



VVSG 1.0 vs. VVSG 2.0

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) develops Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) — a set of voluntary federal standards that help ensure voting systems are safe, secure, accurate, and accessible. VVSG 1.0, adopted in 2005, laid the foundation for a more advanced and adaptable set of standards introduced in VVSG 2.0.

	VVSG 1.0	VVSG 2.0
Structure	Structured as a two-volume technical document with prescriptive requirements.	Organized around 15 high-level principles and 56 guidelines that support safe, secure, accurate, and accessible elections.
Auditability	Set baseline audit trail requirements.	Increased support for auditing methods through requirements for durable records, unique tracking numbers, and greater transparency.
Cyber & Physical Security	Set baseline physical and cybersecurity requirements, such as limited access controls, physical protections, and audit logs.	Includes robust cybersecurity requirements such as air gapped systems, software integrity checks, multi-factor authentication, enhanced access controls, and secure system updates to address today's threat landscape. Physical security improvements include notifications of unauthorized access attempts and restrictions on what can be connected to the system.
Accessibility	Set important early standards for accessibility.	Places a strong emphasis on usability and accessibility, with human-centered design and clear performance benchmarks to ensure that all voters, including those with disabilities, can vote independently and privately.
Technology	Focused on defining requirements at a device level, and encouraged but did not require systems with a voter-verifiable paper record.	Focuses on defining system level requirements to support flexible, secure, and adaptable voting systems that are paper-based.
Interoperability	Focused on complete integrated systems.	Introduces interoperability and common data formats. Encourages component-based systems — meaning different parts such as scanners, ballot marking devices, and software that can be tested and replaced individually. This helps jurisdictions adopt innovations more easily without replacing entire systems.
Software Independence	Allowed but did not require that voting systems be software independent.	Requires systems to be software independent, meaning any undetected change in software cannot cause an undetectable change in the vote. This is typically achieved through paper-based systems that can be audited.

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