

# Scott 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 Scott County's ES&S' EVS 6.3.0.0 voting system on August 27-28, 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, Scott County's ES&S' EVS Standalone Workstation hashes were checked against the trusted values. In addition, all the DS450 central count scanners/tabulators, 47% of the DS200 scanners/tabulators, and 5% of the ExpressVote BMDs 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:

- EVS 6.3.0.0 standalone workstation (election management system server setup)
- DS450 central count scanners/tabulators (used for bulk scanning of ballots)
- DS200 scanners/tabulators (used for scanning ballots at polling sites)
- ExpressVote BMDs (used as a ballot marking device)
- Related COTS peripherals (scanners and printers)



**Voting System and Facility Security Observations:** Restricted access is maintained at the Scott County facility, covering both its office and voting machine warehouse. Voting equipment is always sealed, whether in use or not. Sensitive systems and designated work areas are protected through limited badge-key access, reserved for authorized staff. Every critical location—including facilities, workspaces, storage areas, and ballot drop boxes—is under continuous 24-hour video surveillance. Armed security monitors the office, ensuring controlled entry to the auditor's area. Only approved personnel can access sensitive keys and important data storage, which are always kept securely. Staff with voting system access work in pairs to boost security. The office also provides written procedures and contingency plans for staff to handle emergencies.



**Verification Procedure Observations:** EAC personnel observed and verified that Scott County followed all system verification procedures in compliance with the ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 System Verification Procedure manuals.

### Conclusions

The Scott County voting system review conducted on August 27-28, 2025, identified no issues impacting the deployed voting system. The facilities and voting system security measures were assessed as appropriate, with only minor suggestions provided. Scott County demonstrates strong leadership and a committed staff, contributing to robust physical and system security. All certified verification procedures were properly executed, and the reviewed devices corresponded with the VSTL trusted hashes. The EAC verifies that both the software and hardware conform to the Scope of Certification for ES&S' EVS 6.3.0.0, certified on November 11, 2022.

The EAC gives its sincerest thanks to the Iowa Secretary of State's Office and the Scott County Auditor's Office, and ES&S 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](#).