

# Cerro Gordo County, Iowa Hash Verification Project

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) [Field Services Program](#) supports state and local election officials by verifying that EAC-certified fielded voting systems are identical to those tested and certified by the EAC. As part of this effort, the EAC conducted a voluntary review of Cerro Gordo County's Unisyn OpenElect 2.2 voting system on August 18-19, 2025, to confirm conformance with the certified configuration and observe hash verification and security practices.

## Scope of Review



**Hash Verification:** Hash verification confirms that the software on voting system components matches the version certified by the EAC. As part of certification, a Voting System Test Laboratory (VSTL) generates unique hash values for each component and provides them to the EAC. Jurisdictions then use these values to compare to their fielded systems. In this review, Cerro Gordo County's OpenElect Central Suite Server and Client Workstation hashes were checked against the trusted values. A 40% sample of the county's Freedom Vote Tablets and a 41% sample of the Freedom Vote Scanners were also reviewed, with no discrepancies found.



**Conformance with Scope of Certification:** EAC staff reviewed voting system components and commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) hardware to confirm that all items in use were included in the certified Scope of Certification. Reviewed components included:

- OpenElect Central Suite Server (election management system server)
- OpenElect Central Suite Client Workstations (election management system client)
- OpenElect Freedom Vote Scanners (FVS) (used for scanning ballots at polling sites)
- OpenElect Freedom Vote Tablets (FVT) (used as a ballot marking device)
- Related COTS peripherals (scanners and printers)



**Voting System and Facility Security Observations:** The Cerro Gordo County facility maintains restricted access to its office and its courthouse annex building. The EAC observed the physical voting system and facility security, processes, and procedures implemented to ensure that they meet industry's best practices, as outlined in the EAC Election Management Guidelines, and are adequate to ensure the robust security of the voting system and facility. Specific measures observed included the use of tamper-evident seals, restricted access to sensitive areas, video monitoring, and documented chain of custody protocols.



**Verification Procedure Observations:** EAC staff observed and documented the verification procedures utilized during the review conducted by the Cerro Gordo County Auditor's Office, confirming alignment with the certified procedures described in the Unisyn OpenElect 2.2 System Verification Manual in the Technical Data Package (TDP.)

## Conclusions

The Unisyn OpenElect 2.2 review on August 18-19, 2025, found no issues affecting the deployed system. Cerro Gordo County's facility and voting system security were deemed adequate with minor suggestions. All certified verification procedures were followed, and the reviewed devices matched the VSTL trusted hashes. The EAC can confirm that both software and hardware are consistent with the Scope of Certification for Unisyn's OpenElect 2.2 issued on November 18, 2021.

The EAC gives its sincerest thanks to the Iowa Secretary of State's Office and the Cerro Gordo County Auditor's Office, and Unisyn and RBM Voting for their partnership and support during this review. The full report, including observations and suggestions for future enhancements, is available on the [EAC Field Services Program Website](#).