

Warren County Voting Equipment

Unfortunately, the news is full of stories about impropriety concerning ballots and that causes all of us to wonder what Ohio is doing to ensure each ballot cast is accurately counted and accounted for. While we can't speak to the integrity of other states, we can assure you that in Ohio we have very strict guidelines informing us on how ballots are to be handled. We think the procedures in place, as well as the cybersecurity directives from the Ohio Secretary of State should put many worries to rest for the Ohio voters!

Warren County chose new voting equipment in 2019 from a list of approved vendors in the state of Ohio. All voting equipment used in the state must first be approved by the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners and you can find more information about the requirements here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-voting-equipment/>

After extensive research our Board chose Clear Ballot as our voting equipment vendor. You can find more information about the company at this link: <https://clearballot.com/>

We found that Clear Ballot equipment worked extremely well for us and the voters of Warren County. According to Ohio Revised Code 3506.22 no voting equipment can be connected to the internet. The equipment technology offered allows us to say with confidence that every ballot is counted accurately. We have this confidence for a number of reasons.

Our voting system and its components have been tested and certified under federal and state law to verify that no equipment used in elections connects to the internet. The voting machines were tested and certified by the EAC according to VVSG 1.0 standards, as well as the Ohio Secretary of State according to the voting system requirements stipulated in Ohio Revised Code. Those test reports are publicly available. The federal test report can be located on the EAC's website: <https://www.eac.gov/voting-equipment/clearvote-20>

In accordance with requirements from the state, we spend weeks before the election running hundreds of test ballots through every piece of voting equipment that we deploy, to prove to voters/public that our machines accurately count votes. All processes involving ballots are always overseen by a bi-partisan team. We also perform a Public Test on a random precinct according to the Ohio Secretary of State's requirements found here: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3506.14>

After our unofficial results are published on election night, we are required to hand count/audit a percentage of all the votes (often in the thousands) and compare the results from the paper ballots to the results produced by the equipment.

Our Clear Ballot tabulation equipment takes a digital image of both sides of each ballot and we can view how the ballot was counted by the software. If the tabulation software determines that the vote isn't clear, it requires a bi-partisan team to verify the vote and adjudicate how it should be counted.

All procedures are done under the supervision of the director, deputy and our Board Members. As an office we are split evenly and every staff member has a counter part of the opposite party. The director must be the opposite party of the Board Chairman. Our Board has two members of each party who sign off on the accounting of each and every election and work together so their votes, as well as the rest of Warren County is accurately reflected. One of our Board members happen to be the head of the Republican party and another, the head of the Democratic party and the other two are heavily involved in their parties. Each side is vigilant that votes are counted and results are accurate.

For more information on State Directives and election procedures: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/elections-officials/rules/>