



Doc# 1 County Petition Summary on whether to adopt electronic voting machines



What this petition is about

Under current Ohio law (Revised Code 3506.02), there are three ways for a county to choose to adopt voting machines: either by the Board of Elections (BOE), county commissioners, or by the citizens casting their vote. Since all 88 counties in Ohio currently use voting machines, why would citizens need to vote on adopting them again? The reason is that many citizens no longer trust the machines and would like to vote “no” on whether to adopt them or not and replace them with hand-marked hand-counted paper ballots.

This petition form (SoS Form 6-d) has been approved by the Secretary of State and is specific in the language used and requires the question “Shall voting machines, marking devices, and tabulating equipment be adopted in the county of _____, Ohio?” to be placed on the ballot in any county as long as the prerequisite number of signatures can be obtained. The required number of signatures for the petition is 2% of the number of ballots cast in the county during the last gubernatorial race which occurred in 2022.

Background

Recently, Ohio’s Secretary of State has denied citizen’s request to have Ohio’s voting machines examined by an independent team of experts to see if Ohio’s machines have security flaws as found in other states. He also denied a public record’s request to provide documented evidence that Ohio’s voting machines do not contain wireless modems that would allow them to be connected to the internet and vulnerable to hacking. In addition, he denied citizen’s request from a small rural county in Ohio to hand-count all the ballots from the 2024 election (less than 5,000 ballots) using volunteers at no cost to the government to verify the accuracy of the machines. In short, the voters in Ohio are told to “trust” the government when it says the machines are safe and secure.

Over the last twenty years, electronic voting machines have been at the center of controversy in the presidential elections of 2004, 2016 and most recently, 2020. Subsequent examinations of the machines used in various states by cybersecurity experts have revealed security vulnerabilities such as software that could be used to manipulate or flip votes; foreign actors able to hack into election system networks; and documented evidence of vote manipulation in Michigan and Colorado.