

# Travis STAR Voting System

## Draft Flow of Polling Place Operations

Unhappy with the standard voting systems currently on the market, Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir began working with nationally-recognized computer and usability experts to write specifications for a new voting system that offers voters an electronically generated paper ballot. These specifications imagine a system with improved **Security, Transparency, Auditability, and Reliability (STAR)**. The new system resolves common issues related to determining the intent-of-the-voter and managing early voting, mega voting, and election day centers. Lower costs and more flexible scalability are added by maximizing the use of commercial-off-the-shelf hardware. The diagram below illustrates how this system would appear to a voter at the polls. Vendors will ultimately be provided with these requirements and asked to submit proposals. During this specification writing period, your comments are eagerly encouraged. Please email your ideas to us at [election@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:election@co.travis.tx.us).

### START

Voter checks in at the voter registration verification station. Qualified voter receives a ticket with a precinct/ballot style code and signs the voter roster. All hardware devices in the polling location are off-the-shelf.



Verification control panel



Ticket with precinct/ballot style code



Signature roster

1

Voter goes to ballot control station, hands the poll worker the ticket with the precinct/ballot style code, poll worker scans the code into the control panel, prints a unique five-digit ballot code, and hands it to the voter. Ballot control station transmits ballot information to the voting device. All secured storage devices in the polling location are continuously updating each other with all voting data, creating multiple redundancies. All electronic devices can run for a substantial amount of time on battery power.

Unique five-digit ballot code printer



Secured data storage



Ballot assignment, ballot data collection, and ballot authentication control station

2

Ballot data delivered to voting station/Encrypted vote data delivered back to control panel

Voter scans or manually enters the five-digit ballot code into the voting device bringing up the correct ballot. Voter marks ballot choices on the device, checks all choices on a summary screen, approves, and prints the ballot. Machine marking the ballot eliminates voter intent issues. The encrypted ballot data is sent to the ballot control station. All voting stations can be used by voters with disabilities.



AUDIO BALLOT VERIFICATION

Voter wishing to confirm ballot choices using an audio reader goes to an independent ballot audio reader station prior to placing ballot in the ballot box.

Stand-alone audio ballot reader



Ballot scanner

3

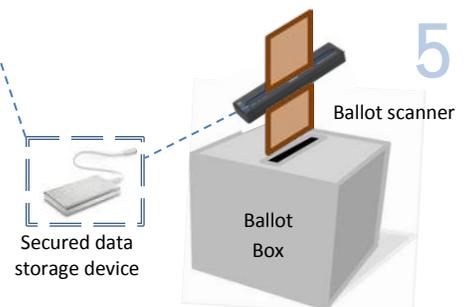
Voter removes the receipt from the bottom of the ballot. Using the code on the receipt, the voter can go online after election day to verify that the ballot was cast and counted.



Receipt

4

Voter deposits the ballot in the ballot box. A scanner on the ballot box validates to the ballot control station that the ballot has been placed in the ballot box and is therefore cast. Data storage device is transported to Central Count for official tabulation at the end of the night. Unofficial results are sent via wireless communication from the polling location to the Central Count. This audit helps ensure against tampering with the ballot box and storage device with official results while in transit to Central Count.



Secured data storage device

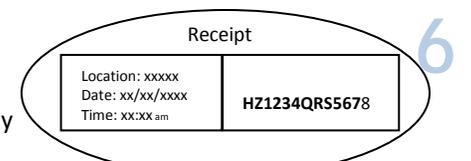
Ballot scanner

Ballot Box

5

### FINISH

Voter exits the polling location with the receipt that can be checked online after election day as cast and counted. Risk-limiting, post-election audits confirm the accuracy of the count.



Receipt

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