP which shall “describe the personnel resources and training required for a jurisdiction to operate and maintain the system.” 2007 VVSG.

pertinent equipment

“[C]hannels, rollers, compensators, lockouts, pins and shutters used in connection with voting machines.” N.J.S.A. §19:48-3.15.

physical configuration audit

An inspection that compares the voting system components submitted for qualification to the vendor’s technical documentation and confirms that the documentation submitted meets the requirements of the Standards. As part of the PCA, the ITA also witnesses the building of the executable system to ensure that the qualified executable release is built from the tested components. 2002 FEC A-5. The “formal examination of the as-built version of a voting system against its design documentation in order to establish the product baseline.” 2007 VVSG.

physical disability

“Blindness or any other physical handicap making it impracticable to cast a ballot.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.070.

physical security

It is clear that voting system must be resistant to tampering or intrusion both by electronic and physical means. Requirements that address the physical aspects of voting system security: locks, tamper-evident seals, etc., form part of the security coverage of the 2007 VVSG.

physically separate ballot

A “ballot specific to a single major political party, listing candidates for that major political party and including non-partisan offices and issues, or a ballot containing only non-partisan offices and issues.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-22-020(4).

pick a party primary

A type of OPEN PRIMARY in which the voter may choose a party in which to vote for that election regardless of the party to which the voter belongs. Also SELECTIVE PRIMARY.

pick belt

(opscan) An elastic band used to feed a ballot into a scanner.

pick failure

An error that occurs when an optical scanner is unable to obtain the next ballot for scanning.

pick up judge

In Missouri a JUDGE who picks up election materials from the county election board prior to an election.

piling

A method of counting paper ballots. Minn. Stat. §204C.21.

PIN

= PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.

PIP

= PUBLIC INFORMATION PACKAGE.

PKI

= PUBLIC-KEY INFRASTRUCTURE.

plain language

The requirement for use of plain language on the BALLOT and any accompanying instructions. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

plain view

“During the election, the exterior of the voting and counting equipment and every part of the polling place shall be in plain view of the officers of election.” Va. Code §24.2-638.

plural voting

Illegally voting more than once in the same election. Alaska Stat. §15.15.410.

plurality

Usually, the largest number of votes but less than a majority. However, the term has different definitions in various states: “the receiving by one candidate alone of the highest number of votes cast for eligible candidates in an election among the candidates for the same office, provided that such number of votes exceeds 45 percent of the total number of votes cast in such election for such office. In the case where two or more persons tie in receiving the highest number of votes or no candidate receives more than 45 percent of the total votes cast for eligible candidates in the election for the office sought there is no plurality.” Ga. Code Ann. §21-2-2(22).

plus mark

In some states, a plus sign (+) is an acceptable mark on a ballot. N.J.S.A. §19:15-28.

political party

A term that seems to have as many meanings as there are states in the United States. “[A]n organization which nominates candidates for public office.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(14). Any “group of voters which at the last preceding general election polled for its candidate for Governor in the state or nominees for presidential electors at least three percent (3%) of the entire vote cast for the office.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(17)(A). “Any affiliation of voters representing any principle or organization which, at the last preceding general election, polled for its candidate for governor at least one per cent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for that office in the state.” W. Va. Code §3-1-8. See also LIMITED POLITICAL PARTY.

political subdivision

A “county, city, or school district or any other governmental entity that: (A) embraces a geographic area with a defined boundary; (B) exists for the purpose of discharging functions of government; and (C) possesses authority for subordinate self-government through officers selected by it.” Tex. Elec. Code §1.005(13).

poll book

The “list of eligible electors to whom ballots are delivered or who are permitted to enter a voting machine for the purpose of casting their votes at an election.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(27). The “form furnished election board officers to be used for recording the names of the registered voters issued ballots, the number on each ballot issued and whether or not such ballots were voted.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.075. A “book used in a precinct on election day containing oaths of election officials, tally sheets, the poll list, and other information specified by law.” Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570, §4(oo).

poll challenger

A CHALLENGER, in North Dakota. A “representative of a political party who may make a request of an election board member to challenge any person offering to vote. The challenge person, unless the challenge is withdrawn, shall stand aside and may not vote unless the challenged person signs an affidavit in front of the election inspector that the voter is a legally qualified voter of the PRECINCT.

poll checker

In North Dakota, a representative of a political party who observes voting to monitor TURNOUT.

poll clerk

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in Indiana and West Virginia who hands out BALLOTS to voters. Ind. Code. §3-6-6-2.

poll list

“‘Poll list’ means the list which is compiled by election officials on election day showing the names and addresses of electors who actually cast votes in an election.” Wisc. St. §5.02(14). The “list of names of electors who vote or offer to vote at a precinct at an election as compiled by the precinct judge or clerk in the pollbook.” Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570, §4(pp). Also POSTING LIST. See also VOTE LIST.

poll manager

= MANAGER OF ELECTION. Likewise in Georgia.

poll officer

The “CHIEF MANAGER, assistant managers, and CLERKS required to conduct primaries and elections in any precinct.” Georgia Code Ann. §21-2-2(26).

poll report

A report listing the collated election results for a given POLLING LOCATION.

poll-site ballot counting device

“[A] device programmed to accept voted ballots at a polling place for the purpose of tallying and storing the ballots on election day.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.115.

poll-site voting

= IN-PERSON VOTING.

poll watcher

A “party worker who remains in the voting place outside the guardrail enclosure for the purpose of viewing the voting process, keeping track of the voters who have voted or challenging voters whose qualifications appear to be in question.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(30-A). A “watcher who shall be permitted to be present at the place where the ballots are cast from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are counted and certificates of the result of the election signed by the inspectors. The watcher shall be permitted to see the ballots as they are called during the count. The watcher shall be sworn to faithfully observe the rule of law prescribed for the conduct of elections. ... The function of the watcher is to observe activities at the polling place. The watcher may not disturb voters, attempt to influence voters, campaign, or display or wear any campaign material or buttons while inside any polling place.” Ala. Code §17-6-8.

poll worker

1. This term has no uniform definition, but generally means a person who assists in the operation of a POLLING LOCATION. The role is narrowly defined in the 2007 VVSG as a person who checks in voters and activates a BALLOT STYLE.
2. The need to address USABILITY for poll workers is a HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

pollbook audit

A post-election comparison of the POLL BOOK with other records, whose purpose is to verify that: “The total number of ballots recorded by the voting system in some location is the same as the total number of voters authorized to cast votes; the total number of ballots recorded for each BALLOT CONFIGURATION, and for each REPORTING CONTEXT, is the same as the number of such voters authorized to vote with those ballot configurations[s], in those reporting contexts. This mitigates the threat that a tampered TABULATOR (such as a PCOS scanner) might have inserted or deleted votes, and also the threat that it may have assigned some voters the wrong reporting context or ballot to prevent them [from] voting in certain elections or to dilute the effect of their votes.” 2007 VVSG.

pollbook holder

In Indiana, a local ELECTION OFFICIAL, to whom the voter announces her name on appearing at the polls.

polling location

The “physical address of a POLLING PLACE.” 2005 VVSG V1., APPENDIX A. Also POLLING SITE.

polling place

The “building where residents of a voting precinct vote or where absentee voting is conducted.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(46). “[T]he room or rooms where voters apply to vote and mark and cast their ballots.” Tenn. Code 2-1-104(17). A “facility that is staffed by poll workers and equipped with voting equipment, to which voters from a given precinct come to cast in-person ballots.” Some states provide for a single polling place for each precinct. “The governing body shall establish by ordinance one polling place for each precinct.” Va. Code §24.2-307. 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. Also POLLING SITE.

polling place voting

Voting in which the voter goes to a specific location to vote, as opposed to ABSENTEE VOTING OR INTERNET VOTING.

polling site

A “location selected by the county board of election commissioners where votes are cast.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(18). Also POLLING PLACE.

polls

A place where voting takes place.

polls switch

A switch or button on a voting machine, normally protected by a seal, that is used to open or close the polls during an actual election.

port

1. A physical receptacle or device through which communication with an external device can occur.
2. A particularized concept relating to ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY. The “interface of an ELECTRONIC DEVICE (“apparatus”) with its electrical and electromagnetic environment.” 2007 VVSG. See also CONTROL PORT, EARTH PORT, ENCLOSURE PORT, POWER PORT, SIGNAL PORT.

portable vote tallying system

A “system employing special paper ballots under which votes are cast by voters marking special paper ballots with a vote marking device and are counted by use of automatic tabulating equipment located in the precinct polling place.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-22.101(52).

position

1. BALLOT POSITION.
2. A “square, circle, rectangle, or other geometric shape on a BALLOT in which the voter marks his choice.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(47).

position effect

= PRIMACY EFFECT.

post-election LAT

See PRE-ELECTION LAT.

post-voting state

A VOTING STATE of a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE after the polls have been closed but before the device is cleared or configured for a subsequent election. 2007 VVSG.

postal ballot

= MAIL BALLOT.

postelection review official

The election administration official in Minnesota who is responsible for the conduct of elections in a precinct selected for postelection review. Minn. Stat. §206.89.

posting

“As used in the Election Code ... ‘posting’ means posting for not less than seven days prior to an election or to an action to be taken, in at least one conspicuous place in each precinct in the county.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-15.

posting list

A “list of registered voters within a voting precinct.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(48). Also POLL LIST.

postponed election

Under emergency circumstances an election may be postponed. Iowa Admin. Code §721-21.1(6). The postponement may even take place on ELECTION DAY. However, because of 2 U.S.C. §7, elections for FEDERAL OFFICES may not be postponed by the states.

power port

A PORT through which electrical power is supplied to components of a voting system. 2007 VVSG.

PowerProfile

(ES&S) A VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

precinct

An “administrative division representing a geographic area in which voters cast ballots at the same POLLING PLACE.” 2005 VVSG VI, APPENDIX A. The “smallest voting unit established as provided by law within which qualified voters vote at one POLLING PLACE.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(84). Similarly, Alaska Stat. 15.60.010(24). The “geographical boundary lines dividing a county, municipality, township, or school district for voting purposes.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(20). A “designated division of a county for election purposes which is entitled to a polling place and a precinct board.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-11. See also CONSOLIDATED PRECINCT, SPLIT PRECINCT.

precinct adjustment record

A record that must be produced by the ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM for purposes of AUDIT showing the “changes made to each contest based on the resolution of PROVISIONAL BALLOTS, CHALLENGED BALLOTS, WRITE-IN choices, and the date and time of the record.” 2007 VVSG.

precinct ballot counter

An “automatic tabulating device used at the precinct to tabulate and process ballots.” Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §117.375(10).

precinct ballot scanning device

A “device used by the voter at the precinct on election day or during early voting for the purpose of scanning the voter's ballot after the ballot has been voted but prior to depositing the ballot into the ballot box.” W.V. Code §3-4A-9b(a).

precinct-based optical scanner

= PRECINCT-COUNT OPTICAL SCANNER. An “optical ballot scanner that is located in the precinct and into which optical scan voter-verified paper ballots, marked either by hand by the

voter or with the assistance of a device, are inserted to count the VOTER VERIFIED PAPER BALLOT.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(19).

precinct board

The “appointed election officials serving a single PRECINCT or a CONSOLIDATED PRECINCT.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-13. A board of appointed election officials supervising ABSENTEE VOTING. N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.12.7(Q).

precinct captain

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in charge of a in the District of Columbia.

precinct caucus

A “meeting of registered electors of a precinct who are eligible to participate, ... such meeting being organized in accordance with the rules and regulations of the political party. Colorado Stat. §1-101-4(31).

precinct code

An indication on a ballot designating the PRECINCT to which it applies. In some states, a ballot must bear such a code: “The computer or counting device must halt or indicate by appropriate signal if a ballot is encountered which lacks a code identifying the precinct in which it was voted.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293B.130(1)(d).

precinct count

Referring to a system in which votes are tabulated at the PRECINCT or POLLING PLACE at which they are cast. Also IN-PRECINCT COUNTING. Cf. CENTRAL COUNT.

precinct-count optical scanner

A device that counts ballots at a POLLING LOCATION instead of at a central station. An advantage of precinct count scanning is that a voter who has overvoted can be alerted and given an opportunity to remark the ballot or obtain another. An OPTICAL SCANNER used as a PRECINCT TABULATOR.” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated PCOS.

precinct count voting system

A “voting system that tabulates ballots at the polling place. These systems typically tabulate ballots as they are cast and print the results after the close of polling. For DRES, and for some paper-based systems, these systems provide electronic storage of the vote count and may transmit results to a central location over public telecommunication networks. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

precinct election officer

A “person appointed to serve in a precinct as one (1) of the following: (1) Inspector. (2) Judge. (3) Poll clerk. (4) Assistant poll clerk. (5) Election sheriff.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-40.1. Likewise in Kansas.

precinct election records

The “precinct election returns, voted ballots, and other records of an election,” as described in Texas Elec. Code §66.002.

precinct inspector

An official appointed to “be present in the polling place of the precinct during all elections and act as the personal agent and deputy of the election commissioner. The precinct inspector shall enforce the Election Act and see that all proceedings are in accordance with the instructions, rules, regulations, and laws and shall challenge any voter whose name does not appear on the election register or who the precinct inspector believes is impersonating a person whose name appears on the register or is attempting to vote illegally. The precinct inspector shall ensure that the judges and clerks of election comply with the act in the conduct of the election. oversee the procedures of a group of polling places and shall act as the personal agent and deputy of the election commissioner.” Neb. Stat. §32-225(1). Cf. DISTRICT INSPECTOR.

precinct official

In Hawaii, an ELECTION OFFICIAL who operates a ballot demonstration station, poll book station, ballot issuing station and ballot box station.

precinct register

The “list of voters for a single precinct.” Md. Election Code Ann. §1-101(ii)

precinct summary count record

A record that must be produced by the ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM for purposes of AUDIT. Its detailed contents are specified in the 2007 VVSG, but fundamentally it ties the unique device identifiers of each TABULATOR used in a PRECINCT to various data elements produced by that tabulator, such as the vote totals.

precinct tabulation

Cf. CENTRAL TABULATION.

precinct tabulation optical scan technology

The “capability to examine a ballot through electronic means and tabulate the votes at one or more counting places.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24B-2.

precinct tabulator

An “electronic optical scanning ballot tabulation system or other tabulator designated by the director to electronically count ballots.” Alaska Stat. §15.60.010(25). A “TABULATOR that counts votes at the polling place. ... These devices typically tabulate ballots as they are cast and print the results after the close of polls. For DRES and some paper-based systems, these devices provide electronic storage of the vote count and may transmit results to a central location over public telecommunication networks.” 2007 VVSG.

precinct technician

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in the District of Columbia responsible for setting up and supervising voting equipment.

precinct voting system

A voting system in which initial tabulation is performed at the POLLING PLACE, as opposed to a CENTRAL COUNT system.

precision

1. The “extent to which a given set of measurements of the same sample agree with their mean. Thus, precision is commonly taken to be the standard deviation estimated from sets of

duplicate measurements made under conditions of repeatability, that is, independent test results obtained with the same method on identical test material, in the same laboratory or test facility, by the same operator using the same equipment within short intervals of time. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

2. The “degree of refinement in measurement or specification, especially as represented by the number of digits given.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

PrecisionVote

A wheel-shaped multiposition switch on the Hart InterCivic eSlate DRE used by the voter make selections and obviating the need for a TOUCH SCREEN.

preclearance county

A county whose election board decisions are subject to the approval of the State Board of Elections. 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §4:080.

pre-election LAT

A LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST performed before an election to verify that the voting system is operating properly.

preference voting

= INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING.

preferential bloc voting

A method of voting in which the voter ranks n out of m candidates using the numbers 1 through n , with 1 indicating his first choice. The candidate(s) receiving the fewest numbers of 1's is eliminated and the vote for that candidate is transferred to the voter's next choice and the process is repeated until the requisite number of candidates have been selected. Cf. BLOC VOTING.

preferential primary

“Whenever any political party shall select by PRIMARY ELECTION party nominees as candidates at any GENERAL ELECTION for any United States, state, district, county, township, or municipal office, there shall be held a preferential primary election and a GENERAL PRIMARY election.” Ark. Code §7-7-203(b).

pregnant chad

(obsolete) A CHAD that has been deformed, usually by a voter's stylus, but no corner of which has been detached from a punched card. No jurisdiction counts pregnant chads as votes, but if no other bite is cast is a particular office, pregnancy is some indication of VOTER INTENT. See also DIMPLE.

Premier Election Solutions

(vendor) An election equipment subsidiary of Diebold, Inc. formed in 2001 through acquisition of the assets of Global Election Systems and originally named Diebold Election Systems.

prescribed mark

A concept from MARK-SENSE and PAPER balloting. “The form of mark a voter is instructed to make in the VOTING TARGET in order to cast a vote.” Jones.

Presidential absentee ballot

An ABSENTEE BALLOT that has only the Presidential RACE, used to satisfy the provisions of 42 U.S.C. §1973aa-1, which preserves the right of citizens who have moved to vote for the office of President.

Presidential ballot

1. A “ballot to be cast at a PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.” N.J.S.A. §19:58-2.
2. A ballot that is restricted to the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States provided to a voter who has changed her state of residence within 30 days prior to the election. Texas. Elec. Code §113.001. See RESTRICTED BALLOT.

Presidential election

An “election to be held for the election of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States.” N.J.A. §19:58-2

Presidential preference primary

An election “to give qualified electors the opportunity to express their preference for the presidential candidate of the political party indicated as their preference by the record of their registration.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-241

Presidential primary election

An “election to choose delegates to a national party convention.” 63 N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:6.
An “election ... at which a political party's voters are given an opportunity to express their preferences for the party's presidential candidates. Texas Elec. Code §1.005(24)

presidential single voting

A feature of a voting system allowing the voter to select electors for both President and Vice-President in a single act. Presidential single voting is the usual method even in states that do not permit STRAIGHT-PARTY VOTING.

presidential year

A “year in which electors of President and Vice-President of the United States are voted for at the general election.” N.J.S. §19:1-1.

presiding judge

The official in charge of a COUNTING STATION. Texas Elec. Code §127.005.

Presiding Officer

The precinct official in charge of a polling place.

prevoting

= EARLY VOTING.

pre-voting state

A VOTING STATE of a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE prior to opening the polls. 2007 VVSG.

primacy effect

The name given by political scientists to the observed phenomenon that voters give preference to the first candidate listed in a RACE, regardless of political party. The effect can be reduced through BALLOT ROTATION. Also POSITION EFFECT.

primary city election

An election authorized by the governing body of a city. Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.079.

primary election

“Any election held by a political party in the manner provided by law for the purpose of selecting nominees of the political party for certification as candidates for election at any general or special election.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(20). An “ELECTION held to determine which candidate(s) will represent a political party for particular offices in the GENERAL ELECTION and/or to narrow the field of candidates in NON-PARTY-SPECIFIC CONTESTS prior to the general election.” 2007 VVSG. See also ADVISORY PRIMARY, BINDING PRIMARY, BLANKET PRIMARY, BONUS PRIMARY, CHALLENGE PRIMARY, CLOSED PRIMARY, DELEGATE SELECTION PRIMARY, FIRST PRIMARY, GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION, LOCAL PRIMARY, LOOPHOLE PRIMARY, MODIFIED OPEN PRIMARY, OPEN PRIMARY, PICK A PARTY PRIMARY, PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY, PRESIDENTIAL PROPORTIONAL PRIMARY, SECOND PRIMARY, SELECTIVE PRIMARY, SLIGHTLY AJAR PRIMARY, VILLAGE PRIMARY, WINNER-TAKE-ALL PRIMARY.

primary presidential delegation nomination

“A primary election in which voters choose the delegates to the Presidential nominating conventions allotted to their state by the national party committees.” 2005 VVSG V1., APPENDIX A.

privacy

The requirement that no person be able to determine how a voter has voted. Voting in the original Colonies was not private, but was conducted by oral public declaration. However, each state now requires that privacy be afforded to voters, some by Constitutional provision, e.g. Pa. Const. Art. VII, Sec. 4: “All elections by the citizens shall be by ballot or by such other method as may be prescribed by law; Provided, That secrecy in voting be preserved.” See also AUDITORY PRIVACY, VISUAL PRIVACY.

privacy curtain

“All voting devices used in any election shall be provided with side curtains and front shield to insure that no person can see or know for whom any voter has voted or is voting.” 15 Del. Code Ann. §5001A(b).

privacy enclosure

“Equipment, such as a booth or partition, provided in conjunction with a VOTE CAPTURE DEVICE to make it difficult for anyone other than the voter to determine through visual observation how the voter voted.” 2007 VVSG.

privacy sleeve

A simple device, usually of paper, used by the voter to hide her vote while taking her ballot from the voting booth to a tabulation machine. Also SECRECY ENVELOPE.

private key

The “secret part of an asymmetric key pair that is typically used to digitally sign or decrypt data.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. Cf. PUBLIC KEY. See CRYPTOGRAPHY.

privilege escalation

An expansion of the privileges available to a role or group.

probate judge

The chief election official in rural counties in the State of Georgia.

problem log

A LOG recording all difficulties encountered by a MANUFACTURER during the design and development phase for a voting system. 2007 VVSG.

process verbal

“The governing authority ordering the election shall preserve a proces verbal of the canvass and shall forward a copy to the secretary of state, who shall record it.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1293.

processing board

A board that identifies damaged or mutilated ballots to be sent to a DUPLICATION BOARD. Tenn. Rules §1360-2-9-.01(b).

processing subsystem

A subsystem consisting of “hardware and software required to accumulate voting data for all candidates and measures at the machine and polling place levels, to consolidate the voting data at a central level or levels, to generate and maintain audit records, to detect and disable improper use or operation of the system, and to monitor overall system status.” Fla. VSS Appendix.

product standard

A “standard that specifies requirements to be fulfilled by a product or a group of products, to establish its fitness for purpose.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

production model

For a voting system examination in Virginia, the vendor must submit a “production model.” Va. Code §24.2-629(A).

program access

The requirement of the AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT that government programs – when viewed in their entirety – must be readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.

program deck

“[T]he actual punch card deck or decks, or a computer program disk, diskette, tape or other programming media, containing the program for counting and tabulating the votes, including the ‘APPLICATION PROGRAM DECK’.” W. Va. Code §3-4A-2(f).

programmable read-only memory

Abbreviated PROM.

programmed device

An “ELECTRONIC DEVICE that includes APPLICATION LOGIC. 2007 VVSG.

prohibited

In the 2007 VVSG, “is prohibited” indicates “a mandatory requirement not to do something.” Cf. SHALL.

prohibited ballot

An otherwise genuine ballot that a voter is forbidden to use because it has not been obtained in accordance with procedures. “No voter shall vote or offer to vote any ballot except such as the voter has received from the precinct election officials ...” Iowa Code §49.87.

Project SERVE

A development project conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense to fulfill its responsibilities under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). It is an acronym for “Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment,” which was to allow Internet voting by overseas voters from 51 counties in seven states. It was terminated in February 2004 because of concerns over security.

PROM

= PROGRAMMABLE READ-ONLY MEMORY.

PROM pak

A “cartridge that stores the ballot information and records the votes for each marksense voting system.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(uu). Cf. NO-VOTE BUTTON.

promise of influence

The illegal promise by a candidate to a person that he will, in return for that person’s support or “securing the candidate's nomination, election or appointment,” use his influence to obtain a position or office for any person. Iowa Code §49.121.

promise of position

The illegal promise by a candidate to “promise directly or indirectly to name or appoint any person or persons to any place, position, or office in consideration of any person or persons supporting the candidate or using the person's influence in securing the candidate's nomination, election, or appointment.” Iowa Code §49.120.

properly marked

A “paper ballot in which the appropriate box is marked with an ‘x’ or ‘✓,’ the oval is completely blackened, or the incomplete line or arrow is connected, and the voter has not cast votes for more than the allowable number of candidates in a contest or cast votes both for and against an issue in a contest .” Ark. Register §108.00.02-003.300(h).

proportional primary

A type of PRIMARY ELECTION used in a majority of states by the Democratic party. Convention delegates are apportioned among the candidates receiving the most votes in each district while the at-large delegates are apportioned among the candidates statewide based on proportion of the vote received, so long as the percentage exceeds a certain threshold, usually 15%.

proportional voting

A form of voting common in corporate shareholder elections in which a voter may cast more than one vote for a candidate, up to the maximum number allocated to that voter. The method is used in public elections in which voters may cast more than one vote based on some factor such as property ownership. Mont. Code §13-19-105. See also CUMULATIVE VOTING.

proposition

An “initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment submitted at an election to the public for vote.” Alaska Stat. §15.60.010(25). The “wording appearing on a ballot to identify a MEASURE.” Texas Elec. Code §1.005(15). Cf. QUESTION.

protected records voter

“[E]lectors of the state of Washington who are not registered voters of Washington or any other state.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-010(2).

protective counter

A “separate counter, which cannot be reset, that is built into a VOTING MACHINE and records the total number of movements of the operating lever.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(54). A “registering device that permanently records the cumulative number of times that a voting machine has been operated and that is installed in the machine in a way that prevents resetting the device.” Texas Elec. Code §121.003(9). Also PROTECTIVE DEVICE. Cf. PUBLIC COUNTER.

protective device

A device “whereby any operation of the machine before or after the election will be detected.” N.J.S.A. §19:48-1(i). Also PROTECTIVE COUNTER.

protest

A “complaint concerning the conduct of an election which, if supported by sufficient evidence, may require remedy by one or more of the following: a. A correction in the returns. b. A discretionary recount ... c. A new election.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-182(4).

protocol

A precise set of rules by which two or more computers exchange information.

provisional absentee voter

An ABSENTEE VOTER who is required to provide identification so that her eligibility to vote can be determined later and her ballot excluded from counting if she is not eligible. N.M. Admin. Code 1.10.12.7(R).

provisional ballot

A “BALLOT voted provisionally by a person: (a) whose name is not listed on the official register at the polling place; or (b) whose legal right to vote is challenged.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(51). HAVA requires that provisional ballots be offered to voters in elections for FEDERAL OFFICE. Voted provisional ballots are segregated from other ballots until the eligibility of each provisional voter can be decided, in a manner similar to the handling of ABSENTEE BALLOTS. A “BALLOT cast by a voter whose eligibility to vote is disputed by an ELECTION OFFICIAL. 2007 VVSG. See also AFFIDAVIT BALLOT, CHALLENGED BALLOT, ESCROW BALLOT.

provisional certification

An interim CERTIFICATION of a voting system pending the opportunity for a full examination or waiver of examination. For example, a vendor may make software modifications to a previously certified system. If the changes do not affect the accuracy of the system, it may be desirable to issue a provisional certification so that use of the updated system will be legal until

a subsequent examination is conducted. The consequences of allowing a system to fall out of certification can be severe. The jurisdiction would not be able to use the system and would have to provide an alternate means of voting.

provisional-challenged ballot

A term that includes both PROVISIONAL BALLOTS and CHALLENGED BALLOTS.

provisional party

A “political organization which has filed a legally valid petition to be recognized as a party]. The filing of a legally valid petition entitles the provisional party to participate in the next general election.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xxv).

provisionally registered elector

An “individual whose application for voter registration was accepted but whose eligibility has not yet been verified as provided by law.” Mont. Code Ann. §13-1-101(24).

public accuracy test

A “public test conducted prior to election day for the purpose of demonstrating the accuracy of the computer program and voting system which will be used to count the ballots and to demonstrate and explain the testing procedures being used to determine the accuracy.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.24.

public counter

Cf. PROTECTIVE COUNTER.

public hearing

“After the delivery of the examiners' reports and before the determination of whether the voting system or voting system equipment for which an application has been submitted satisfies the applicable requirements for approval, the secretary of state shall conduct a public hearing to provide interested persons an opportunity to express their views for or against the approval of the voting system or voting system equipment being considered.” Texas Elec. Code §122.0371.

public information package

A package of information releasable to the public concerning the testing and certification of a voting system. It “shall consist of the manufacturer's application form, the IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT, the functional diagram and system overview from the TDP, and the test report (including the test plan).” The package that is eventually published may be redacted to remove proprietary information. 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated PIP.

public key

A cryptographic encryption key which may safely be revealed to others because it is useful only to encrypt messages and is useless for decrypting them. Distribution of the public key allows any number of people to send secure messages to the key owner, who can decrypt them using his PRIVATE KEY. See CRYPTOGRAPHY.

public-key infrastructure

The administrative structure surrounding the generate of public-private key pairs, issuance, revocation and renewal of digital certificates, and designating certification authorities. Abbreviated PKI.

public network DRE

A form of DRE voting system that uses electronic ballots and transmits official vote data from the polling place to another location (such as a central count facility) over a public network beyond the control of the election authority. These networks include public telephone lines and the Internet. 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

public measure

= QUESTION. Any “question authorized or required by law to be submitted to the voters at an election.” Iowa Code §39.3(10).

public question

= QUESTION. Any “question, proposition or referendum required by the legislative or governing body of this State or any of its political subdivisions to be submitted by referendum procedure to the voters of the State or political subdivision for decision at elections.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:1-1.

punch card voting system

1. A VOTING SYSTEM in which the voter records her choices by causing holes to be made in predefined positions in a machine-readable paper card. See, e.g. Wash. Admin. Code §434-320-140. Such systems are now illegal in many states, e.g. Maine. 21-A Me. Rev. Stat. §809(3-A)(B). Likewise in Montana, New York.
2. A term in HAVA: “A ‘punch card voting system’ includes any of the following voting systems: (1) C.E.S.; (2) Datavote; (3) PBC Counter; (4) Pollstar; (5) Punch Card; (6) Vote Recorder. (7) Votomatic.”

punched-card ballot

A ballot consisting of a punched-card that is capable of being read by a card reader to tabulate the vote.

Punchscan

An optical scan vote counting system developed by David Chaum to provide a voter-verifiable, end-to-end audit mechanism. The order of candidates on the ballot is generated pseudo-randomly. The ballot itself consists of two layers of paper. The top layer lists the candidates with symbols beside their names; the bottom layer has the symbols only. The top sheet is performed so that it is possible for the voter to mark both the top and bottom sheets simultaneously with an ink marker. Having done so, the voter chooses either as a receipt and destroys the other. The receipt is tabulated at the polling place after which the voter is free to take it home. The receipt itself does not have enough information to allow the voter to prove how she voted. The scanner is able to interpret the ballot because it is able to reference a database with information indicating the correspondence between voting positions and candidates. The scanned ballots can be posted online so that each voter can be sure that her ballot formed part of the final tally.

purging

The act of removing the names of ineligible voters from the registration rolls.

PVS

= PRECINCT VOTING SYSTEM.

PXT file

(ES&S) An election data file that has been converted to be input to IVOTRONIC equipment, containing both geographical information and ballot setup data. .

QA

= QUALITY ASSURANCE.

qualification code

= ELECTION QUALIFICATION CODE.

qualification number

(Deprecated) A number issued by NASED to a system that has been tested by certified INDEPENDENT TEST AUTHORITIES for compliance with the qualification test standards of the FEC. The issuance of a Qualification Number indicates that the system qualifies for certification process of states that have adopted the Standards. 2005 VVSG V1., APPENDIX A. Now replaced by CERTIFICATION NUMBER.

qualification test

The “examination and testing of an electronic voting system by an independent test authority using the [federal] voting system standards ... to determine whether the system complies with those standards.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-22.1(52)

qualification test report

(Deprecated) “A report of results of independent testing of a voting system by an INDEPENDENT TEST AUTHORITY indicating the date testing was completed, the specific system version tested, and the scope of tests conducted.” 205 VVSG V1, APPENDIX A. Replaced by TEST REPORT FOR EAC CERTIFICATION.

qualification testing

(Deprecated) The “examination and testing of a voting system [by an ITA] to determine if the system complies with applicable standards.” Fla. VSS Appendix. “Examination and testing of a computerized voting system by using qualification test standards to determine if the system complies with the qualification performance and test standards and with its own specifications.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. See instead NATIONAL CERTIFICATION TESTING.

qualified

“‘Qualified’ when pertaining to a winner of an election means that for such election:

- (1) The results have been certified;
- (2) A certificate has been issued;
- (3) Any required bond has been posted; and

(4) The winner has taken and subscribed an oath or affirmation in compliance with the appropriate statute, or if none is specified, that he or she will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office to the best of his or her ability.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.128.

qualified elector

A “person who holds the qualifications of an elector and who is registered.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(21).

qualified registered elector

A “REGISTERED VOTER who resides at the address listed on the Board's records.” D.C. Code Ann. §1-1001.02(21). Also DULY QUALIFIED ELECTOR, ELECTOR, QUALIFIED ELECTOR, REGISTERED ELECTOR, REGISTERED QUALIFIED ELECTOR, REGISTERED VOTER, VOTER.

qualified voter

A “person who is entitled to vote ... and who is (i) 18 years of age, (ii) a resident of the Commonwealth and of the precinct in which he offers to vote, and (iii) registered to vote. Va. Code §24.2-101.

qualified voter file

A computerized statewide voter registration and election management system linking election officials throughout the State of Michigan to an interactive voter registration database. Abbreviated QVF.

qualified voter in a town

A “person who is a resident within the corporate boundaries of the town in which he offers to vote, duly registered in the county of his residence, and otherwise a QUALIFIED VOTER. Va. Code §24.2-101.

qualified write-in

A candidate who has filed registration papers with the responsible authority and for whom a vote may be counted in a jurisdiction that permits only DECLARED WRITE-INS.

qualifying precinct

Under HAVA, a precinct that used a PUNCH CARD VOTING SYSTEM or lever voting system “to administer the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2000,” and thus eligible to receive federal funds for the replacement of such system.

quality and configuration management manual

A documentation item required of a MANUFACTURER under the 2007 VVSG, detailing the quality assurance and configuration management processes and procedures followed by the manufacturer in conforming to the VVSG.

quality assurance

A “manufacturer function with associated practices that is initiated prior to system development and continues throughout the maintenance life cycle of the voting system. Quality Assurance focuses on building quality into a system and reducing dependence on system tests at the end of the life cycle to detect deficiencies, thus helping ensure that the system: meets stated requirements and objectives; adheres to established standards and conventions; functions consistent with related components and meets dependencies for use within the jurisdiction; and reflects all changes approved during its initial development, internal testing, qualification, and, if applicable, additional certification processes.” 2007 VVSG.

quality check

The “sum of the activities Design and Development Review, Design and Development Verification, and Design and Development Validation, as defined in ISO 9001:2000.” 2007 VVSG.

question

“‘Question’ means any proposition submitted to the voters.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(35). In some states the term is more limited. An “issue placed on the ballot to determine whether a judge or justice shall be accepted or rejected, whether a constitutional convention shall be called, whether a state debt shall be contracted, or whether a state official shall be recalled.” Alaska Stat. §15.60.010(27). Also PUBLIC QUESTION. Cf. PROPOSITION.

question counter

The counter which numerically registers the votes cast on a QUESTION. Ga. Code Ann. §21-2-310(1). Likewise in Massachusetts. See also CANDIDATE COUNTER.

question submitted election

Any “election at which a special question is to be voted on by the electors of the state or a part of them.” Kan. Stat. Ann. §25-2503(g).

questionable ballot

A “paper ballot deemed questionable because of improper voting or other reasons.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1. A ballot that contains any mark or symbol whereby it can be identified, or any mark or symbol contrary to the provisions of law; or two or more ballots found in the ballot box so folded together as to make it clearly evident that more than one ballot was put in by one person. “Each ballot which is held to be questionable shall be endorsed on the back by the chairperson of precinct officials with the chairperson's name or initials, and the word ‘questionable.’ All questionable ballots shall be set aside uncounted and disposed of as provided.” 2 Hawaii Rev. Stat. §16-26.

questionable AB ballot

A “VOTED BALLOT received in a mail absentee return envelope where the envelope is torn, taped, or shows signs of tampering, were the secret ballot envelope is not used or not properly sealed.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

questioned ballot

= PROVISIONAL BALLOT. Alaska Stat. §15.15.215.

questioned review board

A statutory board that reviews information associated with QUESTIONED BALLOTS to determine which ones should be counted. Alaska Stat.

quorum court

The “quorum court of each county shall choose by resolution a voting system containing voting machines or electronic vote tabulating devices, or both, or voting machines in combination with paper ballots counted by hand for use in all elections in the county.” Ark. Code §7-5-301(c).

QVF

= QUALIFIED VOTER FILE.

RALLY

A software product of Hart Intercivic used to run satellite collection sites, allowing CAST VOTE RECORDS to be read from MOBILE BALLOT BOX PC Cards and transmitted over a modem to the TALLY station at a central location.

random audit

An AUDIT of voting machines selected at random. “Following each primary, general, coordinated, or congressional district vacancy election, the secretary of state shall publicly initiate a manual random audit to be conducted by each county and shall randomly select not less than one percent of the voting devices used in each county; except that, where a central count voting device is in use in the county, the rules ... shall require an audit of a specified percentage of ballots counted within the county.” Col. Stat. §1-7-514(1).

random mark

A “mark on a ballot (other than the PRESCRIBED MARK) that is used inconsistently, either in or near the voting target or the names of candidates.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-26.1(49).

randomization

1. The process of maintaining CAST VOTE RECORDS in a manner that prevents associating a particular record with a specific voter.
2. The process of scrambling the order in which candidates in a RACE are listed on the BALLOT. A form of BALLOT ROTATION. See also RANDOMIZED ALPHABET.

randomized alphabet

A process used in California to determine the ordering of candidates within RACES on the BALLOT. “The Secretary of State shall conduct a drawing of the letters of the alphabet, the result of which shall be known as a randomized alphabet. The procedure shall be as follows: (a) Each letter of the alphabet shall be written on a separate slip of paper, each of which shall be folded and inserted into a capsule. Each capsule shall be opaque and of uniform weight, color, size, shape, and texture. The capsules shall be placed in a container, which shall be shaken vigorously in order to mix the capsules thoroughly. The container then shall be opened and the capsules removed at random one at a time. As each is removed, it shall be opened and the letter on the slip of paper read aloud and written down. The resulting random order of letters constitutes the randomized alphabet, which is to be used in the same manner as the conventional alphabet in determining the order of all candidates in all elections. For example, if two candidates with the surnames Campbell and Carlson are running for the same office, their order on the ballot will depend on the order in which the letters M and R were drawn in the randomized alphabet drawing.” Cal. Elec. Code §13112.

randomized audit trail

In some states, a voting machine “must be capable of producing in random order a paper copy of each ballot cast on the system.” N.D.C.C. §16.1-06-14(14).

rank voting

A voting method in which the voter indicates both a first and a second choice of candidate for an office. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-place votes, the second-place votes are added in.

ranked choice voting

= RANKED-ORDER VOTING. Abbreviated RCV.

ranked-order voting

“A practice that allows voters to rank candidates in a contest in order of choice: 1, 2, 3 and so on. It takes a majority to win. If anyone receives a majority of the first choice votes, that

candidate wins that election. If not, the last place candidate is deleted, and all ballots are counted again, but this time each ballot cast for the deleted candidate counts for the next choice candidate listed on the ballot. The process of eliminating the last place candidate and recounting the ballots continues until one candidate receives a majority of the vote.” FVSS Appendix. Also CHOICE VOTING, INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, PREFERENCE VOTING, RANKED CHOICE VOTING.

ranked voting method

A “method of casting and tabulating votes that allows electors to rank the candidates for an office in order of preference and uses these preferences to determine the winner of the election. ‘Ranked voting method’ includes instant runoff voting and choice voting or proportional voting.” Col. Rev. Stat. §1-1-104.

RCV

= RANKEDCHOICE VOTING.

RDS

= REFERENCE DATA SET.

read area

(opscan) A ballot that has been processed but may not have been tabulated correctly or at all.

read ballot

A ballot that has been processed but may not have been tabulated correctly or at all. A “CAST BALLOT that has been interpreted by a TABULATOR to determine what votes it contains.” 2007 VVSG.

readability

A HUMAN FACTOR concerned with determining the clarity of ballot text to the voter. Alaska has a practice of scoring ballot proposition language to determine its readability on a numerical scale. Alaska Stat. §15.60.005

readable ballot

A “ballot that the certified vote tallying system can accept and read as the voter intended without alteration, and that meets the standards of the county canvassing board subject to the provisions contained in this title. In the case of punch cards, this means all voting response positions are cleanly punched and removed from the card.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-261-005(4). Cf. UNREADABLE BALLOT.

readback

The action of repeating an audio representation of the selections made by a voter. 2007 VVSG.

read-only memory

Abbreviated ROM. See also EEPROM.

reader

In Texas, a person who reads the BALLOT to a voter with a visual or reading disability. Tex. Admin. Code §81.56.

readiness report

A report detailing the fitness of a voting system component to perform properly in an election. If the component is a PROGRAMMED DEVICE, the device itself must generate the report. 2007 VVSG. Cf. STATUS REPORT.

ready state

A VOTING STATE of a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE after polls have been opened and the device has been placed in ACTIVATED STATE but is not in IN USE state. Simply put, in the ready state the device is ready for voting by a voter. 2007 VVSG.

realtime clock

Each touchscreen DRE must have a realtime clock “capable of recording and documenting the total time polls are open in a precinct and capable of documenting the opening and closing of polls.” N.M. Stat. Ann §1-9-4.1(B)(13). A realtime clock unfortunately allows the voting system to differentiate between a real election and pre- and post-election testing and could hypothetically assist in vote manipulation.

recall

“Recall is the power of the electors to remove an elective officer.” Cal. Const. Art. 2, §13. The “process by which the registered qualified electors of the District of Columbia may call for the holding of an election to remove or retain an elected official of the District of Columbia (except the Delegate to Congress for the District of Columbia) prior to the expiration of his or her term.” D.C. Code Ann. §1-1001.02(12). Likewise, La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1300.1.

recall committee

A “committee formed by persons sponsoring the recall of an elected official which represents the sponsors and signers of a RECALL PETITION in matters relating to the recall effort.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:27A-3.

recall election

An “election held for the purpose of allowing the voters of a jurisdiction to decide whether an elected official shall be recalled from office.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:27A-3. Recall elections usually involve a CONTROLLING CONTEST in which the voter is first asked whether the incumbent should be recalled. Only if recall is selected is the voter then permitted to vote for a candidate to replace the incumbent.

recall election official

The “official authorized by law to receive nominating petitions for an elective office, except that with respect to the recall of the county clerk, it means the Secretary of State.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:27A-3.

recall issue with options

A “process that allows voters to remove their elected representatives from office prior to the expiration of their terms of office. Often, the recall involves not only the question of whether a particular officer should be removed from office, but also the question of naming a successor in the event that there is an affirmative vote for the recall.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A .

recall petition

A “petition prepared and circulated by a RECALL COMMITTEE ... for the purpose of gathering a sufficient number of valid signatures of registered voters to cause a RECALL ELECTION to be called.” N.J.S.A. §19:27A-3.

recanvass

A procedure to check the validity of the CANVASS. 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §4:070. “Whenever the canvassing board finds that there is an apparent discrepancy or an inconsistency in the returns of a primary or election, the board may recanvass the ballots or voting devices in any precincts of the county. The canvassing board shall conduct any necessary recanvass activity on or before the last day to certify the primary or election and correct any error and document the correction of any error that it finds.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.60.210.

recapitulation sheet

A required report containing an accounting for ballots received, voted, spoiled, etc. S.D. Admin. Code §5:02:09:16.

receipt

A document or other artifact that indicates either (1) that the voter has voted; or (2) how the voter has voted. See VOTING RECEIPT.

receipt-freeness

The property of a voting system in not generating any RECEIPT which would enable the voter to prove to any other person how she voted in the election

receiving board

A “subdivision of the counting board consisting of at least two (2) individuals responsible for receiving the sealed ballots at the counting center on election night”. Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570, §4(zz). See also EXPANDED RECEIVING BOARDS, STANDARD RECEIVING BOARD. Cf. COUNTING BOARD.

receiving board certificate

A certificate, executed by the RECEIVING BOARD, attesting to the fact that a TRANSFER CASE or BALLOT BOX was properly sealed when received. 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(17)(7).

receiving judge

The “ELECTION JUDGE that checks the voter's name in the official register, provides the voter with a ballot, and removes the ballot stub from the ballot after the voter has voted.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(56). Cf. COUNTING JUDGE.

receiving station

A “site which is located at a building or place other than where the counting center is located.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(20).

receiving station certificate

A certificate, executed by the RECEIVING BOARD, attesting to the fact that a TRANSFER CASE or BALLOT BOX was properly sealed when received. 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(17)(7). Cf. RECEIVING BOARD CERTIFICATE.

reception board

A team that receives ballot boxes as they are brought in for tabulation. Tenn. Rules §1360-2-9-.01(a).

recertification

The “examination, and possibly the retesting, of a voting system which was modified after having been certified for use ... The object of this process is to determine if the modification still permits the system to function in accordance with state requirements.” Cal. Proc. §1842. Required at least once every eight years in Tennessee. Tenn. Code §2-9-117.

recheck

Pertaining to VOTING MACHINES, a “verification procedure where the center counter compartment door of the voting machine is opened and the results of the balloting as shown on the counters of the machine are compared with the results shown on the official returns.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-6.

record

1. (noun) “Preserved evidence of activities performed or results achieved (e.g., forms, reports, test results).” 2007 VVSG.
2. (verb) “To create a record.” 2007 VVSG.

recording and tabulating equipment

A machine that allows an voter to indicate choices and that also counts those choices. A “type of voting machine which is a single unit designed to permit a voter to "enter" the privacy booth of a voting machine and both cast his ballot on the machine and record the ballot as cast by the voter.” N.M. Admin Code §1.10.20.7(A). Cf. VOTE TABULATING EQUIPMENT.

recording counter

A counter that records “the total number of votes cast for each candidate and for and against each question at any particular time.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.251.

recording judge

One of the judges, “who tally the votes received by each candidate and for and against each question at a polling place.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.447(3).

recount

The process of adding up the votes for one or more candidates or questions a second or subsequent time after the original count has been conducted. “The process ... for verifying the vote count in an election.” Texas Elec. Code §211.002(1). The process of recounting is expensive and may not resolve a questioned election to anyone’s satisfaction. If the recounted totals differ from the originals, which ones, if any, are correct?

Recounts are mandatory in some jurisdictions if the margin of victory is below a statutory limit. “When, in a general election, the election returns for any public office, including a judicial office, reflect that a candidate is defeated or any ballot statewide measure is defeated by not more than one half of one percent of the votes cast for the office, or the ballot measure, as certified by the appropriate election officer, a recount shall be held unless the defeated candidate submits a written waiver for the recount ...” Ala. Code §17-13-12(a).

The “process of retabulating ballots and producing amended election returns based on that retabulation, even if the vote totals have not changed.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.139. The

“processing of ballots through the tabulation system for an additional time or times, conducted for the specific purpose of counting votes again in any specific race.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xlii). Cf. RETABULATION. See also ADMINISTRATIVE RECOUNT, APPARENT WINNER, AUTOMATIC RECOUNT, EARLY RECOUNT, ELECTRONIC RECOUNT, EXPEDITED RECOUNT, FIRST RECOUNT, FULL RECOUNT, HAND-EYE RECOUNT, INITIAL RECOUNT, MANDATORY RECOUNT, MANUAL RECOUNT, OPTIONAL RECOUNT, PARTIAL RECOUNT, SECOND RECOUNT, SUPPLEMENTARY RECOUNT. Cf. RECHECK.

recount board

A board that supervises the conduct of a RECOUNT. “The responsibility of a recount board is to tabulate all votes for the office in question on ballots that were counted by the precinct election officials at the election.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-26.103(50).

recount committee

A body that actually performs a RECOUNT. “Before beginning a recount, each RECOUNT SUPERVISOR shall appoint a recount committee composed of as many members as the supervisor determines are necessary for a speedy recount.” Texas Elec. Code §213.002(a). Likewise in Vermont. Vermont Stat. §2602a.

recount coordinator

The “authority to whom a petition for an INITIAL RECOUNT or an EXPEDITED RECOUNT is submitted.” Texas Elec. Code §211.002(6).

recount deposit

A cash deposit required to cover the costs of a RECOUNT. Texas Elec. Code §211.002(9).

recount document

A “petition for an INITIAL RECOUNT, a petition for an EXPEDITED RECOUNT, an application for a SUPPLEMENTARY RECOUNT, or an application for including remaining paper ballot precincts” in a RECOUNT. Texas Elec. Code §211.002(8).

recount supervisor

The “authority designated ... to manage and supervise a RECOUNT in election precincts in the jurisdiction of a local canvassing authority.” Texas Elec. Code §211.002(7).

recount tabulator

The member of the RECOUNT COMMITTEE “designated to operate the equipment” in an ELECTRONIC RECOUNT. Texas Elec. Code §214.045(a).

redstripping

The drawing of a red stripe on a counted ballot by a pen in an OPTICAL SCANNER. See CANCEL.

redundant count

A “verification of the original computer count of ballots by another count using compatible equipment or other means as part of a discovery recount, including a count of the permanent paper record of each ballot cast by using compatible equipment, different equipment approved by the State Board of Elections for that purpose, or by hand.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C2.

redundant records

Multiple copies of the same records stored in distinct locations on separate media. 2007 VVSG.

reexamination

In most states, a voting system once certified remains certified. Some states provide for automatic expiration of certification, e.g. Tennessee, which requires recertification every eight years. Tenn. Code §2-9-117.

Reference Data Set

A database maintained by the NATIONAL SOFTWARE REFERENCE LIBRARY containing digitally signed hashes of a large number of items of software. The hashes permit idetic comparison of a given piece of software with one in the Reference Data Set (RDS) to establish identity. Abbreviated RDS. See also VOTING REFERENCE DATA SET.

referendum

The “power of the voters to initiate action to repeal existing statutes or parts of statutes, except statutes calling for elections or appropriations for usual current expenses.” 3 Guam Code Ann. 17102(b). The “process whereby a state law or constitutional amendment may be referred to the voters before it goes into effect.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. Essentially, the use of the populace as a legislature. “‘Referendum’ means an election at which an advisory, validating or ratifying question is submitted to the electorate.” Wisc. Stat. §5.02(16s). “Any election held pursuant to law to submit a question to the voters for approval or rejection.” Va. Code §24.2-101. “The people may approve or reject acts of the legislature by the referendum.” Wyo. Stat. §22-24-102. See also BALLOT ISSUE, BALLOT QUESTION, ISSUE, MEASURE, QUESTION.

referred measure

A “BALLOT QUESTION or BALLOT ISSUE submitted by the general assembly or the governing body of any political subdivision to the eligible electors of the state or political subdivision.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(34.5).

register

1. To enroll for status as an eligible voter.
2. A memory location generally holds an accumulated total, e.g. the number of votes cast for a particular candidate. “An internal memory location dedicated for use as a mathematical accumulator or storage of critical system values.” Fla. VSS Appendix.

registered elector

= REGISTERED VOTER.

registered qualified elector

= DULY REGISTERED VOTER. A “REGISTERED VOTER who resides at the address listed on the Board's records.” D.C. Code Ann. §1-1001.02(20). Also QUALIFIED REGISTERED ELECTOR.

registered voter

Cf. DULY REGISTERED VOTER.

registering counter

A “registering device on a voting machine that records the votes cast for a particular candidate or for or against a particular MEASURE.” Texas Elec. Code §121.003(8).

registrar

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. (Also in Georgia). Cf. DEPUTY REGISTRAR.

registrar of voters

In Louisiana, the parish official responsible for registering voters. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:51.

registration

The process of entering the name of a voter on the list of voters eligible to vote in a jurisdiction, resulting in a REGISTRATION LIST or REGISTRY LIST. North Dakota has no voter registration.

registration book

The “original ELECTOR registration records for each county.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(36).

registration list

“‘Registration list’ means the list of electors who are properly registered to vote in municipalities in which registration is required.” Wisc. St. §5.02(17).

registration notification

A required notification under UOCAVA (as amended) to each ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER and each OVERSEAS VOTER whose VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION or ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST has been rejected. 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-1.

registration officers

The “REGISTRAR, assistant registrar and alternate registrars appointed by the departments.” Del. Code §101(19).

registration record

In Indiana, a record of eligible electors maintained by a BOARD OF REGISTRATION.

registrar of voters’ register

The “record of registered voters kept by the county clerk.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.0925.

registry agent

A “county clerk, his deputies, a tribal clerk, his deputies, a city clerk, his deputies, and an election judge during any election ...” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xxviii).

registry list

The “list by precinct of registered electors in the county prepared by the county clerks.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xxix).

regular absentee ballot

An “ABSENTEE BALLOT provided to voters or electors who request an absentee ballot and who do not either request or qualify for an ONGOING ABSENTEE BALLOT, HOSPITAL ABSENTEE BALLOT, or SPECIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-010(8).

regular ballot

A “BALLOT that is not a PROVISIONAL BALLOT.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(59).

regular election

This term has no consistent meaning because “regular” can imply either “ordinary” or “regularly scheduled.” An “election or a referendum held at a regular time prescribed by statute.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(39). Any “any state or municipal election.” Conn. Code. §9-1(o). Cf. SPECIAL ELECTION.

regular general election

The “election held throughout the Territory on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in each even numbered year.” 3 Guam Code Ann. §1106. Cf. GENERAL ELECTION, which has a special meaning in Guam.

regular primary election

The “election on the fourth Tuesday of June of each even-numbered year, at which candidates of political parties and nonpolitical groups are voted for nomination.” Utah Code 20A-1-102(62).

regular vote

A vote “cast by registered voters, except votes cast by ABSENT BALLOT.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.093.

reissued ballot

A BALLOT that is issued to a voter to correct an error in the printing or issuing of the original ballot.

rejected ballot

Any “BALLOT on which no votes are counted because the ballot fails to have the initials of the proper election judges, because the number of votes for all offices and on all questions exceeds the number authorized by law, because the voter is deemed by the election judges to be unqualified, because it is an absentee ballot not accompanied by a completed and signed affidavit, or because the ballot was voted with unlawful assistance.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115-447.2(2). An ABSENTEE BALLOT that has passed signature verification but that cannot be counted because of other violations discovered during the opening process.

relative position

The order in which CANDIDATES in a RACE appear on the BALLOT.

relevant contest

A “CONTEST appearing in a BALLOT STYLE or ballot associated with a given REPORTING CONTEXT. ... If a contest is included in a ballot style associated with a given reporting context, that contest is relevant even if no ballots of that style were counted.” 2007 VVSG.

reliability

The “probability that an item will perform a required function, under stated conditions, for a stated period of time.” Cal. Proc. §1843.

reliably detectable mark

“The form of MARK on a ballot that will be detected and counted each and every time the ballot is run through a tabulating machine, irrespective of which voting target is being marked, and irrespective of the particular machine being used.” Jones.

reliably ignored mark

“The form of MARK on a ballot that will never be detected or counted no matter when the ballot is run through a tabulating machine, irrespective of which voting target is being marked, and irrespective of the particular machine being used.” Jones.

remaining candidate

With respect to INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, “a candidate who has not been eliminated.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.053.030(8).

remote electronic voting

Electronic voting in which voters do not physically appear at a polling place, but vote by transmitting their choices electronically to a collection point. Abbreviated REV.

remote site

A location other than a jurisdiction’s CENTRAL COUNT facility at which votes are accumulated and tabulated. Remote sites are common in large jurisdictions such as cities where such concerns as traffic and parking capacity make it impractical for large numbers of vehicles to converge on one building on election night.

removed resident

A “person, who was formerly a resident of one of the counties of this State but who has, or shall have, removed to another state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands or to another county within this State, who has registered as a voter in the county of his former residence in this State at the time of his removal therefrom, and who by reason of an insufficient period of residence in the state or the county, to which he has or shall have removed, will not be able to qualify to vote at a Presidential Election to be held in such state or county or elsewhere, except as he may be qualified to vote in this State, or in such other county of this State, for the election of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States).” N.J.S.A. §19:58-2.

repeat election

An election that is held again because of an irreparable irregularity that renders it impossible to determine the winner. Iowa Admin. Code §721-21.1(15).

repeating key

A key on a keyboard or virtual keyboard which, when held down or continuously pressed, causes more than one instance of its corresponding character to be generated or transmitted. Repeating keys on VOTING DEVICES are prohibited by the 2007 VVSG.

repetition

The ability of a VOTING STATION to repeat upon request any information it provides to the voter. Under the 2007 VVSG, an AUDIO-TACTILE INTERFACE must provide repetition.

replacement absentee ballot

“The county auditor may issue replacement ABSENTEE BALLOTS to a registered voter who claims that the ballot originally issued was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received. The voter may request a replacement ballot by telephone, mail, electronic mail, fax, or in person at the county auditor's office. ... Replacement absentee ballots or the original absentee ballot, whichever is received first, shall be credited to the voter's registration file and tabulated if the ballot meets all requirements for tabulation.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-205. Likewise, Va. Code §24.2-703.2

replacement ballot

The HAVA term for a ballot given to a voter to replace a SPOILED BALLOT. 42 U.S.C. §15481(A)(1)(a)(ii).

report

A printed record, formatted for human readability, that is produced by a voting system. A “self-contained, time stamped, ARCHIVAL record, such as a printout or analogous electronic file that is produced at a specific time and subsequently protected from modification.” 2007 VVSG.

report item

“Any one of the numeric values (totals or counts) that must appear in any of the vote data reports. Each ballot count ... and each vote, overvote and undervote total for each candidate or measure ... is a separate report item.” 2007 VVSG.

report item error

The “absolute value of the difference between the correct value and the reported value” of a REPORT ITEM. 2007 VVSG. If a value is reported that should not have appeared at all (a spurious item), or if an item that should have appeared in the report does not (missing item), a report item error of one is assessed.

report total error

The “sum of all of the REPORT ITEM ERRORS from all of the reports” produced by a voting system. 2007 VVSG.

report total error rate

An accuracy metric that focuses on error in totals appearing in vote data reports and does not attempt to assess untestable low-level operations. The “ratio of the report total error to the report total volume.” The report total error rate of a voting system must be less than 1 in 125,000. 2007 VVSG.

report total volume

The “sum of all of the correct values for all of the REPORT ITEMS that are supposed to appear in the reports” produced by a voting system. 2007 VVSG.

reporting context

The “scope within which reported totals or counts are calculated (e.g., PRECINCT or ELECTION DISTRICT). ... Reporting contexts may overlap in complex ways; for example, in the case of SPLIT PRECINCTS, there is not a simple containment relationship between election districts and precincts.” 2007 VVSG.

reporting group

Any category of voters whose ballots are totaled separately, such as ABSENTEE VOTERS or MILITARY VOTERS.

repository

An organization which receives “voting system software (source and executable code) that has been certified from test labs or the national certification authority. Repositories may receive non-voting specific software from third party manufacturers and election specific software

such as ballot definition files from jurisdictions.” 2007 VVSG. See DISTRIBUTION REPOSITORY, ESCROW REPOSITORY, NOTARY REPOSITORY.

representative district clerk

In each representative district, “the clerk of that town or part of a town having the largest population in the district. However, when part of one town is joined with all of another town to form a representative district, the clerk of the latter town shall be representative district clerk.” Vt. Stat. §2103(29). Cf. SENATORIAL DISTRICT CLERK.

reproducibility

The “ability to obtain the same test results by using the same test method on identical test items in different testing laboratories with different operators using different equipment.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

requalification

(deprecated) Obtaining QUALIFICATION anew following a revocation of qualification.

requester

One who requests a RECOUNT. Iowa Admin. Code §721-26.100(50).

requirement

A “provision that conveys criteria to be fulfilled.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

reregistration

The “submission of a registration form by a voter whose registration was inactivated on the MASTER REGISTER ... and the director's reactivation of that registration.” Alaska Stat. 15.60.010(33).

reserve vote recording device

A spare machine kept in reserve in the event it is found that a machine is configured incorrectly for the election. W. Va. Code §3-4A-17.

residence

A voter’s place of residence is critical to determining where she may vote and for which candidates she is eligible to vote. The “principal or primary home or place of abode of a person. Principal or primary home or place of abode is that home or place in which the person's habitation is fixed and to which a person, whenever he or she is absent, has the present intention of returning after a departure or absence therefrom, regardless of the duration of the absence.” D.C. Code Ann. §1-1001.02(16)(A).

resident vote tabulation programming

“[P]ermanent computerized instructions which are built into any approved voting machine or equipment and which control the recordation, aggregation, tabulation, storage and printing of votes by any such machine or equipment.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §1-104(31).

residual vote

A vote that could have been cast by a voter but was not validly cast, for whatever reason. Residual votes are caused by (1) the deliberate choice not to vote; (2) overvoting, resulting in a vote not being counted; (3) voter inadvertence resulting in failure to cast a vote; and (4) failure of the voting system to record a vote. It is equal to the sum UNCOUNTED BALLOTS +

UNMARKED BALLOTS + OVERVOTES for a particular office. In Mississippi, “‘residual votes’ means overvotes, undervotes and any other vote not counted for any reason. Miss. Code §25-15-613(1). The same statute requires reporting of residual votes for any voting system that does not produce a ballot.

resolution board

A “board at an automatic tabulating location comprised of a representative from each political party having a candidate on the ballot and whose candidate on the county-wide ballot at the last general election received at least fifteen percent of the votes. The board shall determine the disposition of those ballots which cannot be properly counted by the tabulating equipment and observe the activities at the counting location on behalf of their respective party affiliation. In strictly nonpartisan elections, the resolution board shall be comprised of two persons who are not employees of the jurisdiction conducting the election and shall be appointed by the person in charge of the election.” S.D. Codified Laws §12-17B-1(8).

respondent

“Any state or local election official whose actions are alleged, in a written COMPLAINT, to be in violation of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, 42 U.S.C. §15481.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. 6:010. See ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE, COMPLAINANT.

restricted ballot

A LIMITED BALLOT, a PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT or FEDERAL BALLOT. Tex. Elec. Code §111.001.

results

The “manual or electronic tabulation of the votes counted for a candidate or issue.” Okla. Stat. §26-6-102.1(4).

results cartridge

A removable memory device on which totals and/or BALLOT IMAGES are stored for later uploading to a tabulation machine.

results tape

A paper tape printed at the conclusion of voting containing the total number of votes cast for each candidate and upon each question.

retabulation

The “process of running ballots back through the tabulation system for an additional time or times for the express purpose of reconciling the count.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xlii). “If the difference in the retabulations affects the result of any race or ballot proposition, a recount ... shall be conducted.” Wyo. Stat. §22-11-108. Cf. RECOUNT.

retally

The process of adding up once again the votes obtained from individual voting machines.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-641. Cf. RECOUNT.

retard pad

(opscan) A pad situated between the input hopper and the ballot path on an optical scanner to prevent more than one BALLOT at a time from passing through the machine.

retention

In elections for federal office, election ADMINISTRATORS must preserve for 22 months “all records and paper that came into [their] possession relating to an application, registration, payment of poll tax, or other act requisite to voting.” 42 U.S.C. §1974. In most states, ballots must be retained for a specified period of time after an election so that irregularities can be investigated and recounts conducted. “The sheriff shall keep the ballots six months, and then the packages shall be taken out of the box, without opening or unsealing the packages, and destroyed unless within six months the sheriff having them in custody is notified that the election of some officer for which the election was held will be contested, in which case he must preserve the box containing the ballots cast for such contestant until such contest is finally determined or until such box is demanded by some legally constituted custodian during such contest.” Ala. Code §17-3-5.

retention election

An election to determine whether various incumbents, typically judges, should be retained in office.

retrievable ballot

A voter’s ABSENTEE BALLOT that can be “linked to that voter for possible retrieval if it becomes necessary to take action as to that cast ballot.” 8 N.C. Admin. Code §04.0301. In North Carolina, the retrievable ballot is a voting system requirement.

Retrieval Code

A number used in the Hart InterCivic eSlate system to refer to and retrieve PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.

return envelope

An “envelope that is printed with spaces for the name and address of, and a self-affirmation to be signed by, an ELIGIBLE ELECTOR voting in a MAIL BALLOT ELECTION, that contains a secrecy envelope and ballot for the elector, and that is designed to allow election officials, upon examining the signature, name, and address on the outside of the envelope, to determine whether the enclosed ballot is being submitted by an eligible elector who has not previously voted in that particular election.” Col. Stat. §1.7.5-103(7).

return judge

In Missouri, a JUDGE who returns election materials to the county office following an election.

return sheet

A document on which vote totals from a PRECINCT are recorded.

returning officer

The official responsible for transmitting RETURNS to the appropriate state body.

returns

A generic term referring to election results, derived from the fact that vote totals are reported on sheets “returned” to the county or municipal election authority.

REV

= REMOTE ELECTRONIC VOTING.

review-required ballot

1. A “BALLOT that is flagged or separated for some form of manual processing.” 2007 VVSG. An example is an optical scan ballot containing a hand-written write-in, which must be interpreted by a human.
2. A BALLOT which the voter is required to review before casting. While it is not possible to force a voter to actually review the ballot, it may be compulsory for the voter to advance through a complete set of review screens before the ballot will be accepted.

review screen

A visualization for the voter of her entire selection of ballot choices, “for the voter to review before the vote is actually cast.” Texas Elec. Code §129.001(b) (referred to therein as a “screen in summary format”). Systems differ as to whether the entire ballot is shown, or just the voter’s particular choices.

revote

The process of conducting an election a second time. This may be necessary in the event of a machine malfunction. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:1433.

ring wave

A test for susceptibility of an ELECTRONIC DEVICE to power surges resulting from connecting and disconnecting equipment. It consists of a power “surge with a 0.5 μ s rise time and a decaying oscillation at 100 kHz with a first peak voltage of 6 kV between the line and neutral terminals, and between the line and equipment grounding conductor terminals, and also 3 kV between the neutral and equipment grounding conductor terminals.” 2007 VVSG.

risk assessment

The “process of identifying the risks to system security and determining the probability of occurrence, the resulting impact, and safeguards that would mitigate this impact.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

roll

“Card stock in web form, trimmed to a width of 3 1/4 inches or multiples thereof. Rolls are normally produced as an intermediate step in the production of unfinished ballot cards.” Cal. Regs. §20209.

rolloff

= DROP-OFF, VOTER FATIGUE.

ROE

= ROTARY OPTICAL ENCODER.

ROM

= READ-ONLY MEMORY.

roster

The “form furnished election board officers to be used for obtaining the signature of each person applying for a ballot.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.095.

rotation

See BALLOT ROTATION.

rotary optical encoder

An electromechanical device that essentially converts analog angular position information into digital output. Used as the basis of Hart InterCivic eSlate's voter selection wheel. Abbreviated ROE.

ruling line

(opscan) A horizontal or vertical line on an optical scan ballot used for visual separation of ballot components.

runner

"A representative, known as a 'runner,' of each of the parties shall be allowed to come to the table at frequent intervals for the purpose of taking whatever list or memoranda the CHECKERS may wish to give the runner." R.I. Gen. Laws. §17-19-22.

runoff election

An election held to select in a winner in a RACE in which no candidate received a prescribed minimum percentage of the vote. There is typically a threshold percentage required to qualify for the runoff. "Any single election required by county charters preceded by an election that failed to elect a candidate." 2 Hawaii Rev. Stat. §11-1.

runoff primary

A subsequent PRIMARY ELECTION held if the winner of the first primary does not win a statutory percentage of the vote. Texas Code §41.007. In Arkansas, a GENERAL PRIMARY. See also FIRST PRIMARY, SECOND PRIMARY.

safety

1. The ability of a voting system to be used in a particular jurisdiction with assurance that it will operate properly. In Pennsylvania, for example, the purpose of state CERTIFICATION is to determine whether a VOTING SYSTEM "can be safely used by voters at elections." 25 P.S. §3031.5(b).
2. Absence of physical hazard, such as electrical shock. The 2007 VVSG identify a list of such safety concerns: fire hazards, electrical hazards, potential for equipment tip-over (stability), potential for cuts and scrapes (e.g., sharp edges), potential for pinching (e.g., tight, spring-loaded closures), potential for hair or clothing entanglement. See also SAFETY CERTIFICATION.

safety certification

A guideline of the 2007 VVSG that equipment associated with a VOTING SYSTEM must be certified in accordance with the requirements of Underwriters Laboratories UL 60950-1.

sag

A temporary drop in voltage supplied to an ELECTRONIC DEVICE." VOTING TERMINALS with battery backup are inherently immune to sag. 2007 VVSG. Cf. SWELL.

sample ballot

A "printed facsimile of all the issues and offices on the ballot in a jurisdiction and is intended to give voters notice of the issues, offices, and candidates that are to be voted on at a particular primary, general election, or special election." Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.007(4). Also INSTRUCTION BALLOT.

sandboxing

“Logically separating applications such that only required resources can be accessed.” 2007 VVSG.

sanitized headset

Under the 2007 VVSG, any voter using an AUDIO-TACTILE INTERFACE must be provided with a sanitized headset.

satellite absentee voting station

An additional absentee polling place requested by voter petition. Iowa Admin. Code §721-21.300(53).

satellite polling place

A designated sites within a precinct other than the regular voting place for that precinct, sometimes provided for elderly or disabled voters. N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-130.

satellite registrar

A voting registrar for a satellite registration location. Utah Code §20A-5-201.

saturation

The visual intensity of a particular color. An ACCESSIBLE VOTING STATION must offer the voter at least two levels of saturation, low and high, on its screen display. “High saturation refers to bright, vibrant colors. Low saturation refers to muted (or grayish) colors.” 2007 VVSG.

SBE

= STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

scanning area

The “portions of the ballot that the system scans in order to read the vote marks made by voters.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-430(2).

Schoenmaker’s protocol

A cryptographic protocol that is able to hide the voter’s vote without conceal the voter’s identity.

school district election

An “election to choose a school district officer.” 63 N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:9.

school election

Any “annual or special election to be held in and for a local or regional school district.” N.J.S. §19:1-1.

school office

An “office filled by a school officer.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.100.

school officer

An official responsible for school administration, such as a member of a state board of regents. See, e.g., Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.103.

scratch vote

Marking or punching a STRAIGHT-PARTY ticket and then marking or punching the ballot for one or more candidates who are members of a different political party. Utah Code §20A-1-102(65). Also OVERRIDE. See also CROSSOVER.

screen flicker

The undesirable property of a computer display in which the image appears to flicker because of an interaction between the persistence of the screen and its refresh rate.

scrolling

The act of moving a scrollbar or other icon with a finger or mouse to cause more content to become visible on a display screen.

seal

A “numbered nonreusable lock.” Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570, §4(ddd). See also SECURE.

sealed

A “BALLOT CONTAINER shall be considered ‘sealed’ or ‘locked,’ only if no ballot may be removed from the container or deposited into the container, and no other form of access to the bound ballots inside may be gained, without leaving visibly discernible and indelible evidence of, or record of, that entry or access into the container.” Wisc. Admin. Code §EdBd 5.01(2).

sealed ballot

A BALLOT used in ABSENTEE VOTING. The ballot is placed in an unmarked envelope, which is sealed. The sealed envelope is then placed inside an envelope with the voter’s name and signature. Whether the ballot should be counted can be determined from the outer envelope. If it is to be counted, the inner envelope is placed, still sealed, in a box of ballots to be counted. This process preserves the secrecy of the ballot.

second-chance voting

Voting in which the voter is notified if she has OVERVOTED or UNDERVOTED and is given the opportunity to correct the ballot before leaving the POLLING PLACE. A requirement of Section 301 of HAVA.

second primary

A RUNOFF ELECTION that may be necessary following a FIRST PRIMARY.

second recount

“If the apparent winner after the INITIAL BALLOTING is the apparent loser after the FIRST RECOUNT, that candidate shall be entitled to demand a second recount, by hand and eye, of all ballots.” 8 N.C. Admin. Code §09.0107(b)(2). See also HAND-EYE RECOUNT.

secrecy

1. A requirement of a voting system that no person shall be able to learn how any particular voter has voted.
2. Some states forbid voters from showing their voted ballots to others: “No voter shall allow his ballot to be seen by any person with the intention of letting it be known how he is about to vote except [to receive assistance].” N.H. Rev. Stat. §659.35(I).

secretary ballot

A “ballot card used in a primary election that does not list any candidate or ballot question and which is used to protect the secrecy of a voter’s vote.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

secretary envelope

The “envelope given to a voter along with the ballot into which the voter places the ballot after he has voted it in order to preserve the secrecy of the voter's vote.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(66). An “opaque device, used for enclosing a marked ballot, which conceals the voter's choices.” Fla. Stat. §101.5603(6). Also PRIVACY SLEEVE, SECRECY FOLDER.

secretary folder

= SECRECY ENVELOPE.

secretary sleeve

= SECRECY ENVELOPE. Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570, §4(eee).

secret ballot

“Voting shall be secret.” Cal. Const. Art. 2, §7. Ballot secrecy is now guaranteed in all states either by the state constitution or by statute. The following constitutional provision is typical: “All elections by the citizens shall be by ballot or by such other method as may be prescribed by law; Provided, That secrecy in voting be preserved.” Pa. Const. Art VII, Sec. 4.

secret ballot envelope

The “envelope used by a voter to enclose the voted absentee ballot when voting by a mail absentee ballot or at the precincts.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

secretarial election

An “election held within a tribe pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary [of the Interior] as authorized by Federal Statute.” 25 C.F.R. §81.1(s).

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State (or equivalent) is the CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER in AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, ID, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, ND, OH, OR, PA (see SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH), RI, SD, TX, VT, WA, WV, WY.

Secretary of the Commonwealth

The Pennsylvania equivalent of SECRETARY OF STATE and the CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER.

Secretary of the State Board of Elections

The CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER. of Virginia. Va. Code §24.2-404.1

Section 508

A 1998 amendment to the Rehabilitation Act to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities.

secure

The “terms ‘secure’ and ‘seal’ shall be interpreted together to mean that the ballots, within the container in which they are held, must be bound together in such a manner that no ballot may be removed, nor any ballot added, to the bound ballots without a visibly discernible and indelible record of or evidence of interference with or damage to that binding.” Wisc. Admin. Code §EdBd 5.01(1).

secure receptacle

A “container for storing VVPAT paper audit records. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

secure sockets layer

A protocol for exchanging information securely over a network using public-key encryption to transmit a symmetric key so that subsequent data can be encrypted and decrypted quickly. Abbreviated SSL.

secure storage

Those “locations provided for the storage of all material connected with the absentee ballot process, including ballots, and shall be under the direct control of the county auditor. Secure storage shall employ the use of numbered seals and logs or any other security measures which will detect any inappropriate access to the secured materials when such materials are not being prepared or processed by the county auditor or persons authorized by the county canvassing board.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-010(9).

secured

“A BALLOT CONTAINER shall not be considered ‘secured’ unless it is stored in a room or other facility access to which is limited only to the clerk of the election district or to other persons known to the clerk, and access to which is not available to any other person.” Wisc. Admin. Code §EdBd 5.01(3).

security analysis

An “inquiry into the potential existence of security flaws in a voting system. Includes an analysis of the system's software, firmware, and hardware, as well as the procedures associated with system development, deployment, operation and management.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

security architecture

A document in the TDP to “provide an architecture level description of how the security requirements are met, and shall include the various authentication, access control, audit, confidentiality, integrity, and availability requirements.” 2007 VVSG.

security code

For security purposes, each touchscreen DRE must “along with each associated activating and recording device and component, employ a unique, electronically implanted election specific internal security code such that the absence of such code prevents substitution of any unauthorized system or related component.” N.M. Stat. Ann §1-9-4.1(B)(8).

security controls

Management, operational, and technical controls (i.e., safeguards or countermeasures) prescribed for an information system to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the system and its information. NIST SP 800-53

security designation

A “printed designation placed on a ballot to identify to the computer program the offices and propositions for which votes may be cast and to indicate the manner in which votes cast should be tabulated while negating any inadmissible votes.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C-6.

security envelope

The outer envelope in which a voter returns an ABSENTEE BALLOT by mail. The voter's eligibility to vote is determined from matter written on the security envelope. If the voter is eligible, the security envelope is opened and the inner envelope, which contains the ballot but no voter identification, is set aside for later counting.

Security Peer Review Group

A body engaged by Project SERVE to evaluate the system's security design. Abbreviated SPRG.

security punch

A "punch placed on a ballot card to identify to the computer program the offices and propositions for which votes may be cast and to indicate the manner in which votes cast should be tabulated while negating any inadmissible votes." 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24A2.

Security Test and Evaluation

Abbreviated ST&E.

security testing and vulnerability analysis documentation

A document in the TDP to "describe security tests performed to identify vulnerabilities and the results of the testing. This also includes testing performed as part of software development, such as unit, module, and subsystem testing." 2007 VVSG.

security threats controls

A document in the TDP to "identify the threats the voting system protects against and the implemented security controls on voting system and system components." 2007 VVSG.

selected ballot

A ballot chosen by a voter to be voted, as at a primary where a voter may select a PARTY BALLOT or a NONPARTISAN BALLOT. See, e.g., Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1. The voter's choice of ballot may be kept secret with a BALLOT HOLDER.

selective primary

A PRIMARY ELECTION in which the voter makes a choice of party affiliation while in the voting booth. The voter may select a party, but then can only vote for candidates of that one party. The current selective primary states are Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

selectman

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14.

self-affirmation

A "sworn statement made in writing and signed by an individual, as though under oath." Col. Stat. §1-1-104(45.5). See also AFFIDAVIT BALLOT.

self-contained voting station

A "unit containing a voting device having curtains on not less than 3 sides and which, when assembled, creates an individual voting station." Mich. Rules §168.771(1)(x).

self-modifying code

A computer program which alters its own executable instructions during execution. Self-modifying code in PROGRAMMED DEVICES is prohibited under the 2007 VVSG.

semifinal official canvass

The “public process of collecting, processing, and tallying ballots and, for state or statewide elections, reporting results to the Secretary of State on election night.” Cal. Elec. Code §353.5.

semi-static voting system software

Software in a VOTING SYSTEM that contains configuration information for the voting system based on the voting equipment that is installed and the election being conducted. 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. Semi-static software is only modified during the installation of the voting system software on voting equipment or the election specific software such as ballot formats. Cf. STATIC VOTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE.

senatorial district clerk

The “county clerk for those towns within a senatorial district aggregating the largest population.” Vt. Stat. §2103(31). Cf. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT CLERK.

SENSUS

A system for Internet voting, developed by Lorrie Cranor, now a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon, and Ron Cytron, described at <http://lorrie.cranor.org/voting/sensus/ssp/ssp.html>.

sequence code

(ES&S) A code associated with a ballot corresponding to the order in which precincts are added in ELECTION DATA MANAGER, generally consisting of a precinct ID and a SPLIT CODE.

separate ballot

A “separate page or display screen of the ballot that is clearly defined and distinguishable from other portions of the ballot.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24C-2.

serial number

“Each voting device shall have a serial number permanently attached to or stamped to the device.” 15 Del. Code Ann. §5001A(a)(1). Each touchscreen DRE must “have a unique embedded internal serial number for audit purposes.” N.M. Stat. Ann §1-9-4.1(B)(6).

serialized stub number

“[T]he paper ballot shall include a serialized stub number for each ballot issued to a voter to be retained by the poll worker which will show at all times during any election a total number of persons who have voted.” 15 Del. Code Ann. §5001A(a)(10).

SERVE

An acronym for SECURE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION AND VOTING EXPERIMENT, a project undertaken by FVAP but suspended in early 2004 by the DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE because of security fears.

service of the United States

The “Armed Forces of the United States and the auxiliaries thereof, the United States Coast Guard, the merchant marine service of the United States, civilian employment by the Federal Government beyond the boundaries of the State of Nevada, and religious groups and welfare

agencies officially attached to and serving with the Armed Forces of the United States.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.105.

service voter

Generally, a voter who is a member of a uniformed service. ““Service voter’ means any elector of the state of Washington who is a member of the armed forces under 42 U.S.C. Sec. §1973 ff-6 while in active service, is a student or member of the faculty at a United States military academy, is a member of the merchant marine of the United States, is a program participant as defined in RCW 40.24.20, or is a member of a religious group or welfare agency officially attached to and serving with the armed forces of the United States.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.163(1).

SERVO

A software product of Hart Intercivic for maintaining eSlate terminals and MOBILE BALLOT BOX PC Cards. An acronym for “System for Election Records and Verification Operations.”

setup inspection

Examination “to determine that: (a) software installed on the voting device can be identified and verified; (b) the contents of the voting device’s registers and variables can be determined; and (c) components of the voting device (such as touch screens, batteries, power supplies, etc.) are within proper tolerances, functioning properly, and ready for use.” Part of the security coverage of the 2007 VVSG.

shall

In the 2007 VVSG, “shall indicates a mandatory requirement to do something.”

sheet

“Card stock, tinted for use in California elections, sufficiently large for more than one ballot card and later to be cut, after printing, into individual ballot cards (compare unfinished ballot card.” Cal. Regs. §20210.

sheriff

Sheriffs, the enforcement officers of the local courts, have varied roles in elections aside from their normal duties in keep in the peace on election day. In Alabama, for example, the sheriff is a member of the APPOINTING BOARD, which selects election inspectors and clerk. Ala. Code §17-6-1 “The sheriff of each county shall, on each day of election, be present in person or by deputy at all election precincts where elections are held in the county, and he shall preserve good order; and, in order that every elector who desires to vote may do so without interference or interruption, such sheriff or his deputy may specially deputize a sufficient force to act at all election precincts on the day of any election that he may deem necessary.” Ala. Code §17-1-2. The sheriff may also be responsible for transporting county RETURNS to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

shingle ballot

= DOUBLE BALLOT.

short ballot

A ballot for choosing Presidential electors in which the names of the individual electors are not listed but instead the voter is presented with the names of candidates for President and Vice-President. In Alabama, SINGLE SHORT.

short term

The “brief period of time starting upon the completion of the certification of election returns and ending with the start of the full term and is applicable only when the office concerned is being held by an appointee to fill a vacancy.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.169.

should

In the 2007 VVSG, “should” indicates “an optional recommended action.” See also ENCOURAGED. Cf. MAY.

signal port

A PORT for “connection to the landline telephone of the polling place to the CENTRAL TABULATOR.” 2007 VVSG.

signature module

A hardware artifact embedded in a PROGRAMMED DEVICE and containing a DEVICE SIGNATURE KEY unique to that device to protect cryptographic keys and generate digital signatures. 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated SM.

signature roster

The “certified list of voters at a polling place which is signed by a voter when presenting himself for voting on election day.” N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.22.7(N).

significant election event

An event that occurs during voting that is required to be logged for audit purposes. Such events include, but are not limited to:

- “(1) error messages and operator response to those messages;
- (2) number of ballots read for a given precinct;
- (3) completion of reading ballots for a given precinct;
- (4) identity of the input ports used for modem transfers from precincts;
- (5) users logging in and out from election system;
- (6) precincts being zeroed;
- (7) reports being generated; and
- (8) diagnostics of any type being run.” Texas Admin. Code Rule §81.62.

single short

Alabama was one of the last states to switch to a SHORT BALLOT for choosing Presidential electors, called there a SINGLE SHORT.

single transferable vote

= CHOICE VOTING. Abbreviated STV.

sip-and-puff

A type of user interface for a disabled voter by which voting may be accomplished by blowing and inhaling using a tube. At least one machine having such an interface or similar pneumatic

device is required in every precinct in New York State. N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §7-202(2)(c). Also required for accessible devices in West Virginia.

slate

“A political committee of two or more candidates who join together to conduct and pay for joint campaign activities.” Md. Elec. Code §1-101(o).

slightly ajar primary

= MODIFIED OPEN PRIMARY.

SM

= SIGNATURE MODULE.

smart card

A card having an embedded computer that is usually capable of storing data and performing sophisticated processing functions.

smart pack reader

(ES&S) A device that processes MEMORY PACKS from Optech precinct count optical scanners and is part of the INTELLIGENT DEVICE ADAPTER.

snap tally

Am early canvass for certain offices or ballot measures to be voted on that “are of more than ordinary public interest and require an early tabulation and announcement.” Cal. Elec. Code §14440.

software

“‘[C]omputer programs,’ a collection of instructions coded according to specific rules and in a specific sequence, which tell the computer equipment what to do and when and how to do it.” Cal. Regs. §20620. “‘Software’ includes all programs, voting devices, cards, ballot cards or papers, operating manuals or instructions, test procedures, printouts, and other nonmechanical or nonelectrical items necessary to the operation of a voting system.” Cal. Elec. Code §355. Some states require filing of software to be used in an election with the state as a condition of its use, e.g. TX (Texas Elec. Code. §122.0331). Such filed materials are usually exempt from public disclosure or freedom of information laws.

software identification verification log

A LOG, optional under the 2007 VVSG, capturing for a VOTING DEVICE the “time and date of the [software identification verification] inspection; information that uniquely identifies the software (such as software name, version, build number, etc.) and location (such as full path name or memory address); identifying information of the individual that performed the inspection; and information that uniquely identifies the voting device that was inspected.”

software independence

The “quality of a voting system or voting device such that a previously undetected change or FAULT in software cannot cause an undetectable change or error in election outcome.” 2007 VVSG. Software independence is a concept unique to electronic voting, developed by Ronald Rivest of MIT and John Wack of NIST. It recognizes that the privacy associated with voting makes it impossible to conduct an independent check that voter’s ballots have been recorded correctly, as the voters cannot be asked how they voted. Under such circumstances, an

undetected flaw in system software might alter the outcome of an election that would not be apparent. Therefore complete reliance on software is misplaced. It must be possible to AUDIT an election to verify that ballots were recorded and tabulated correctly, and audit cannot rely on the correctness of the software. Software independence is a laudable goal, but its value with respect to a given system depends on the security and reliability of the non-software audit mechanism that is relied upon as a check on the software.

software installation

The software actually running in a VOTING DEVICE may differ from the software that was certified for that device or which was originally installed in the device. An important component of voting system integrity is the ability to validate what software is running on it. Software identification requirements that support the authentication and integrity of voting system software using digital signatures provided by test labs, National Software Reference Library (NSRL), and notary repositories form part of the security coverage of the 2007 VVSG.

software integrity verification log

A LOG, optional under the 2007 VVSG, capturing for a VOTING DEVICE the “time and date of the verification; information that uniquely identifies the software (such as software name, version, build number, etc.); the software integrity verification technique used; results of the software verification, including the cryptographic software reference information used for the verification, identifying information of the individual that performed the verification, and information that uniquely identifies the voting device that contained the software that was verified.”

sort

(opscan) The mechanical sending of a BALLOT into a separate bin or container from normal ballot flow. Generally this is done for ballots requiring manual review by a RESOLUTION BOARD.

SOS

= SECRETARY OF STATE.

source code

“The specific language a programmer uses to program the electronic equipment or vote tabulating system. The source code of the computer language is then compiled, interpreted, or assembled into object code by the computer. The result is a machine language program in binary form which can be run by the computer.” Cal. Proc. §1845. A “computer program written in a programming language and used to generate machine instructions through the use of assemblers or compilers.” Fla. VSS Appendix. Cf. OBJECT CODE.

SOVC

= STATEMENT OF VOTES CAST.

space flight

Texas provides that a person who is unable to vote because of being on a space flight may vote electronically using NASA electronic transmission facilities. Texas Elec. Code §106.002

special absentee ballot

An ABSENTEE BALLOT for a “registered voter who completes an application stating that the voter will be unable to vote and return a regular absentee ballot by normal mail delivery within the period provided for regular absentee ballots.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-240-060.

special absentee voter

An “ELECTOR who is any of the following:

- (1) A member of the armed forces of the United States or any auxiliary branch thereof.
 - (2) A citizen of the United States temporarily living outside of the territorial limits of the United States or the District of Columbia.
 - (3) Serving on a merchant vessel documented under the laws of the United States.
 - (4) A spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces or any auxiliary branch thereof.
- Cal. Elec. Code §300(b).

Special Assistant Registrar

In Virginia, an assistant to the GENERAL REGISTRAR. Va. Code §23.2-113. See also ASSISTANT REGISTRAR.

special ballot

1. A PROVISIONAL BALLOT, in the District of Columbia, Iowa, the state of Washington, and elsewhere.
2. A variant ballot to accommodate voters with religious scruples, election employees or victims of domestic violence. N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §11-300. For example, some voters are unwilling to vote in a polling place located in a place of religious worship

special ballot clerk

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in the District of Columbia responsible for issuing and collecting PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.

special district

In Utah, a non-governmental subdivision of the state in which bond election may be held. Utah Code §17A-2-1323.

special district election

An election for officers of specific types of political subdivisions, such as cemetery districts and hospital districts. Wyo. Stat. §22-29-101.

special election

An election, usually not at a regularly scheduled time, occasioned by necessity, e.g. to fill a vacant office. An “election, the specific time for the holding of which is not prescribed by law.” Cal. Elec. Code §356. “a municipal election on any question which may legally be submitted to the voters of a municipality other than at a regular municipal primary or general election or an election on the question of whether to incorporate.” Wyo. Stat. §22-23-801. Cf. REGULAR ELECTION.

special election review

An “ELECTION REVIEW conducted in a county or counties whenever the unofficial returns of a primary or election indicate that a mandatory recount is likely in a race for the state legislature, congress, or statewide office.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-260-020(3).

special federal ballot

A ballot for a SPECIAL FEDERAL VOTER. N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §11-212. See also SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT.

special federal voter

A citizen of the U.S. who resides outside the U.S. and who is eligible to vote in elections for FEDERAL OFFICE in a state even though not domiciled in that state. N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §11-200.

special general election

An election “held only (a) whenever any vacancy occurs in the offices of United States senator, United States representative, state senator, or state representative because of failure to elect a person at an uncontested general election or (b) as specified in county charters.” 2 Hawaii. Rev. Stat. §11-1.

special legislative election

An “election called by the general assembly.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(47).

special paper ballot

A “printed ballot designed to be marked by a voter with a VOTE MARKING DEVICE.” Iowa Code §52.1(2)(f).

special presidential ballot

A ballot for a SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL VOTER. N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §11-104. See also SPECIAL FEDERAL BALLOT.

special presidential voter

“Any person who shall change his residence from this state to another state or from one county or city of this state to another such county or city, after the thirtieth day next preceding any presidential election shall be entitled to vote for president and vice president of the United States in such election, provided, however, that such person may not vote for any candidate for any other office or any question to be voted for at such election.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §11-102. See also SPECIAL FEDERAL VOTER, SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT.

special primary

A “primary that arises from some exigency or special need outside the usual routine.” Georgia Code Ann. §21-2-2(34). An election held to choose the nominees for vacant public offices to be filled at a SPECIAL ELECTION.” Minn. Stat. §200.02(5). An election “held only (a) whenever any vacancy occurs in the offices of United States senator, United States representative, state senator, or state representative because of failure to elect a person at an uncontested general election or (b) as specified in county charters.” 2 Hawaii. Rev. Stat. §11-1.

special primary election

= SPECIAL PRIMARY.

special purpose district

Any “local governmental unit other than a county or municipality.” Wisc. St. §5.02(20g).

special referendum

Any REFERENDUM held at a special election which is not held concurrently with the another election. Wisc. St. §5.02(20r).

special village election

Any “election of village officers, other than, the GENERAL VILLAGE ELECTION.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §15-102(2).

special write-in absentee ballot

A BALLOT provided by about half of the states to citizens who will be unable to obtain or complete a regular ABSENTEE BALLOT in time for an election. The special write-in absentee ballot is blank and can be obtained far in advance of the election, even before the official slate of candidates has been determined. It is generally for voters who are in remote or hostile areas, or who cannot count on normal mail delivery times.

specialized computer

“Automatic tabulating equipment constructed primarily for the purpose of tabulating ballots and printing results.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(21). Similarly in Mich. Rules §168.771(1)(y).

specially qualified voter

A “person (a) who is otherwise eligible to register as a voter; and (b) (1) whose present domicile is outside the United States and whose last domicile in the United States was Massachusetts; or (2) whose present domicile is Massachusetts and who is:

(i) absent from the city or town of residence and in the active service of the armed forces or in the merchant marine of the United States, or a spouse or dependent of such person;

(ii) absent from the commonwealth; or

(iii) confined in a correctional facility or a jail, except if by reason of a felony conviction.”

Mass. Gen'l. Laws §50-1.

specimen ballot

A “facsimile of a ballot used by a local board to provide notice to registered voters of the contents of the ballot.” Md. Elec. Code §1-101(pp). Also DIAGRAM.

split

A portion into which a SPLIT PRECINCT is divided. That is, splits are the components of a split precinct.

split code

(ES&S) A code associated with a SPLIT in a SPLIT PRECINCT. See also SEQUENCE CODE.

split precinct

A “precinct containing more than one ballot format because the contiguous geographic area served by the precinct has been split by crossing election district boundaries.” 2002 FEC A-6. A “precinct that contains an election district subdivision, e.g., a water district or school board district, requiring an additional BALLOT CONFIGURATION.” 2007 VVSG GLOSSARY. Also SPLIT VOTING DISTRICT.

split ticket

A BALLOT that has been voted for candidates of more than one party, as opposed to a STRAIGHT TICKET.

split voting district

A “voting district which was divided by statute or otherwise divided by law ... between two or more congressional, senatorial or assembly districts within a town so that a part of such split voting district was allocated to one congressional, senatorial or assembly district and the other part or parts thereof were allocated to another or other congressional, senatorial or assembly districts.” Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-169a. Also SPLIT PRECINCT.

spoil

“To mark or otherwise alter a BALLOT so as to indicate, in a manner supported by the voting system, that the ballot is not to be cast.” Se also SPOILED BALLOT.

spoiled ballot

A ballot that: (a) is spoiled by the voter; (b) is unable to be voted because it was spoiled by the printer or the election judge; or (c) lacks the official endorsement. Utah Code §20A-1-102(70). “Any voter who spoils his paper ballot or ballot card may return it and secure a replacement, but not more than twice.” Wyo. Stat. §22-11-105. Most states have similar limits on the number of ballots that a voter may spoil. A “ballot that has been voted but will not be cast.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. This definition is more restrictive since it does not include ballots spoiled in printing.

sponsors

The “proponents of a recall effort who establish a RECALL COMMITTEE.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:27A-3.

spoof

The activity of pretending to be another through the use of false identification or credentials, applied particularly to websites that masquerade as legitimate.

SPRG

An abbreviation for SECURITY PEER REVIEW GROUP.

square

An area used for marking a candidate selection on a ballot. When is a square not a square? When it’s in Wyoming, where square “shall include a box, circle, oval, arrow or other distinctive area used to designate the area for casting a vote.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xxxi).

SSL

= SECURE SOCKETS LAYER.

ST&E

= SECURITY TEST AND EVALUATION.

stage

With respect to INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, “a step in the counting process during which votes for all remaining candidates are tabulated for the purpose of determining whether a candidate has achieved a majority of the votes cast for a particular office, and, absent a majority, which

candidate or candidates must be eliminated.” Wash. Rev. Code 29A.053.030(9). Also STAGE IN THE COUNTING.

stage in the counting

= STAGE.

staging board

A board “responsible for preparing the ballots for processing by the [central count optical scanner].” Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1768. These responsibilities include JOGGING the ballots.

standard receiving board

“[T]hose election officials charged with conducting the process of voting within a PRECINCT.” W. Va. Code §3-1-29(a)(1). Cf. EXPANDED RECEIVING BOARD.

standard rotation

A form of BALLOT ROTATION. Standard rotation states include Kansas, Ohio and Washington. Standard rotation is used in New York City for PRIMARY ELECTIONS, but not in the rest of the state. Rotation in Kansas is based on the number of registered voters in a precinct.

standard validation test deck

“[A] group of ballots wherein all voting possibilities which can occur in an election are represented.” W. Va. Code §3-4A-2(h).

Standards Board

The Election Assistance Commission Standards Board established under HAVA. 42 U.S.C. §15341.

start/stop bar

(ES&S, opscan) A horizontal bar on an Optech ballot to designate the beginning and end of the area in which votes are to be counted.

state

For UOCAVA purposes, “‘State’ means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-6(6). The HAVA definition is essentially the same. 42 U.S.C. §15541.

State Administrator of Elections

The chief election officer of Maryland, appointed by the Governor for a six-year term and removable only for cause.

State Ballot Counting Review Board

An Alaska body performing the function of a STATE CANVASSING BOARD. Alaska Stat. §15.10.180.

State Ballot Law Commission

A Maryland body that evaluates objections to nominating petitions

State Board of Election Commissioners

In Arkansas, a 13-member body that examines electronic voting equipment. In Mississippi, a three-person board consisting of the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General that does not examine electronic voting equipment but acts an oversight body.

State Board of Election Supervisors

In Louisiana, a seven-member body that formulates election regulations, conducts hearings and issues reports to the legislature. 18 La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:23.

State Board of Elections

A supervisory election body in Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia. Abbreviated SBE.

State Board of Voting Machine Commissioners

The South Carolina body responsible for certifying voting machines.

State Canvassing Board

A state-level board that supervises the CANVASS. “The state canvassing board is the governor, secretary of state, state auditor and state treasurer.” Wyo. Stat. §22-16-11

state certification

“State examination and possibly testing of a voting system to determine its compliance with state laws, regulations, and rules and any other state requirements for voting systems.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

State Coordinator of Elections

In Tennessee, the chief administrative election officer of the state who is appointed by the Secretary of State and who administers the application, operation and interpretation of the election code. Tenn. Code §2-11-201.

State driver’s license agency

A term, defined in HAVA, relating to certain voter registration information obtained from state motor vehicle records: “[T]he term ‘State driver’s license agency’ means the State agency which issues driver’s licenses to individuals within the State and maintains records relating to such licensure.”

state election

An “election to choose a federal, state, or county officer or a delegate to a party convention or to nominate a candidate for federal, state or county office.” 63 N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:3. An “election held to: (A) Nominate a political party’s candidates for state, county or district offices; or (B) Choose state, county or district officers.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(27). Cf. STATE GENERAL ELECTION, STATE PRIMARY ELECTION, STATEWIDE ELECTION.

For UOCAVA purposes, “‘State’ means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-6(6).

State Election Commission

Among states having a statewide election commission or equivalent board, the duties of that body vary considerably. In Tennessee, the commission appoints all the county election commissioners. South Carolina and West Virginia also have state election commissions.

State Election Commissioner

The chief election official in Delaware.

State Elections Board

The body in Wisconsin responsible for administering and enforcing the state's election and campaign finance laws.

State Elections Enforcement Commission

A body in Connecticut established “to ensure the integrity of the state's electoral process. The Commission was given the authority to investigate possible violations of the election laws, inspect campaign finance records and reports, refer evidence of violations to the Chief State's Attorney or to the Attorney General, issue advisory opinions and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning revisions to the state's election laws.” COMMISSION WEBSITE.

state general election

An “election to choose a federal, state, or county officer.” 63 N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:4.

state inspector

An election inspector engaged at the state level to observe election procedures. A “state inspector is entitled to be present at and observe any function or activity at a polling place, central counting station, place of canvass, or other place at which official election or voter registration functions or activities take place. An inspector may take reasonable steps to obtain evidence of the manner in which a function or activity is being performed.” Texas Elec. Code §34.001.

state-level rotation

A form of BALLOT ROTATION used in California under which the ordering of candidates differs among assembly districts. Cf. COUNTY-LEVEL ROTATION.

state office

= STATEWIDE OFFICE.

state officer

An elected state official. See, e.g., Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.109.

State Plan

A plan, mandatory under HAVA, indicating how a state will achieve compliance with HAVA requirements.

state primary election

An “election to nominate a candidate for federal, state, or county office or to choose a delegate to a state party convention.” 63 N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:5.

State Registrar of Voters

In Iowa, the Secretary of State is also the Commissioner of Elections, the Chairman of the STATE VOTER REGISTRATION COMMISSION and the State Registrar of Voters, responsible for promoting voter participation and administering registration.

State Secretary

The Massachusetts term for SECRETARY OF STATE.

State Voter Registration Commission

A body which “shall meet at least quarterly to make and review policy, adopt rules, and establish procedures to be followed by the registrar [State Registrar of Voters] in discharging the duties of that office, and to promote interagency cooperation and planning.” Iowa Code §47.8.

statement of contest

A written statement by a person contesting an election stating the grounds for the CONTEST. Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-673.

statement of results

“At the conclusion of determining the votes cast on voting devices and paper ballots, the officers of election shall verify that all required data has been accurately entered, sign both copies of the statement of results, and affirm that the statement is complete and the information thereon is true and correct.” Va. Code §24.2-667.

statement of returns certificate

A certificate, executed by the CERTIFYING BOARD, attesting to the correctness of RETURNS in a precinct. 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(21)(12).

statement of votes cast

A document containing the official vote totals in a political subdivision to be transmitted to the Secretary of State. See, e.g. Ind. Code §36-5-1-17. Abbreviated SOVC.

statewide abstract of votes cast

The “record of the results in each election for candidates, ballot issues, and ballot questions that the secretary of state certified for the ballot.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(46.5).

statewide election

An “election held to nominate or to choose officers elected by or to submit a question to the voters of the entire state.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(28). Cf. STATE ELECTION.

statewide office

An office for which every voter in the state is eligible to vote.

statewide special election

A “SPECIAL ELECTION called by the governor or the Legislature in which all registered voters in Utah may vote.” Utah Code §2-1-104(22).

Statewide Uniform Voting Initiative

Electronic voting reform initiative in the State of Georgia.

statewide voter registration list

The official list, which may be maintained on the Internet, or every legally registered voter. Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.111.

statewide voter registration system

The system that each state must maintain, pursuant to HAVA, that maintains a centralized statewide database of registered voters. Abbreviated SVRS.

static voting system software

Software in a VOTING SYSTEM that does not change based on the election being conducted or the voting equipment upon which it is installed, e.g., executable code. Cf. SEMI-STATIC VOTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE.

statistical contest

(ES&S) An internal counter in a voting machine that records information about the voting process that does not appear on the ballot, such as the total number of votes cast.

status report

A report concerning a voting system that verifies that all voting devices are properly prepared and ready for an election, verifies the correct installation and interfaces of all system equipment and that the hardware and software function correctly. 2007 VVSG. Cf. READINESS REPORT.

sticker

= PASTER.

straight party

A term denoting a choice of all of the candidates of a particular political party.

straight party override

A choice whose effect is to supersede a STRAIGHT PARTY VOTE. An “explicit vote that conflicts with the vote(s) implied by a straight party vote.” 2007 VVSG.

straight-party vote

A “mechanism that allows voters to cast a single vote to select all candidates on the ballot from a single political party.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. A “vote by a single mark, punch, or other action by the voter for all the nominees of one political party and for no other candidates.” Texas Elec. Code §1.005(20). In Tennessee, straight-party voting is prohibited except for President and Vice President. The opposite holds in North Carolina, which does not allow inclusion of the Presidential race in a straight-party vote. Once having cast a straight-party vote, a voter may override it by crossing over and voting for one or more candidates of a different party. Some states, such as Illinois, outlaw straight-party voting. 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/1-7. Slightly more than half the states allow it. See also PENNSYLVANIA METHOD, SPLIT TICKET.

straight ticket

= STRAIGHT PARTY. N.H. Rev. Stat. §656:10. Also MIXED TICKET.

strategic voting

Voting for a candidate other than one’s true favorite in order to produce a desirable outcome. Also TACTICAL VOTING.

stray mark

A “mark on a ballot that appears to be accidental or appears to be unrelated to the act of filling in the VOTING TARGET.” Iowa Admin. Code §721-26.1(49).

stress testing

Testing designed to determine whether a system is able to perform at its stated limits, such as maximum number of BALLOT STYLE or VOTERS that can be accommodated.

stringing

A seemingly antique procedure for counting paper BALLOTS in which the ballots are literally placed on a string by being pierced by a needle and threaded for security. “The board in the actual procedure of counting the ballots shall thereupon unlock and open the BALLOT BOX; the ballots shall then be taken singly and separately therefrom by the judge of the election, and while each ballot shall remain in his hands, he shall audibly and publicly read the same in full view of the INSPECTOR. The inspector shall be satisfied that the ballot is being correctly read by the JUDGE. After the reading of the ballot, including a ballot determined to be void, and before taking another ballot from the box, the judge shall fold the ballot to a size about five inches square, and shall deliver the same so folded to the inspector, who shall write on the back thereof the number of such ballot from one onward, in the order in which the same shall have been taken from the box; and shall string the ballot as one ticket in the order in which the same shall be taken from the box and numbered, by means of a needle and string to be provided for that purpose.” N.J.Stat.Ann. §19:16-7. While the procedure may seem old, the statutory clause was amended as recently as 1992. Similarly in Oregon Stat. §545.145.

stub

The detachable part of a physical BALLOT. Utah Code §20A-1-102(73). Usually the stub contains a serial number or other identification, so it must be separated from the actual ballot to ensure secrecy. See also SERIALIZED STUB NUMBER.

STV

= SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE.

stylus

A device used in place of a finger to cast a vote on a touchscreen. Also, a device used to punch out the CHAD of a punch card.

submission clause

The text of a MEASURE. The “language which is attached to the title to form a question which can be answered by ‘yes’ or ‘no’.” Col. Stat. §1-40-102(8).

substitute ballot

A replacement ballot provided by an election officer to the election judges when the official ballots are lost or stolen. Utah Code §20A-1-102(73). “If the official ballots for an election district are not delivered in time for use on election day or after delivery shall be lost, destroyed or stolen, the department shall cause other ballots to be prepared, printed or written as nearly as may be of the form and description of the official ballots, and the department shall cause the ballots so substituted to be used at the election in the same manner, as nearly as may be, as the official ballots would have been.” 15 Del. Code Ann. §5007A.

SUEVI

= STATEWIDE UNIFORM ELECTRONIC VOTING INITIATIVE.

suitcase voting booth

A voting booth that collapses into a metal suitcase for ease of transportation and storage. The suitcase contains the necessary extendible legs to set up the booth and a privacy curtain.

summary page

A screen of a DRE or Internet ballot that summarizes the voter's choices and provides for amending the choices.

summary statement

The "certification supplied by the election jurisdiction to each precinct on which to record the information required by Minnesota Statutes ... and any other information requested by the election jurisdiction or the secretary of state." Minn. Rules §8220.0250.28a.

summative usability

"OPERATIONAL TESTING with representative users and tasks to measure the usability (defined as effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction) of the complete product. ... The purpose of a summative test is to evaluate a product through defined measures, rather than diagnosis and correction of specific design problems, as in formative testing." 2007 VVSG.

Superior Court judge

In Delaware, the BOARD OF CANVASS is composed of Superior Court judges.

superintendent

The chief county or municipal election authority in Georgia. "Either the judge of the probate court of a county or the county board of elections, the county board of elections and registration, the joint city-county board of elections, or the joint city-county board of elections and registration, if a county has such." Ga. Code Ann. §21-2-2(35)(A).

superintendent of elections

The New Jersey county official who administers voter registration and has custody of voting machines.

supervisor of the checklist

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. A member of any "board of registrars or similar body performing the functions of registering voters and correcting the checklist in cities." N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14.

supervisor of elections

In Florida, the chief ELECTION OFFICER of a county.

supervisor's card

The "electronic card to be used by the poll manager which is inserted into the DRE unit in order to configure the DRE unit for voting, to test the DRE unit, to terminate or suspend voting on the DRE unit, or to access other utility functions on the DRE unit." Ga. Rules §183-1-12-.02(h).

supervisory judge

In Missouri, one of two JUDGES responsible for returning ballots and TALLY SHEETS after an election. Mo. Code §115.491.

supplementary recount

A “RECOUNT obtained ... following a partial INITIAL RECOUNT.” Texas Elec. Code 211.002(4). This occurs when the partial recount reveals that a full recount is necessary or when the initial recount provides new grounds for a recount.

support software

“Software that aids in the development or maintenance of other software, for example compilers, loaders and other utilities.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

supply judge

The “ELECTION JUDGE appointed by the designated election official to be in charge of the election process at the polling place on election day.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(47).

surrender of ballot

“Any voter who, after receiving an official ballot, decides not to vote, shall, before entering the voting booth, surrender to the election officers the official ballot which has been given to the voter.” Iowa Code §49.86. The purpose of the provision is to prevent blank official ballots from circulating among the general public and to prevent the voter from marking the ballot outside the polling place, where COERCION might occur.

suspended state

A VOTING STATE of a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE after polls have been opened but when the device is not in ACTIVATED STATE. This occurs when an ELECTION OFFICIAL suspends voting for some reason but does not close the polls. 2007 VVSG.

SVRS

= STATWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

swell

A temporary rise in voltage supplied to an ELECTRONIC DEVICE.” Under the 2007 VVSG, a device must be able to withstand a “ temporary overvoltage of up to 120% of nominal system voltage lasting up to 0.5 second, and a permanent overvoltage of up to 110% of nominal system voltage. Cf. SAG.

swelling

The phenomenon by which paper DOCUMENT BALLOTS, such as optical scan and punched cards, physically expand in conditions of high humidity, interfering with the ability of machines to read and feed them properly.

symmetric encryption

Encryption is which the same key is used for both encryption and decryption, as opposed to ASYMMETRIC ENCRYPTION.

synchronized audio and video

The requirement that a disabled voter should be able to conduct both visual and aural interaction with a voting device. The voter should be able to elect audio-only, visual only, or synchronized audio/video. A HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

system event logging

Because of the need to AUDIT voting systems after an election, it must be possible to reconstruct the history of all significant events that took place during system preparation, voting and tabulation. Requirements to address system event logging to assist in voting device troubleshooting, recording a history of voting device activity, and detecting unauthorized or malicious activity form part of the security coverage of the 2007 VVSG.

system extent

An “administrative unit that is the entire scope within which the voting system is used (e.g., a county). Discussion: The system extent corresponds to the toplevel REPORTING CONTEXT for which the system generates reports.” 2007 VVSG.

system identifier

A unique identifier required of every ELECTRONIC DEVICE under the 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated ID.

system integrity management

Because of the dynamic and rewritable nature of computer systems, it is crucial to be able to verify that system components have not been altered or substituted. Requirements that address operating system security, secure boot loading, system hardening, etc., form part of the security coverage of the 2007 VVSG.

system maintenance manual

A document required as part of the TDP which shall “provide information to support election workers, information systems personnel, or maintenance personnel in the adjustment or removal and replacement of components or modules in the field.” 2007 VVSG.

system operations manual

A document required as part of the TDP which shall “provide all information necessary for system use by all personnel who support pre-election and election preparation, polling place activities, and central counting activities, as applicable, with regard to all system functions and operations.” 2007 VVSG.

T-coil

An “inductive coil used in some hearing aids to allow reception of an audio band magnetic field signal, instead of an acoustic signal. The magnetic or inductive mode of reception is commonly used in conjunction with telephones, auditorium loop systems and other systems that provide the required magnetic field output.” ANSI C63.19. Under the 2007 VVSG, an AUDIO-TACTILE INTERFACE must provide a wireless T-coil coupling.

tab

= TABULATION.

tabulation

Producing a COUNT of the total number of votes cast for each candidate and on each issue.

tabulation board

A board whose responsibility is “to handle and process all ballots delivered to the computer area” for counting. Mont. Admin. Rules §44.3.1769. Cf. STAGING BOARD.

tabulation memory device

A term that is used, but not defined, in the West Virginia Code: “The ‘tabulation memory device’ may be removed from the ballot-scanning device only after the polls close and the votes may only be counted at the central counting center on the night of the election.” W.V. Code §3-4A-9b(e)(3).

tabulation supervisor

The person “in charge of the operation of the automatic tabulating equipment at the COUNTING STATION.” Texas Elec. Code §127.003. See also ASSISTANT TABULATION SUPERVISOR.

tabulator

1. A “PROGRAMMED DEVICE that counts votes.” 2007 VVSG.
2. A Wisconsin election official. Wisc. Stat. §7.30(3).

tabulator summary count record

A record that must be produced by each TABULATOR for purposes of AUDIT. Its detailed contents are specified in the 2007 VVSG, but fundamentally it ties the tabulator’s unique device identifier to various data elements produced by that tabulator, such as the total number of ballots read.

tactical voting

= STRATEGIC VOTING.

tactile discernible controls

Voting machine controls capable of being detected and manipulated through the use of touch alone.

tactile input

A method by which a visually impaired voter may interact with a voting machine. Fla. Stat. 101.56062(1)(a).

take-home

A type of VVPAT system in which the paper ballot may be taken from the polling place by the voter. In some, such as AccuPoll, it is not intended that the ballot be removed. In others, such as VoteHere, the paper ballot acts as an encrypted receipt that the voter may safely remove because it cannot be used to prove to another person how the voter voted.

tally

1. To count by candidate or issue. In Wyoming, “tally” has the special meaning of “entering a vertical mark for the first four (4) votes, and a mark diagonally across the preceding four (4) for the fifth vote.” Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570, §4(ggg).
2. When capitalized, a software product of Hart Intercivic used to read and tally CAST VOTE RECORDS from MOBILE BALLOT BOX PC Cards and produce final election results. See also RALLY.

tally book

= TALLY LIST, def. 1. Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.113.

tally board

A body that retains custody of VOTED BALLOTS after they are cast. Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-531.

tally list

1. A document prepared by the TALLY BOARD certifying the number of votes cast for each office and on each measure. Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-604(B).
2. A document prepared by a COUNTING TEAM during a RECOUNT. Texas Elec. Code §214.002.

tally person

In Vermont, an election worker who has a specialized role in a RECOUNT. “The tally person and the DOUBLE-CHECK PERSON or persons each shall make a suitable mark for that candidate and/or BLANK BALLOTS, and/or SPOILED BALLOTS.” Vt. Stat. §2602f(a). See also CALLER, DOUBLE-CHECK PERSON.

tally sheet

The “document used to tabulate hand counted paper ballots.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xxxii).

tampering

“Any person wilfully tampering or attempting to tamper with, disarrange, deface, or impair in any manner whatsoever, or destroy any voting machine while the same is in use at any election, or who, after the machine is locked in order to preserve the registration or record of any election made by the same, tampers or attempts to tamper with any voting machine” is guilty of election fraud. Hawaii Rev. Stat. §19-3(9). “Every person who, directly or indirectly, personally or through another, wilfully designs, alters, accesses, or programs any electronic voting system to cause the system to inaccurately record, tally, or report votes cast on the electronic voting system” is guilty of election fraud. Hawaii Rev. Stat. §19-3(9).

target

The area on a ballot in which a voter indicates a selection. Also TARGET AREA.

target area

The area on a PAPER BALLOT that the voter is supposed to mark in order to cast a vote. The “square next to the candidate’s name or issue on the PAPER BALLOT, the oval next to the candidate’s name or issue on the paper ballot, the incomplete line next to the candidate’s name or issue on the paper ballot, or the incomplete arrow next to the candidate’s name or issue on the paper ballot.” Ark. Register §108.00.02-003.300(j).

TDP

= TECHNICAL DATA PACKAGE.

Technical Data Package

Documentation for all system components that is provided to a VSTL to accompany an application for CERTIFICATION. The package must describe overall system design, quality assurance practices, and practices for configuration management. 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated TDP.

Technical Guidelines Development Committee

A Committee of the Election Assistance Commission, established under HAVA, to develop voluntary voting system guidelines. Usually just DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. Abbreviated TGDC.

telecommunications

“Transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. This definition is deficient because it makes no distinction between electronic and non-electronic communications and avoids the fact that the form of a message may change before transit provided that it is reconstructed in its original form at the destination.

template

1. A “piece of material containing precisely located holes, conical in shape and positioned so that a stylus tip can penetrate only the scored areas of the BALLOT CARD.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(23).
2. A “tactile ballot cover or overlay ... that is used to allow visually or reading-impaired voters to vote independently through the use of touch.” Texas Admin. Code Rule §81.56.
3. A default graphic layout for a BALLOT.

temporary registration

A registration to vote issued to voters who have moved overseas under certain conditions. Va. Code §24.2-443.1.

termination of voting

The following provision is typical: “A person who is in line to vote when the polls close on election day shall be allowed to vote. Voting in a primary or general election shall terminate (1) when the polls close, if no one is in line to vote at that time, or (2) when all the persons who were in line to vote at 8:00 p.m. have been allowed to vote.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18-542. Abbreviated TDP.

test

A “procedure used to determine one or more characteristics of an object of CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT. ... A test may be an OPERATIONAL TEST or a non-operating test (e.g., an INSPECTION).” 2007 VVSG.

test ballot

A BALLOT prepared to test a voting machine or system. Texas Elec. Code §127.094(c).

test campaign

The “sum of the work by a VSTL on a single product or system from contract through test plan, conduct of testing for each requirement (including hardware, software, and systems), reporting, archiving, and responding to issues afterwards.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. Similarly, 2007 VVSG.

test cards

A “preaudited group of ballot cards on which are recorded a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each measure and shall include for each office one (1) or more ballots which contain OVERVOTES to test the ability of the automatic tabulating equipment to reject such votes.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(iii). Also TEST DECK.

test deck

A set of premarked optical scan ballots used to test optical scanners and tabulation equipment.

test lab

= VOTING SYSTEM TESTING LABORATORY. 2007 VVSG

test method

A “specified technical procedure for performing a test.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY. A “description of one or more tests, procedures by which tests are derived, or a combination of these.” 2007 VVSG.

test plan

A document describing the “test lab's development of the complete or partial TEST SUITES. To some extent, the test plan is determined by the Testing Standard ... The test plan must document the test suites so that the results of testing are reproducible. Prior to development of any test plan, the test lab must obtain the Technical Data Package (TDP) from the manufacturer submitting the voting system for CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT. The TDP contains information necessary to the development of the test plan, such as the manufacturer's hardware specifications, APPLICATION LOGIC specifications, operating manual, and maintenance manual.” 2007 VVSG.

test report for EAC certification

A “report of results of independent testing of a voting system indicating the data testing was completed, the specific system version tested, and the scope of tests conducted.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. Similarly, 2007 VVSG.

test suite

An “implementation of a set of OPERATIONAL TESTS for a particular object (e.g., a specific voting system) or class of objects (e.g., all voting systems than can interpret the language in which the test data are expressed).” 2007 VVSG.

testing

“Determination of one or more characteristics of an object of CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT, according to a procedure. ... ‘Testing’ typically applies to materials, products or processes,” 2007 VVSG. See also ACCEPTANCE TEST, ACCURACY TEST, BLACK BOX TESTING, CERTIFICATION TESTING, CLEAR BOX TESTING, FINDING, FUNCTIONAL TEST, GLASS BOX TESTING, LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST, MANUFACTURER TESTING, NATIONAL CERTIFICATION TESTING, NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM, OBSERVATIONAL TEST, OPEN-ENDED VULNERABILITY TESTING, OPERATIONAL TEST, PARALLEL TESTING, PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST, STRESS TESTING, USABILITY TESTING, VOLUME TEST, VOTING SYSTEM TESTING, VOTING SYSTEM TESTING LABORATORY, WHITE BOX TESTING.

testing authority

An “independent test authority as described in: (1) Voting System Standards issued by the Federal Election Commission on April 30, 2002; or (2) other more recent voting systems standards ...” Ind. Code §3-5-2-48.5.

testing board

A body that conducts a public test of election equipment. The “designated election official shall select a testing board comprising at least two persons, one from each major political party.” Col. Code §1-7-510(1)(c).

testing standard

A “standard that is concerned with test methods, sometimes supplemented with other provisions related to testing, such as sampling, use of statistical methods or sequence of tests. 2007 VVSG.

text-to-speech

A technology that converts textual material in electronic form to spoken audio output, suitable for use by a visually impaired voter.

TGDC

= TECHNICAL GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

threshold cryptography

A form of cryptography useful in secure verifiable voting schemes to prevent malfeasance by requiring multiple parties in order to decrypt a message so that decryption cannot be accomplished by any single person.

third-party logic

“Software, firmware, or HARDWIRED LOGIC that is neither APPLICATION LOGIC nor COTS; e.g., general-purpose software developed by a third party that is either customized (e.g., ported to a new platform, as is Windows CE) or not widely used, or source code generated by a COTS package.” 2007 VVSG.

ticket

The “list of candidates for each political party or for each group of petitioners.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(74). See also OVERRIDE.

tie vote

A situation in which two or more candidates for the same office receive an equal number of votes. Some states resolve tie votes by LOT. For major offices, such as United States Senator, the tie may be resolved by the state legislature (see Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.400(1)(a)) or by holding a NEW ELECTION (see N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-182.2(1), 23 Virgin Islands Code §628). In some states, ties are resolved by holding a SPECIAL ELECTION. Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-732(2).

time

Most states limit the time an individual voter may take to cast a vote. “No voter shall remain in the voting machine booth longer than two minutes, and having cast his vote the voter shall at once emerge therefrom and leave the polling room; if he shall refuse to leave after the lapse of two minutes he shall be removed by the district election officers.” N.J.S.A. §19:52-3.

time-sensitive code

Software whose behavior changes based on reading a real-time clock. For example, a system might be programmed to read the clock to determine whether the official election is in progress and use that opportunity to switch votes, yet behave properly at all other times.

timestamp

A string indicative of clock or elapsed time, generally consisting of day, month, year and time of day. The modern trend is to require a PROGRAMMED DEVICE to have an onboard clock so

that timestamps can be generated for LOG purposes. Timestamps must have a resolution of at most one second and must include a four-digit year and time zone indicator. 2007 VVSG.

timing

A USABILITY issue identified as a HUMAN FACTOR in the 2007 VVSG. A voting device must respond sufficiently rapidly to voter input to maintain the cognitive pace of a VOTING SESSION. See also ALERT TIME, COMPLETED SYSTEM RESPONSE TIME, INITIAL SYSTEM RESPONSE TIME, VOTER INACTIVITY TIME.

timing mark

A printed mark, general at the edge of an optical scan ballot to indicate the vertical location of VOTING POSITIONS. Improperly printed timing marks can lead to a ballot being read incorrectly or not read at all.

timing track

A column of rectangular marks on an optical scan ballot used to indicate the horizontal position of CANDIDATE OVALS. See also CODE CHANNEL.

tint

A “color and design prescribed by the Secretary of State which is printed on card stock for ballots to be used in California elections. Both color and design will be prescribed by the Secretary of State for each election.” Cal. Regs. §20211

title

The title of a MEASURE. A “brief statement that fairly and accurately represents the true intent and meaning of the proposed text of the initiative.” Col. Stat. §1-40-102(10).

Title I Funds

Funds in the amount of \$650 million provided under Title I of HAVA to pay for replacement of PUNCHED-CARD SYSTEMS and LEVER MACHINES, each state being guaranteed at least \$5 million.

Title II Funds

Funds in the amount of \$3 billion provided to states under Title II of HAVA, based on voter population, to assist states in complying with HAVA requirements.

touch screen

An input device used in voting machines whereby the intention of the voter is captured by sensing contact between the voter’s finger or device upon a screen is sensed, as opposed capturing marks or key depressions.

touch screen voting machine

A VOTING MACHINE that captures voter choices via a TOUCH SCREEN. A “voting machine that utilizes a computer screen to display the ballot and allows the voter to indicate his or her selections by touching designated locations on the screen.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

town clerk

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14. See also DEPUTY TOWN CLERK.

town election

An “election to choose a town officer.” 63 N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:7.

township office

An “office filled by a township officer.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.115.

township officer

A “public official elected in a township to serve the township.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.117.

total completion score

A “BENCHMARK used in the VPP. The proportion of users who successfully cast a ballot (whether or not the ballot contains erroneous votes). Failure to cast a ballot might involve problems such as a voter simply “giving up” during the VOTING SESSION because of an inability to operate the system, or a mistaken belief that one has successfully operated the casting mechanism.” 2007 VVSG.

TPM

= TRUSTED PLATFORM MODULE.

tracking number

A number, required in Ohio, to be printed on each ballot of a BALLOTS ON DEMAND VOTING SYSTEM. Ohio Rev. Stat. §3506.20(B).

TRANS

A software product of Hart Intercivic used to provide audio information for assistive ballots. An acronym for Translation Recording and Normalization Software.

transfer case

The “sealed box used to transport voted ballots to the counting center.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(75). A “container, prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board, which can be closed and sealed and is constructed so as to, when sealed, prevent accidental opening or opening by any other reasonable means, except by removing, breaking, tearing or otherwise damaging the seal so if opened by any means it would be obvious in the normal situation that the container had been subject to tampering.” 26 Okla. Stat. §6-102.1(6).

transmittal envelope

The “envelope in which the ballot, instructions for voting, ballot secrecy envelope and return/verification envelope are mailed to each individual elector eligible to vote in the election.” Mont. Admin. Rules §44-9-103(a).

tribal clerk

An “official designated by the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and an official designated by the Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation acting pursuant to a cooperative agreement entered into by a county and the respective tribe.” Wyo. Stat. §22-1-102(a)(xliv).

tribal election

An election for tribal government pursuant to 25 C.F.R. §81.1(s).

Trojan Horse

A form of malicious software that masquerades as a legitimate program but performs unintended functions. “A program with undesirable behavior that operates secretly or invisibly, or is disguised as part of a larger useful program.” CIVTF Appendix A.

trusted platform module

A tamper-resistant hardware device that serves as a base for trusted computing. 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated TPM.

tunnel

“A cryptographic technique in which a computer is in effect attached to a remote LAN via the Internet, even if there is an intervening firewall.” CIVTF Appendix A.

turnout

The “total number of voters at an election as determined by the number of ballot cards tabulated by the computer or of paper ballots counted by the precinct officials, and shall include ballots that are blank or ballots that are rejected during tabulation for any reason; provided that when there is more than one ballot card issued to each voter, ‘turnout’ means the total count of the candidate ballot cards tabulated by the computer.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1. This definition is at variance with that of VOTER TURNOUT in the Hawaii statutes.

two-sided ballot

A ballot having voting positions on both sides of a sheet, typically used with MARK-SENSE systems.

unaccepted ballot

An ABSENTEE BALLOT that is that is not processed beyond the step of signature verification.

unaffiliated

A registered voter who is not AFFILIATED with a political party.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(49.5).

unaffiliated candidate

Any “individual who files a declaration as a candidate for any office to be decided at the GENERAL ELECTION and who is not affiliated with any political party and has not been thus AFFILIATED for at least 3 months prior to the filing of his or her declaration.” 15 Del. Code §101(22).

uncoercibility

The property of a voting method that prevents a person from influencing the vote of another.

uncontested office

An “office where, as of the final date for filing primary nomination petitions, either: A. Only members of one party have filed as candidates for nomination for that office; or B. Only one unenrolled nominee has filed as a candidate for that office.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(46).

uncounted ballot

A ballot that was validly cast by an eligible voter but whose contents were not counted in determining the final tally.

undeclared voter

A “voter who is registered as a member of no political party.” N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §652:16-a.

undervote

The act of having voted for fewer than the allowed number of candidates in an office or on a ballot. A “condition of a voted ballot in which fewer votes have been cast for an issue or office than permitted by law.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.33. Cf. OVERVOTE.

unfinished card stock

“Card stock tinted for use in California elections, cut to the width and approximate length of a single ballot card, and requiring one or more steps in the production of a ballot card.” Cal. Regs. §20212

uniform voting system

A voting system adopted in every jurisdiction in a state. Uniform systems exist in Alaska, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Oklahoma and Rhode Island. See, e.g., Md. Elec. Code §9-101: “The voting system selected and certified for voting in polling places and the voting system selected and certified for absentee voting shall be used in all counties.” HAVA will probably result in an increase in the number of states with uniform systems.

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

A statute that prescribes measures that the Federal government and the states must take to assist certain classes of citizens, specifically those who reside overseas or are members of a uniformed service, in voting. It also provides for a postcard form for absentee ballot applications. See 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-1 et seq. Abbreviated UOCAVA. See also ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER, BALLOTING MATERIALS, FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT, MEMBER OF THE MERCHANT MARINE, UNIFORMED SERVICES.

uniformed services

For UOCAVA purposes, “‘uniformed services’ means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.” 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-6(7).

unique identifier

1. A code placed on a ballot for inventory and audit purposes. In most states, the identifier is on a STUB which must be removed prior to being voted.
2. A separate code or string associated with each voter in a statewide registration system, as required by HAVA. 42 U.S.C. §15483. When is the unique identifier not unique? When it’s in New Mexico: “As used in the Election Code ‘unique identifier’ means the last four digits of a voter's social security number.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-1-23.

United States Conference of Mayors

Under HAVA, the United States Conference of Mayors has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated USCM.

United States Conference on Civil Rights

Under HAVA, the United States Conference on Civil Rights has the right to appoint two members to the BOARD OF ADVISORS. Abbreviated USCCR.

Unity

The “software product from Election Systems & Software consisting of several program modules used to control the setup and administration of ballot tabulation.” 2004 Pasco ESP 7.

universal contest

A particular type of contest in Florida, in which all voters may vote in a PRIMARY for a candidate who will be unopposed in the GENERAL ELECTION, regardless of their party of registration. Such voting would ordinarily not be permitted in a state with a CLOSED PRIMARY.

universal verifiability

The ability of any citizen, following an election, to determine for himself that the announced totals are correct and that only eligible voters voted.

unlawful opening of ballot box

“Unlawful opening of a ballot box consists of opening a ballot box or inspecting or removing the contents thereof without lawful authority, or conspiring with others so to open a ballot box.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-103.

unlawful opening of voting machine

“Unlawful opening of a voting machine consists of opening, unlocking, inspecting, tampering with, resetting or adjusting a voting machine without lawful authority, or conspiring with others to do so.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-104.

unlawful possession of alcoholic beverages

In some states, it is a CRIME for an ELECTION OFFICIAL to possess alcoholic beverages. “Unlawful possession of alcoholic or malt beverages at a polling place consists of the use or possession of any alcoholic or malt beverages by an election official while performing his official duties or the use or possession by any person of these beverages in a polling place during an election.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-115.

unlawful possession of key

“Unlawful possession of a key consists of the possession at any time of a key to a voting machine or ballot box, or making a duplicate thereof, unless authorized by law.” Wyo. Stat. §22-26-105.

uninterruptible power supply

A source of power to voting equipment that is not interrupted should regular electric power be lost. The backup power is generally supplied through batteries but may also come from a fuel-operated generator. Abbreviated UPS.

unique mark

“Prior to delivering any ballot to the voter, the board worker should place a unique mark in the box printed at the bottom of the ballot. A unique mark shall be of such a manner so as not to identify any individual ballot and shall be consistent on every ballot delivered to a voter in the voting place.” Kan. Stat. §25-4608

unmarked ballot

A ballot that was validly cast by an eligible voter but which contains no valid votes, either because no vote was indicated by the voter or the tabulating equipment was unable to discern a vote.

unofficial ballot

A substitute for an OFFICIAL BALLOT, used in the event official ballots are unavailable. “If from any cause neither the official ballot nor ballots otherwise prepared as herein prescribed shall be ready for distribution at any polling place, or if the supply of ballots shall be exhausted before the polls are closed, unofficial ballots, made as nearly as possible in the form of the official ballot, may be used.” N.J.S.A. §19:15-6.

unqualified provisional ballot

A PROVISIONAL BALLOT cast by a voter who subsequently is found not to have been eligible to vote. N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.22.9(B). Such ballots must be retained for 22 months pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1972.

unreadable ballot

A “ballot that cannot be read by the vote tallying system as the voter intended without alteration. Unreadable ballots may include, but not be limited to, ballots with damage, write-in votes, incorrect or incomplete marks or punches, and questions of vote intent.” Wash. Admin. Code §434-261-005(4). Cf. READABLE BALLOT.

unsafe concurrency

A potentially dangerous condition that may arise when multiple processes are executing concurrently, including “race conditions, deadlocks, livelocks, and resource starvation. 2007 VVSG.

unstamped ballot

A BALLOT “which is not endorsed by the official stamp” of an election official. Such ballots are “void and may not be counted.” S.D. Rules §5:02:16:10.

unused ballot

A “ballot never stamped or marked by a voter.” S.D. Rules §5:02:16:00(3).

unvoted ballot

1. = BLANK BALLOT. Also UNUSED BALLOT.
2. A “ballot never placed in the ballot box.” S.D. Rules §5:02:16:00(2).

UOCAVA

= UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT.

UPS

= UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY

upstop knob

(ES&S, opscan) A component of certain models of ES&S optical scanners used to adjust the guide arm that holds ballots in place as the input hopper rises while ballots are being read.

usability

The “effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction with which a specified set of users can achieve a specified set of tasks in a particular environment.” ISO 9421. Usability in the context of voting system standards refers to voters being able to cast valid votes as they intended quickly, without errors, and with confidence that their ballot choices were recorded correctly. It also refers to the usability of the setup, operation and maintenance of voting equipment for the

election by poll workers and election administrators. The “extent to which a product can be used by specified users to achieve specified goals with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction in a specified context of use.” 2007 VVSG.

usability performance benchmark

An objective, performance-based measure of the USABILITY of a voting system. The 2007 VVSG define five such benchmarks. See AVERAGE VOTER CONFIDENCE, AVERAGE VOTING SESSION TIME, PERFECT BALLOT INDEX, TOTAL COMPLETION SCORE, VOTER INCLUSION INDEX.

usability testing

Testing which “encompasses a range of methods that examine how users in the target audience actually interact with a system, in contrast to analytic techniques such as usability inspection.” 2005 VVSG GLOSSARY.

user documentation

“Electronic or printed material that provides information for the election officials or voters chief election officials of each county and municipality responsible for preparation of a program to be used with an electronic voting system or for administration of a counting center.” IEEE 1583.

user list

A “list of the chief election officials of each county and municipality responsible for preparation of a program to be used with an electronic voting system or for administration of a counting center.” Minn. Stat. §206.56(16).

USCCR

= UNITED STATES CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS.

USCM

= UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS.

utility envelope

The “envelope into which a spoiled, refused, found, or challenged ballot is placed.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

VAA

= VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED ACT.

vacancy

The situation in which an office is not filled or performed because of a condition such as the death, removal, resignation or incapacity of the holder.” See also VACANCY IN OFFICE.

vacancy in election

The “vacancy in an elective office created by death, resignation, or other good and legal cause, arising prior to election to the office at a general or special election but arising subsequent to the certification of the ballot.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(22).

vacancy in nomination

The “circumstances in which the person who received the majority of votes at the preferential primary election or general primary election cannot accept the nomination due to death or

notifies the party that he or she will not accept the nomination due to serious illness, moving out of the area from which the person was elected as the party's nominee, or filing for another office preceding the final date for certification of nominations.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(23).

vacancy in office

The “vacancy in an elective office created by death, resignation, or other good and legal cause arising subsequent to election to the office at a general or special election or arising subsequent to taking office and prior to the expiration of the term of office in those circumstances wherein the vacancy must be filled by a special election rather than by appointment.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(23). See also VACANCY.

valid punch

A “punch of a ballot card such that the CHAD is completely removed or is hanging by one (1) or two (2) corners.” 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. §2:010(1)(25).

valid vote

A “vote that has been counted as valid or determined to be valid.” Mont. Code Ann. §13-1-101(30). A “vote from a ballot or ballot image that conforms to jurisdiction dependent criteria for accepting or rejecting entire ballots, such as stray marks policies and voter eligibility criteria, in a contest that was not overvoted.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

valid write-in candidate

A “candidate who has qualified as a write-in candidate.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(78). See also DECLARED WRITE-IN.

validation

1. The process of evaluating a system or component during or at the end of the development process to determine whether it satisfies specified requirements. 2002 FEC A-7.
2. “A test to find errors in hardware or software. The test is executed in a real environment, i.e., during ACCEPTANCE TESTS.” Fla. VSS Appendix. Cf. VERIFICATION.

VBO

= VERIFIED BALLOT OPTION.

VEBD

= VOTER-EDITABLE BALLOT DEVICE.

VEBD-A

= AUDIO VEDB.

VEBD-V

= VIDEO VEDB.

VEC

= VOTER EDUCATION COORDINATOR.

vendor

An “individual or organization other than an election jurisdiction supplying any element of an electronic voting system, including but not limited to hardware, software, and programming services.” Minn. Rules §8220.0250.35. Any “person, group, organization, company, or entity, whether or not incorporated, who sells, leases, or grants use of, with or without compensation

therefor, a ballot tally software program for use by jurisdictions which conduct elections subject to these regulations. The term “vendor” includes election jurisdictions which provide or maintain ballot tally software programs for their own use or for the use of others.” Cal. Regs. §20627.

verifiability

See also UNIVERSAL VERIFIABILITY.

verification

1. Determining the integrity of an election by confirming one or more of the following: (1) a voter’s choices have been correct understood by the voting system; (2) the choices were recorded properly by the system; (3) the choices were tabulated properly as part of the final count; (4) the cast vote records are correct and have survived to be used in the event a RECOUNT is sought; and (5) no unauthorized voters voted in the election.
2. The process of evaluating a system or component to determine whether the products of a given development phase satisfy the conditions (such as specifications) imposed at the start of that phase. 2002 FEC A-7.
3. “A test to find errors in hardware or software. The test is executed in a simulated environment, i.e., during system qualification.” Fla. VSS Appendix. Cf. VALIDATION.

verification and validation

The “process of determining whether requirements for a system or component are complete and correct, the products of each development phase fulfill the requirements or conditions imposed by the previous phase, and the final system or component complies with specified requirements.” IEEE 1583. Abbreviated V&V.

verification board

“As soon as practicable after each election, the election authority shall convene a verification board to verify the count and certify the results of the election.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.497.

verification list

A “list prepared under the supervision of the election authority which contains the name and address of each registered voter within a precinct.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.183.

Verified Ballot Option

The Hart InterCivic eSlate VVPAT.

Verivote

A VVPAT printer of Sequoia Voting Systems.

video ballot

“An electronic interface which presents ballot information and voting instructions as video images.” Fla. VSS Appendix. Cf. AUDIO BALLOT.

video VEDB

A “VEDB that communicates ballot information to the voter using light (e.g., via a typical electronic display).” 2007 VVSG.

view-only

A type of VVPAT in which the voter may not touch the paper ballot after it has been printed, as opposed to VOTER-HANDLED systems, in which the ballot may not only be touched, but may also be removed and may even be taken away from the polling place in some cases. See TAKE-HOME.

village clerk

The “village clerk shall be the election officer of the village and shall have the responsibility for the general conduct of all village elections and shall have vested in him all authority, ... which may be reasonable and necessary to provide for the proper and orderly conduct of such elections and the proceedings preliminary and subsequent thereto.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §15-124.

village district election

An “election to choose a village district officer.” 63 N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:10.

village election

A term that “includes both general and special village elections for officers.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §15-102(3).

village primary

Any “election held by a political party for the purpose of nominating candidates for elective village office.” N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §15-102(5).

virus

A form of malicious software that “infects” a host computer in the sense that it is able to exist, replicate itself, and distribute itself from that host.

visible red

A frequency of red light used in optical scanners that is generally modulated to enhance recognition. Visible red scanners are able to read almost any type of ink except red. Abbreviated VR.

visual privacy

That feature of a voting system that prevents others from observing a voter at a VOTING STATION during the voting process so as to learn how the voter has voted.

visually impaired

“Having central visual acuity not to exceed 20-200 in the better eye, with corrected lenses, or visual acuity greater than 20-200, but with a limitation in the field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends at an angle of not greater than 20 degrees.” Cal. Elec. Code §2051.

viva voce election

“All elections by persons in a representative capacity shall be viva voce or by automatic recording device publicly indicating how each person voted.” Pa. Const. Art. VII, Sec. 10.

voice voting

The method of voting whereby the voter publicly declared his choices orally. [The male pronoun is used here because voice voting was obsolete in the U.S. before the adoption of the 19th Amendment.]

void ballot

A ballot that is not to be counted because of a statutory provision. “A ballot on which a voter has clearly manifested an intention to make a distinguishing mark or to mark the ballot in a manner inconsistent with an honest purpose or to act in a fraudulent manner is void.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-696(5). “If a ballot is found to have been voted for a greater number of names for any one office than the number of persons required to fill the office, or if the title of the office is erased, the ballot shall be considered void as to all the names designated to fill such office, but no further.” Va. Code §24.2-663.

volume test

A test to determine whether a voting system can handle a large number of voters or BALLOTS.

Voluntary Voting System Guidelines

A set of requirements promulgated by the ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION as the basis on which voting systems are to be certified by a VOTING SYSTEM TESTING LABORATORY. Abbreviated VVSG.

vote

An “indication of support for a particular CONTEST CHOICE in a manner supported by the voting system.” 2007 VVSG. “A vote on a touch-screen direct recording electronic voting system or electronic voting system consists of a voter's selection of a candidate or answer to a ballot question selected by the electro-optical ballot display of the device, followed by the voter activating the cast vote indicator.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-9.4.2(A). “A vote on a paper ballot card used on an electronic vote tabulating marksense voting system, optical scan vote tabulating system or high-speed central count marksense vote tabulator consists of a voter's selection of a candidate or answer to a ballot question indicated in the voting response area of the paper ballot card marked in accordance with the instructions for that ballot type. If the paper ballot card is marked indistinctly or not marked according to the instructions for that ballot type, only a cross (X) or a check (√) within the voting response area shall be counted. A vote on a paper ballot card shall also be counted if, on a ballot type requiring the completion of an arrow to indicate a voter's selection, the voter has marked an arrowhead on the tail portion of the arrow in the voting response area.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-9.4.2(B).

As a verb, to “vote” means “to cast a vote that is counted.” Md. Elec. Code §1-101(uu)

vote blank

To deliberately fails to vote on a QUESTION or for any candidate in a particular office. “The elector can vote blank for any office on his party ticket by making a cross mark (x) in the circle at the top of the ticket and striking out with pencil or pen the name or names of candidates he does not desire to vote for on the ticket.” Ala. Code §17-8-21.

vote button

A “button a voter pushes to activate a DRE Machine allowing the voter to record the votes in the internal memory in the DRE and clear the votes on the ballot display.” Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570 §4(III).

vote-buying

“Any person who buys or offers to buy any vote of any qualified elector at any election by the payment of money or the promise to pay the same at any future time, or by the gift of intoxicating liquors or other valuable thing, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor ...” Ala. Code §17-23-4. Cf. VOTE-SELLING.

vote-by-mail

A method of voting in which votes are cast by mailing in ballots instead of by physical appearance at a POLLING PLACE. Oregon, for example, votes entirely by mail.

vote-capture device

A “device that is used directly by a voter to vote a ballot.” 2007 VVSG.

vote capture station

A component of a VOTING SYSTEM that obtains the voter’s choices.

vote card

A “card upon which the voter casts his or her votes by the process of punching.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(26).

vote center

A “POLLING PLACE at which any registered elector in the political subdivision holding the election may vote, regardless of the precinct in which the elector resides.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(49.8). In Indiana, a POLLING PLACE serving more than one PRECINCT. Ind. Code §3-11-18.

vote-changing

Fraudulently altering or changing the vote of any elector, by which such elector is prevented from voting as he intended. Ala. Code §17-23-7.

vote client

In Internet voting, a machine on which a voter casts a vote. CIVTF.

vote data

Data comprising vote or vote totals. 2007 VVSG.

vote data pack

The “apparatus which contains electronic instructions for a voting device and in which electronic results are stored.” 26 Okla. Stat. §6-102.1(7).

vote-for-many

A CONTEST in which more than one candidate can be chosen, and a voter may vote for more than one. Also FIELD RACE, MULTI-SEAT CONTEST, VOTE FOR N OF M, VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN N.

vote for N of M

Said of a RACE in which the voter may select (vote for) up to N candidates out of a total of M in the race.

vote for no more than N

= VOTE FOR N OF M. This form is preferable to “Vote for N,” which sometimes misleads voters into believing that they are required to vote for N candidates and that a lower number will not suffice.

vote indicator

A device “with which votes are indicated for candidates or for or against questions.” Georgia Code Ann. §21-2-310(6). Likewise, La. R.S. §18:1351(11). The “pointer or other device upon which are registered the votes for candidates or on questions submitted to voters.” 54 Mass. Gen'l Laws §33A.

vote list

A “list by precinct of the names and addresses of all persons who voted in the election and their political party affiliation.” Alaska Stat. §15.15.400.

vote marking device

Any “approved device for marking a paper ballot with ink or other substance which will enable the ballot to be tabulated by means of AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT.” Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §117.375(8).

vote recorder

Any “apparatus which the elector uses to record votes by marking or punching a hole in a paper ballot or tabulating card and which subsequently counts the votes by electronic tabulating equipment or records the votes electronically on a paper tape within the apparatus and simultaneously on a removable ‘prom’ or other electronic tabulation device.” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(50). A “device into which a ballot card may be inserted so that an elector may record his or her vote for any candidate and for or against any question by punching or marking the ballot card.” Georgia Code Ann. §21-2-2(38).

vote recording device

“[E]quipment in which ballot labels and ballots are placed to allow a voter to record his or her vote by perforating or equipment with a screen upon which votes may be recorded by means of a stylus or by means of touch.” W. Va. Code §3-4A-2(i).

vote response field

(usually opscan) The geometric area in which a voter marks a BALLOT, or indicates a choice on a DRE. The equipment must be able to recognize mark or indications in the response field or they will not be treated as votes. 2007 VVSG.

vote-selling

“Any qualified elector at any election who takes or receives any money or other valuable thing, upon the condition that the same shall be paid at any future time, in exchange for the vote of such elector for any particular candidate, or the promise to vote for any particular candidate, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor ...” Ala. Code §17-23-4. Cf. VOTE-BUYING.

vote server

A computer which receives and stores vote in Internet voting systems, e.g. PROJECT SERVE.

vote tabulation district

A term used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for a geographic area whose population is tabulated for reapportionment purposes. Abbreviated VTD.

vote tabulating device

Any “piece of equipment, other than a voting machine, that compiles a total of votes cast by means of ballot card sorting, ballot card reading, paper ballot scanning, electronic data processing, or a combination of that type of equipment.” Cal. Elec. Code §358.

vote tabulating equipment

A machine that counts votes previously indicated by a different mechanism. “A type of voting machine which is a single unit designed to count (record) the votes cast on a pre-printed ballot which is filled in by a voter casting his ballot on the pre-printed paper ballot.” New Mex. Admin Code §1.10.20.7(B). Cf. RECORDING AND TABULATING EQUIPMENT.

vote tally system

“[O]ne or more pieces of equipment necessary to examine and tally automatically the marked ballots.” O.R.S. §246.012(10).

vote tallying system

“‘Vote tallying system’ means a piece of mechanical or electronic equipment and associated data processing software used to tabulate votes cast on ballot cards or otherwise recorded on a voting device or to prepare that system to tabulate ballot cards or count votes.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.181(3).

vote vector

= BALLOT IMAGE.

voted ballot

A ballot that has been marked by a voter. A “ballot placed in the ballot box at any time.” S.D. Rules §5:02:16:00(1). There is ambiguity as to whether the term includes (1) ballots placed in the ballot box but not necessarily marked; (2) ballots that have been marked, whether or not cast; (3) ballots that have been marked and cast; or (4) ballots that have been read and tabulated. Logic favors (1), but the ambiguity is so severe that use of the term is discouraged. A “BALLOT that has been cast or SPOILED. 2007 VVSG.

voter

1. A person who is eligible to vote, regardless of whether or not she actually votes. Also ELECTOR.
2. A person who has actually cast a vote, or attempted to cast a vote, in a specific election.

voter access card

A card issued to a voter by an election official that is used to unlock a voting machine so the voter may cast a vote. The card may contain information specifying the BALLOT STYLE to be presented to the voter but does not contain any personally identifiable information. The “electronic card issued to a voter which is inserted into a DRE UNIT to authorize the voter to cast a ballot on the DRE unit.” Ga. Rules §183-1-12-.02(i).

voter assistance official

In Hawaii, an ELECTION OFFICIAL who assists the CHAIRPERSON in managing the POLLING PLACE and administers special procedures such as handling SPOILED BALLOTS and CURBSIDE VOTING.

voter-editable ballot device

A “VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE that gathers votes via an ELECTRONIC VOTER INTERFACE and allows the voter to alter previously made votes without spoiling the ballot.” 2007 VVSG. Abbreviated VEDB. This is in contrast to manually marked paper ballots, on which alterations can only be made with difficulty. The availability of a VEDB is a HUMAN FACTOR identified in the 2007 VVSG.

voter fatigue

= DROP-OFF, ROLLOFF.

voter-handled

A type of VVPAT in which the voter may touch the paper ballot after it has been printed, as opposed to VIEW-ONLY systems, in which the ballot is protected behind a transparent shield. Voter-handled systems further subdivide into DEPOSIT-ONLY and TAKE-HOME systems.

voter identification number

A UNIQUE IDENTIFIER assigned to a voter in Indiana. Ind. Code §3-7-13-13.

voter in a remote area

Any “registered voter who resides ten miles or more from the voter's designated polling place by the most direct route for public travel.” 2 Hawaii. Rev. Stat. §15-1.

voter inactivity time

The “amount of time from when the system completes its response until there is detectable voter activity. In particular, note that audio prompts from the system may take several minutes and that this time does not count as voter inactivity.” 2007 VVSG.

voter inclusion index

A “BENCHMARK used in the VPP. A measure of voting accuracy and variance, based on the mean accuracy per voter and the associated standard deviation. Each voter is given a certain number of “voting opportunities” within the ballot. The more of these that are successfully completed, the higher the resulting accuracy for that voter.” 2007 VVSG.

voter intent

A rule of construction of election law requiring any body that interprets a ballot to attempt to determine the true intent of the voter. “This title must be liberally construed to the end that: ... The real will of the electors is not defeated by any informality or by failure substantially to comply with the provisions of this title with respect to the giving of any notice or the conducting of an election or certifying the results thereof.” Nevada Rev. Stat. §293.127(1).

voter registration agency

An office that performs voter registration activities. N.J.S. §19:31-6.11.

voter registration application

An uniform application form for voter registration provided in UOCAVA.

voter registration commission

In Illinois, Iowa and Pennsylvania, a body that determines the qualifications of applicants for registration.

voter registration system

A system that maintains records of those persons who are entitled to vote.

voter slip

A “slip of paper with a number printed or stamped on it that an election judge gives the voter who in turn deposits it in an envelope or on a spindle on the voting machine.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(mmm).

voter turnout

The “total number of voters at an election as determined by the number of ballot cards tabulated by the computer or of paper ballots counted by the precinct officials. When there is more than one ballot card issued to each voter, ‘voter turnout’ means the total count of the alpha ballot card with the highest number of cards tabulated by the computer. Ballots that are blank or ballots that are rejected for any reason shall be included in the count of the total number of voters.” 2 Hawaii Rev. Stat. §11-1. Cf. TURNOUT.

voter-verifiable

That which is capable of being verified by a voter, whether or not it is actually so verified. For example, a VVPAT is verifiable, but might be ignored by the voter, in which case it would not be VOTER-VERIFIED.

voter-verifiable and auditable paper trail

A “paper record of the voter's choices, viewable prior to casting the ballot, which may be the paper ballot itself; the paper trail shall be used by the state or its contractor to check either the veracity of a machine count or the count itself, or may be used in a recount proceeding, and in case of a discrepancy, the voter verifiable and auditable paper trail shall be considered the true and correct record of the voter's choices.” N.M. Stat. Ann. §1-9-7.1(C)(2). Cf. VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER AUDIT TRAIL.

voter-verifiable paper audit trail

A “DRE that supports VOTER VERIFICATION using a VVPR.” 2007 VVSG.

voter-verifiable paper record

A “paper CVR produced by a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE that supports VOTER VERIFICATION (e.g., VVPAT and EBM). 2007 VVSG.

voter verification

The act by a voter of satisfying herself that her vote has been correctly captured and counted. “Confirmation by the voter that all votes were recorded as the voter intended.” 2007 VVSG. Cf. ELECTION VERIFICATION.

voter-verified

That which has actually been verified by a voter. For example, a hand-marked optical scan ballot is inherently voter-verified since it has been personally filled out by the voter. Cf. VOTER-VERIFIABLE.

voter-verified audit record

1. A “human-readable printed record of all of a voter’s selections presented to the voter before the vote is cast.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.
2. A “printed version of the ballot that voters may view and check for accuracy before their votes are cast.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. See also VOTER-VERIFIED RECORD, VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER TRAIL.

voter-verified paper audit trail

= VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER TRAIL. Abbreviated VVPAT.

A “contemporaneous paper record of a ballot printed for the voter to confirm his or her votes before the voter casts his or her ballot that:

- (A) Allows the voter to verify the voter-verified paper audit trail before the casting of the voter's ballot;
- (B) Is not retained by the voter;
- (C) Does not contain individual voter information;
- (D) Is produced on paper that is sturdy, clean, and resistant to degradation; and
- (E) Is readable in a manner that makes the voter's ballot choices obvious to the voter without the use of computer or electronic code.” Ark. Code §7-1-101(26).

VVPATs differ widely based on how the paper record is created, exposed to the voter and stored. The paper may be fed reel-to-reel (also referred to as CONTINUOUS ROLL or SEQUENTIAL PAPER TRAIL) or may be CUT-SHEET (different ballots on separate pieces of paper). There are two subtypes of cut-sheet systems, those that are VIEW-ONLY (in which the voter may view the paper record but not touch it, e.g. Avante), and those that are VOTER-HANDLED (in which the voter may touch the paper record). Among voter-handled systems, the voter may be compelled to DEPOSIT the ballot in a ballot box or container, as with AccuPoll. In TAKE-HOME systems, such as VoteHere, the voter may remove the paper trail document from the polling place. Some paper trail systems, such as Sequoia, print indicia on the ballot, such as encrypted strings or barcodes, that the voter is unable to read and therefore cannot verify. These are the CRYPTO-INDICIA systems, as opposed to NO INDICIA systems such as Diebold AccuVote TSX.

voter-verified paper ballot

A “permanent, individual paper ballot that is marked either manually by the voter or with the assistance of a device and verified by the voter as correctly reflecting the voter's intent, before the voter's vote is counted by the precinct-based optical scanner.” Tenn. Code §2-1-104(32).

voter-verified paper record

A VVPAT. An “auditable paper record that: (I) Is available for the elector to inspect and verify before the vote is cast; (II) Is produced contemporaneously with or employed by any voting system; (III) Lists the designation of each office, ballot issue, or ballot question, and the elector's choices in such offices, issues, or questions. If the elector makes no selection in connection with any race, issue, or question, that fact shall also be noted on the record produced. (IV) Is suitable for a manual audit or recount; and (V) Is capable of being maintained as an election record ...” Col. Stat. §1-1-104(50.6).

voter-verified paper trail

= VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER AUDIT TRAIL. Abbreviated VVPT.

voter with disabilities

A “voter who has a permanent or temporary physical disability, as set forth in 42 U.S.C. §1973ee-6(4).” Ind. Code §3-5-2-50.2.

Voter’s Bill of Rights

A list of fundamental electoral entitlements required to be displayed to voters in polling places. Fla. Stat. §101.031(2).

votes cast

The “actual number of votes tallied for a candidate or for or against a ballot question.” Hawaii Admin. Regs. §2-51-1.

voting accessibility advisory committee

A committee formed to advise the state of New Jersey on voting requirements for the disabled. N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:8-3.7.

Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act

An Act of Congress, passed in 1984, that requires the ELDERLY and HANDICAPPED be afforded accommodations in voting in FEDERAL ELECTIONS. 42 U.S.C. §1983ee. Abbreviated VAA.

voting area

The area in which voting takes place. In Utah, “the area within six feet of the voting booths, voting machines, and ballot box.” Utah Code §20A-1-102(79).

voting booth

An enclosure in which a voter casts or marks a BALLOT. “Voting booth” includes enclosures for voting paper ballots and for voting equipment.” Va. Code §24.2-609.

voting center

A “arrangement authorized by local legislation whereby multiple voting machines may be used in a single precinct.” Ala. Admin. Code §307-X-1-.01(16).

voting credentials

“Items sufficient to enable a DRE or EBP to activate a ballot of the BALLOT CONFIGURATION that is appropriate for a given voter.” 2007 VVSG.

voting defect identification

The “capability to detect overvoted ballots or ballots which cannot be read by the automatic tabulating equipment.” 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24B-2. See also VOTING DEFECTS.

voting defects

An “overvoted ballot, or a ballot which cannot be read by the automatic tabulating equipment. 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/24B-2. See also VOTING DEFECT IDENTIFICATION.

voting demonstration clerk

An ELECTION OFFICIAL in the District of Columbia responsible for explaining operation of the voting system to voters.

voting device

“Voting device” means a piece of equipment used for the purpose of or to facilitate the marking of a ballot to be tabulated by a vote tallying system or a piece of mechanical or

electronic equipment used to directly record votes and to accumulate results for a number of issues or offices from a series of voter.” Wash. Rev. Code §29A.04.181(2). “‘Voting device’ means an apparatus other than a voting machine which the elector uses to record his or her votes on a ballot.” Wisc. St. 5.02(24g). A “device that is part of the voting system. ... Components and materials that are vital to the function of the voting device within the voting system, such as smart cards and ballot printers, are considered parts of the device for the purpose of CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT. 2007 VVSG.

voting district

“An area set off from another in the same municipality for voting purposes. It includes wards and precincts. In a municipality that has only one voting district, it means the entire municipality. The first breakdown of a municipality is a ward. Further breakdowns of a municipality are precincts.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(48). An “area formed by the consolidation of two or more contiguous precincts.” Nev. Rev., Stat. §293.121. “A ‘PRECINCT’ is also sometimes referred to as a ‘voting district’ by the Census Bureau and other agencies.” Ala. Code §17-5A-2(1).

voting enclosure

The “room within the VOTING PLACE that is used for voting.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-165(9).

voting environment

The “aspects of the voting milieu outside of the voting system that are encountered by voters, e.g., ramps, lighting, noise, temperature, electro-magnetic interference.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A. See also VOTING EQUIPMENT OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

voting equipment

Any “mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic components of a voting system.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

voting equipment operational environment

All “software, hardware (including facilities, furnishings and fixtures), materials, documentation, and the interface used by the election personnel, maintenance operator, POLL WORKER, and VOTER, required for voting equipment operations.” 2005 VVSG V.1, APPENDIX A.

voting equipment operations procedures

Electronic or printed material that provides information for VOTING OFFICIALS or voters. IEEE 1583.

Voting Equipment Selection Committee

A body appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of Utah to “evaluate new voting equipment systems proposed for purchase by the state; and ... provide information and recommendations to assist the lieutenant governor with the purchase of new voting equipment systems.” Utah Code §20A-5-402.7.

voting equipment user documentation

The steps to taken to ready voting equipment for use, allowing it to be used, obtaining votes or vote totals and shutting it down after an election. A required part of the TDP under the 2007 VVSG.

voting indicator

The “space provided for marking a vote in accordance with a particular type of ballot.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(48-A).

voting information

A term defined in HAVA to encompass various required items of information that must be furnished to voters at POLLING PLACES.

“the term ‘voting information’ means—

- (A) a sample version of the ballot that will be used for that election;
- (B) information regarding the date of the election and the hours during which polling places will be open;
- (C) instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a vote and how to cast a provisional ballot;
- (D) instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters under section 303(b);
- (E) general information on voting rights under applicable Federal and State laws, including information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated; and
- (F) general information on Federal and State laws regarding prohibitions on acts of fraud and misrepresentation.”

voting instructions

Instructions provided to a voter in written or electronic form.

voting list

The “complete list of all voters prepared from the information contained in the original permanent registration records in the possession of the local board of canvassers.” R.I. Gen. Laws §17-1-2(19).

voting machine

An “apparatus on which voters cast their votes that records each vote by means of mechanical or electronic counters and furnishes a total of the number of votes cast for each candidate and for and against each referendum measure.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-808(11). Either “(A) A direct recording electronic voting machine that: (i) Records votes by means of a ballot display provided with mechanical or electro-optical components that may be actuated by the voter; (ii) Processes the data by means of a computer program; (iii) Records voting data and ballot images in internal and external memory components; and (iv) Produces a tabulation of the voting data stored in a removable memory component and in a printed copy; or (B) An electronic device for marking a paper ballot to be electronically scanned. Ark. Code 7-1-101(25).

voting machine ballot

A “BALLOT posted on or in the VOTING MACHINE and referred to by the voter to indicate the voting locations for each contest.” Md. Elec. Code §1-101(ww).

voting machine custodian

The “person who shall have charge of preparing and arranging the voting machine for elections.” N.J. Stat. Ann. §19:47-1. Likewise in Miss. Code §23-15-401.

voting machine system

The “method of electrically, mechanically, or electronically recording and counting votes upon being cast.” Hawaii Rev. Stat. §16-11. Cf. PAPER BALLOT VOTING SYSTEM.

voting machine technician

“The representatives of each political party on the county election commission shall jointly appoint a voting machine technician who is a member of their political party and who is qualified by training or experience to prepare and maintain the voting machines.” Tenn. Code §2-9-103(a).

voting machine tender

A person who assures that a voter is given access to a voting machine only after having been verified by a CHECKER. Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-234.

voting machines options working group

A group in Minnesota “established to investigate and recommend to the legislature requirements for additional options for voting equipment that complies with the requirements of section 301 of the Help America Vote Act, Public Law 107-252, to provide private and independent voting for individuals with disabilities.” Minn. Stat. §206.91.

voting materials

Election-related items that are required under the VRA to be provided bilingually. “The term ‘voting materials’ means registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots.” 42 U.S.C. §1972aa-1a(b)(2)(e).

voting mark

A “cross mark or check mark.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-51.

voting method

1. A method of registering choices. The “use of: (1) paper ballots; (2) voting machines; (3) ballot card voting systems; (4) electronic voting systems; or (5) any combination of these; to register votes in a precinct.” Ind. Code §3-5-2-52.
2. A method of tabulating votes to determine a winner. See CHOICE VOTING, INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, PREFERENCE VOTING, SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE.

voting official

A person having an official role in the conduct of an election, typically including a jurisdiction’s election officers, poll workers, and those responsible for operating a VOTING SYSTEM.

voting performance protocol

A “TEST METHOD that measures how well subjects perform various voting tasks.” 2007 VVSG.

voting place

“Any place within a voting or polling precinct wherein ballots may be cast.” S.C. Code §7-1-20(6). The building that contains the VOTING ENCLOSURE. N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-165(10).

voting poll watcher

A person appointed to witness the distribution of ballots and the voting process. Utah Code §20A-1-102(83). Also POLL WATCHER.

voting position

A specific response field on a ballot where the voter indicates the selection of a candidate or ballot proposition. 2002 FEC A-7.

voting process

The “entire array of procedures, people, resources, equipment and locations associated with the conduct of elections.” 2007 VVSG.

voting punch device

An “apparatus in which BALLOTS or BALLOT CARDS are inserted for the piercing of ballots by the voter. The hole may be in the form of a round dot, rectangle, square, or any other shape that will clearly indicate the intent of the voter.” Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §117.375(8).

voting receipt

1. A receipt indicating that a voter has voted, but not revealing anything about the voter’s choices.

“If a mechanical voting system is used whereby votes are directly recorded electronically:

(a) A voting receipt which has two parts must be used.

(b) Each part of the voting receipt must bear the same number for identification.

(c) One part of the voting receipt must be given to the voter when he votes and the other part of the voting receipt must be retained by the election board.” Nevada Rev. Stat. §293B.103(2).

2. A receipt indicating how a voter has voted. Such receipts are generally illegal since they can be used as a proof of vote and therefore can facilitate VOTE-BUYING. In certain verifiable cryptographic systems, the voter can be given a receipt which proves to the voter how she voted, but cannot be used to prove the vote to anyone else. A paper record produced by a VVPAT is not a receipt since it is not retained by the voter.

Voting Reference Data Set

A “subset of the NSRL REFERENCE DATA SET that includes only voting system software. It contains file-identifying information (FII) that can be used to uniquely identify voting system software files. This FII, which includes digital signatures, is derived from software provided to the NSRL by voting system vendors and voting system test laboratories ... The VRDS is available for use by states, vendors, labs, and other interested parties to uniquely identify files by comparing file information from a voting system with information in the VRDS. Abbreviated VRDS.

voting registrar

Generally an official who maintains the record of legally registered voters, often the COUNTY CLERK. In Texas, the tax assessor-collector is the voting registrar. Texas Elec. Code §12.001. While traditionally counties have maintained their own registration lists and determined the qualification of voters, the situation has been blurred somewhat by HAVA, which requires a uniform statewide registration system. Query what happens if there is a discrepancy between the county’s records and those maintained by the state.

voting response area

The place on a BALLOT where the voter is instructed to mark her preference for a candidate or question. N.M. Admin. Code §1.10.12.7(T). Also “voting response field” or VOTING TARGET. Wyo. Sec’y of State Rule 1570, §4(nnn).

Voting Rights Act of 1965

A sweeping civil rights statute that eliminated various devices used to bar groups from exercising their right to vote. Among its requirements was mandatory provision for multi-lingual ballots. 42 U.S.C. §1973–1973aa-6. Abbreviated VRA.

voting session

1. The “span of time beginning when a ballot is enabled or activated and ending when that ballot is printed (on an EBM), cast (on a DRE), or SPOILED.” The period when a vote-capture device is in IN-USE STATE. 2007 VVSG.
2. The “interaction between the voter and VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE that occurs during that span of time.” 2007 VVSG.

voting state

The status of a VOTE-CAPTURE DEVICE at a give time. The 2007 VVSG identify several such states: ACTIVATED, IN USE, OPEN, PRE-VOTING, POST-VOTING, READY, SUSPENDED.

voting station

The “voting booth or other place where voters mark their ballots or otherwise indicate their votes at a polling place.” Texas Elec. Code §1.005(22). A “table, booth, or device that permits a voter to complete a ballot in privacy.” Ala. Admin. Code §307-X-1-.01(18). A location within the polling place where voters may record their votes. A voting station includes the voting booth or enclosure and the vote-recording device. 2002 FEC A-7. See also ACCESSIBLE VOTING STATION, ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE VOTING STATION.

voting system

An unfortunate aspect of his term is that it has multiple formal but inconsistent definitions. In HAVA, “the term ‘voting system’ means--

(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; and

(2) the practices and associated documentation used--

- (A) to identify system components and versions of such components;
- (B) to test the system during its development and maintenance;
- (C) to maintain records of system errors and defects;

(D) to determine specific system changes to be made to a system after the initial qualification of the system; and

(E) to make available any materials to the voter (such as notices, instructions, forms, or paper ballots).”

Various states have different definitions, although many adopt the HAVA definition by statute. In Maryland, it is simply “a method of casting and tabulating ballots or votes.” Md. Elec. Code §1-101(yy). “Equipment (including hardware, firmware, and software), materials, and documentation used to define elections and BALLOT STYLES, configure voting equipment, identify and validate voting equipment configurations, perform logic and accuracy tests, activate ballots, capture votes, count votes, reconcile ballots needing special treatment, generate reports, transmit election data, archive election data, and AUDIT elections.” 2007 VVSG.

voting system ballot

A “ballot designed for use with a voting system.” Tex. Elec. Code §121.003(11).

voting system configuration log

A LOG “ initialized by the CONFIGURATION DATA supplied by the manufacturer. From that point on, it functions like a diary of the system. Entries are made by ELECTION OFFICIALS whenever any change occurs. Every exception, disruption, anomaly, and every FAILURE is recorded. Every time the cover is opened for INSPECTION or a repair or maintenance is performed, an entry details what was done, and what component was changed against what other component, as well as any diagnosis of failures or exceptions.” 2007 VVSG.

voting system provider

An “individual engaged in private enterprise or a business entity engaged in selling, leasing, marketing, designing, building, or modifying voting systems to the state, a political subdivision of the state, or another entity authorized to hold an election.” Col. Rev. Stat. §1-1-104(50.9).

Voting System Standards

The VVSG, formerly the FEC STANDARDS or the FVSS.

voting system technical oversight program

A program in Indiana under which the state contracts with outside entities to propose certification standards, test voting equipment and conduct random audits of elections. Ind. Code §3-11-16.

voting system testing

In the context of HAVA. A laboratory accredited under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) as authorized to test conformance of voting systems to the VVSG. Authority to accredit laboratories rests with the EAC, upon the advice of NIST. Abbreviated VSTL.

voting system testing laboratory

A laboratory accredited under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) as authorized to test conformance of voting systems to the VVSG. Authority to accredit laboratories rests with the EAC, upon the advice of NIST. Abbreviated VSTL.

voting system vote

A “vote cast in a voting system that is not a WRITE-IN VOTE.” Texas Elec. Code §211.002(10).

voting target

A concept from MARK-SENSE and PAPER balloting. The “space on a special paper ballot which the voter marks to cast a vote for a candidate, judge or question.” Iowa Admin. Code 721-22.101(52). See also ACCEPTABLE MARK, EXTRANEIOUS MARK, PRESCRIBED MARK. Also VOTING RESPONSE AREA.

Voting Technology Standards Board

A body established in Connecticut to “adopt standards for electronic voting technology that will ensure the integrity of the state's voting systems.” 147 Con.. Gen. Stat. §9-242c.

voting unit

“Immediately after the close of registration of voters preceding any election, the chief election officer shall establish one or more voting units in each precinct polling place ... The clerk in preparing the list of registered voters shall divide the list, on an alphabetical basis, as equal as possible between or among the voting units.” 2 Hawaii Rev. Stat. §11-93.

voting variation

A voting style, option, or feature such as ABSENTEE VOTING, BALLOT ROTATION, CLOSED PRIMARY, CROSS-PARTY ENDORSEMENT, CUMULATIVE VOTING, IN-PERSON VOTING, N-OF-M VOTING, OPEN PRIMARY, PROVISIONAL/CHALLENGED BALLOTS, RANKED ORDER VOTING, REVIEW-REQUIRED BALLOTS, STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING, SPLIT PRECINCTS, or WRITE-IN. 2007 VVSG.

vouching

A procedure in Minnesota that allows a person to register on Election Day if another voter of the same PRECINCT swears an oath that the individual resides in that precinct.

VPP

= VOTING PERFORMANCE PROTOCOL.

VR

= VISIBLE RED.

VRA

= VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.

VSPP

= VOTING SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES PANEL.

VSS

= VOTING SYSTEM STANDARDS.

VSTL

= VOTING SYSTEM TESTING LABORATORY.

VTD

= VOTE TABULATION DISTRICT.

vulnerability testing

An “attempt to bypass or break the security of a system or a device. Like functional testing, vulnerability testing can falsify a general assertion (namely, that the system or device is secure) but it cannot verify the security (show that the system or device is secure in all cases).” 2007 VVSG. Also PENETRATION TESTING.

VVPAT

= VOTER-VERIFIABLE PAPER AUDIT TRAIL.

VVPAT ballot box

The receptacle that is used to hold the VVPAT. It may be a box or bag in the case of cut-sheet systems, or a canister in the case of continuous roll systems.

VVPAT display

A misnomer for the transparent covering through which the VVPAT may be viewed but not touched or altered. It is a misnomer because the word “display” in the context of computer systems means an electronic display.

VVPAT printer

A printing device used to produce the VVPAT.

VVPR

= VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER RECORD.

VVPT

= VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER TRAIL.

VVSG

= VOLUNTARY VOTING SYSTEM GUIDELINES.

VWD

Abbreviation for “voter with disability.”

VWD device

A “device for use by illiterate and/or visually impaired voters in voting on a DRE unit and consists of an audio headset and a keypad by which the ballot can be provided to the voter aurally and the voter can cast his or her vote by use of the keypad.” Ga. SBE Rule §183-1-12-.02(1)(j).

VWD kit

An apparatus that can be connected to a voting machine to allow a disabled voter to vote by non-visual means, e.g. by AUDIO BALLOT.

WAN

= WIDE-AREA NETWORK.

ward

A “compact and contiguous geographic area within a political subdivision created by the political subdivision for election purposes.” Neb. Stat. §32-120. “‘Ward’ means a town, village or city subdivision created for the convenience of electors therein and to facilitate the division of such municipalities into election districts of substantially equal population numbers

among common boundaries observing the community of interest of existing neighborhoods and other settlements.” Wisc. St. 5.02(25). The term has a special meaning in Louisiana: “‘Ward’ means a police jury ward in a parish and in parishes having no police jury wards means the subdivision of the parish equivalent to a police jury ward.” La. R.S. §18:2(11).

ward clerk

In New Hampshire, an ELECTION OFFICER. N.H. Rev. Stat. §652:14. Likewise, ME.

warden

An election official charged with enforcing the election law on Election Day. “The presiding officer at a voting place.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(50). = MODERATOR. R.I. Gen. Laws §17-1-2(20).

watcher

A person who observes election procedures to ensure that any irregularity is noticed. “A watcher shall be admitted within all parts of the polling place during the election and the counting and tabulation of votes, and shall call any infraction of the law to the attention of the commissioners. A watcher may keep notes on the conduct of the election, but he shall not take part in the counting and tabulation of votes.” La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §18:427. In Utah, “watcher” includes a VOTING POLL WATCHER, a COUNTING POLL WATCHER, and an INSPECTING POLL WATCHER. Utah Code §20A-1-102(85). Likewise, Alaska Stat. §15.10.170. Also CHALLENGER, OBSERVER.

.wav file

An audio file containing a representation of speech, used in assistive voting for the visually disabled.

wheelchair voter

A voter who desires to vote while sitting in a wheelchair. A DRE must “accommodate a wheelchair voter without intervention of the poll worker other than a minor adjustment such as the angle of the display, and the voter must be able to vote in a face-first position so that privacy is maintained with the ballot surface adjusted to a vertical position.” N.D.C.C. §72-06-01-04(11).

white ballot

The “ballot used at general elections and is the ballot on which are printed the names of the candidates appearing on the presidential ballot and those candidates nominated for the offices of United States senator, United States representative, state senator, state representative, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, and attorney general.” Minn. Rules §8250.0100.

white box testing

Structural testing based on the presumed known structure of a system. In the case of software, it is based on the source code and comprises tests of accessible logic paths and branch outcomes. 2007 VVSG. Also CLEAR BOX TESTING, GLASS BOX TESTING. Cf. BLACK BOX TESTING.

wide-area network

A network whose nodes are interconnected by a means other than a LAN.

winner-take-all primary

A PRIMARY ELECTION in which all of the state's convention delegates are allocated to the winner, regardless of the percentage of vote received by other candidates. Cf. PROPORTIONAL PRIMARY.

wireless

Communication performed without the use of electrical wires between source and destination. Wireless systems include cellphones, wireless LAN, Bluetooth, UWB, RFID and even infrared (IrDA and UFIR) systems. Wireless systems often exhibit poor security properties in that it is easy to intercept or jam their signals and encryption may be weak or nonexistent. It may also be possible to inject spurious signals (e.g. votes) with suitable equipment and mount a denial of service attack. Even with encrypted signals it may be possible by dictionary attack or other mechanism to infer the contents of communications (e.g. voter's choices) without literally reading them. There seems to be no reason at all to use wireless in voting systems, and some states have made it flatly illegal: "A vote tabulating system must: ... (d) Not use wireless communications in any way." Wash. Admin. Code §434-335-040(3). Likewise Va. Code §24.2-625.2. Wireless devices are also forbidden in New York. N.Y. Election Laws (consol.) §7-202(1)(t). Wireless has been proposed to connect voting machines to accessible audio headsets for the disabled, but one wonders what's wrong with the vastly more secure traditional wired headset. Under the 2007 VVSG, ELECTRONIC DEVICES are not permitted to harbor wireless technology.

witness

A registered voter who signs an absentee ballot envelope to document that the ballots inside were marked by the voter entitled to cast the ballot.

witness build

A "build of executable code including APPLICATION LOGIC, BORDER LOGIC, and THIRD PARTY LOGIC of the voting system" performed by the VSTL witnessed by a representative of the MANUFACTURER. 2007 VVSG.

witness device

A component of a voting machine that makes a record of the voter's interaction with the machine, and from which the voter's choices can be reconstructed. Sometimes restricted to capture of voter-verifiable records.

writ of election

An executive order calling for an election. "When any vacancy happens in the representation of this State in the United States Senate or in the House of Representatives, the Governor shall issue a writ of election to fill the same unless the term of service of the person whose office shall become vacant will expire within six months next after the happening of the vacancy ..." N.J.S.A. §19:27-4.

write-in

A vote cast for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot. Not all states allow write-ins, e.g. Hawaii. "The words or "WRITE-IN, IF ANY" are to be printed, where applicable, directly under each line for write-ins." W. Va. Code §3-4A-11a(b)(3). Some states that use optical scan ballots require the voter to both write in a name and mark the oval next to the

write-in space for the write-in to count. “[W]hen a write-in vote is cast using an electronic voting system, the ballot must also be marked in the corresponding space in order to be counted.” Iowa Code §49.99. Alaska requires the voter, when the ballot is to be counted by an electronic system, to write in the name by applying a rubber stamp, not by actually writing the name, Alaska Stat. §16-448. The states vary on whether a voter may write in the name of a candidate whose name appears on the ballot, e.g., “No write-in vote shall be counted for an office for any person whose name appears on the ballot as a candidate for that office.” Va. Code §24.2-644. A “vote for a candidate who is explicitly named by the voter in lieu of choosing a candidate who is already listed on the ballot. ... This does not preclude writing in the name of a candidate who is already listed on the ballot.” 2007 VVSG. See also CERTIFIED WRITE-IN, CURRENT CANDIDATES ONLY, DECLARED WRITE-IN, FREE-FOR-ALL, PASTE-IN.

write-in board

Generally, a board that reviews write-in votes for validity and counts them. A board that calls out write-in votes orally so they may be tallied. Tenn. Rules §1360-2-9-.01(d). A “subdivision of the COUNTING BOARD consisting of at least two (2) individuals responsible for recording the names of the all write-in candidates in the write-in abstract.” Wyo. Rules §1.4(ppp).

write-in candidate

An “individual whose name will not appear on the ballot but who files a certificate of candidacy.” Md. Elec. Code §1-101(yy). See also DECLARED WRITE-IN.

write-in indicator

The “space provided, in accordance with a particular type of ballot, for marking a write-in vote.” Me. Rev. Stat. §21-A-1(52). Note that the term refers to the blank space rather than the mark made in that space.

write-in vote

A “vote cast, in a CONTEST at a GENERAL ELECTION, for an individual whose name is not on the ballot for that contest. Md. Elec. Code §1-101(zz).

wrong ballot

An otherwise proper ballot that was prepared for a different jurisdiction than the one in which it is used by a voter, generally the result of delivering ballots to the wrong polling location. “Said wrong ballots shall be counted as cast for all candidates for whom the voter had the right to vote, and for whom the voter did vote.” Iowa Code §49.103.

XML

= EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE.

zero-knowledge proof

A counterintuitive protocol by which a party is able to prove that a statement is true without revealing any information about the statement except its truth. Zero-knowledge proofs are important in a number of cryptographic voting schemes because they allow a system to prove that it has recorded a vote correctly without revealing information about the vote.

zero report

A paper record printed by a voting machine at the time the polls are opened to demonstrate that the machine’s counters for every office have been set to zero.

zero tape

A form of ZERO REPORT produced in the form of a paper tape similar to an adding machine tape. See, e.g. Utah Admin. Rule §623-2-3(K). “No mark sense or direct recording electronic device shall be used if any counter, other than a protective or private counter, is found not to register zero.” Va. Code §24.2-639. A “tape printed out by the DRE unit which shows that all vote registers in the DRE unit for recording votes for candidates and questions are set to zero and that no votes are present on the unit.” Ga. SBE Rule 183-1-12-.02(1)(k).