

Middlesex County - Board of Elections

Voting Machine Security

In Middlesex County we use the “**Sequoia AVC Advantage**” Direct Recording Electronic” (DRE) voting machine with a full facing ballot. We deploy about 600 machines for each Primary and General Election.



(Machine shown without the privacy curtain installed)

These machines were purchased during 1998 and 1999, and have been tested by two federally-sanctioned Independent Testing Authorities.

Before each election, expert voting machine technicians set up and run complete system diagnostic checks on the voting machines. They are then programmed by a cartridge matched to the individual machine which contains the appropriate information depending on the district (Town) where the machine is to be used. The cartridge is then fitted with a security tag preventing it from being removed. The machine is then locked and the keys separated from the machine.

On Election Day, before the polls are opened, a zero-proof report is printed from each machine to confirm that no votes were illegally put onto the machine before opening the polls.

During the polling hours no machine is connected to any electronic transmission media such as the internet, phone lines, etc. and therefore is not subject to “hacking”.

For verification, a green “X” lights up on the ballot face next to each candidate or question that receives a vote. In addition, each selection is also confirmed in the LCD window under the ballot face for additional voter verification.



The machines have two forms of storage: an internal hard drive and a removable memory cartridge. As each vote is entered, it is recorded on an internal audit report on a list in a random manner. In other words, this list is “scrambled” to prevent anyone from being able to determine the sequence of who voted and for which candidate or issue. After the election is over, the results are printed on a paper report, the memory cartridge is removed and the machine is locked. The paper report, the memory cartridge and the keys are hand delivered to the local town clerk who transmits the cartridge results to the Board of Elections for a County Wide tally which is officially certified by the County Clerk. The locked machine is sent back to our voting machine warehouse where it is impounded until the results of the election are certified.

We have found these voting machines to be reliable and accurate and will continue to use them with confidence in all future elections.

Any additional questions concerning Middlesex County’s voting machines may be directed to the Board of Elections at 777 Jersey Ave, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901 or by calling 732 745 3471 or faxing 732 214 1656 or e-mailing us at elections@co.middlesex.nj.us