COUNTY OF EL DORADO

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
Bill O'Neill

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Linda Webster - Assistant Registrar of Voters

RE: Dominion Voting System in El Dorado County

The Dominion system is used in our County and is fully tested and certified by the Californian Secretary of State's office (SoS). We cannot purchase a system that has not been certified by SoS. The California SoS voting system testing exceeds Federal requirements for election security. In our county all votes are cast on a paper ballot ensuring 100% auditability. Voting equipment used to cast and count ballots must be certified for use in California through extensive testing and pursuant to California Elections Code section 19205 and is **not** connected to the Internet or any external networks.

The Dominion system was selected by an El Dorado County committee comprised of members of the local Republican and Democratic Central Committees, League of Women Voters, County Voters, County IT specialists, and staff from the elections department. The selection committee participated in an election overview class, reviewed proposals from the two certified vendors, and participated in vendor demonstrations and hands on use of the system before selecting the Dominion system.

Our voting system, Dominion's Democracy Suite, underwent months of extensive independent certification testing performed by the California Secretary of State's office and independent computer scientist which includes:

- Examination and functional testing of system software;
- Line by line software source code review and evaluation;
- Hardware and software security penetration testing;
- Hardware testing under conditions simulating the intended storage, operation, transportation, and maintenance environments;
- Inspection and evaluation of system documentation; and
- Operational testing to validate system performance and functioning under normal and abnormal conditions.

Additionally, in our county, we limit access to the system both physically and electronically by securing it in our ballot tabulation room which has 24/7 camera monitoring and limited card key access with no outside network connectivity. It is completely cut off electronically from any other network or device – the only way to access it is by physically being in the room at the server. We DO NOT allow any outside vendor or employee to access the system and only the Registrar, Assistant Registrar and two permanent election staff have access to the room and system passwords. The elections department programs its own election and ballots which is done in the secure ballot tabulation room.

The currently certified version of Dominion Voting Systems used in California is Democracy Suite 5.10A. The certification and testing documents for Dominion Voting Systems are on the SoS website [here](https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/frequently-requested-information/dominion-voting). (https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/frequently-requested-information/dominion-voting).

The California Secretary of State mandates voting system vendors, security consultants and county officials follow strict chain of custody requirements for voting system software and hardware throughout the testing and certification process. Upon certification of a system, the "trusted build" is held in a secure location by the SoS and all distributed copies of the trusted build are hand delivered by Secretary of State staff to county Election staff just prior to programming the election and ballots to ensure the build being used is the build that was reviewed and certified.

Once a voting system is certified in California and the trusted build is delivered to the county, by law it cannot be modified without prior approval from the Secretary of State. California Elections Code section 19216 states:

> If a voting system or a part of a voting system has been certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State, it shall not be changed or modified until the Secretary of State has been notified in writing and has determined that the change or modification does not impair its accuracy and efficiency sufficient to require a reexamination and recertification, or conditional approval, pursuant to this article.

To validate the Voting System used in an election has not been compromised or modified, mathematical algorithms called HASH Codes are generated at the time of installation for certification testing. These HASH codes can be run against any voting machine used in California at any time to validate that the software is identical to what was tested and certified and has not been modified.

Additionally, California counties are required to abide by a stringent set of rules and regulations regarding implementation and use of a voting system. A few notable rules and regulations include; performance of logic and accuracy testing on voting systems prior to each election; ensuring specific procedures for programming, deployment and use of voting equipment during elections are met; and a full 1% post-election manual audit to ensure all voting system tallies match the hand counted tallies.

As we completed our 1% manual audit for the November Presidential Election here in El Dorado County, we have found the electronically tabulated results to be a 100% match with the hand tallied results, confirming the system tabulated the voted ballots correctly and accurately. This audit and all other activities in the elections department are always open to the public for observation.

If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out to the elections department at (530) 621-7505 or by email at elections@edcgov.us.

Bill O'Neill, Registrar of Voters
El Dorado County