

Myth 1

“Electronic voting systems are inherently insecure and vulnerable to fraud.”

FACTS

- Maryland’s new Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting system has been studied and analyzed more than any other voting system in use in the country.
 - Not **one** of the security analyses conducted on Maryland’s voting system showed evidence of fraud or manipulation or the ability to manipulate the voting system in a polling place, considering the procedural and human safeguards that surround an election.
 - The changes made as a result of the analyses improve the security of the voting system and further diminish the likelihood of fraud.
 - Additionally, as noted in a recent U.S. Congressional Research Report, “there are no proven cases of tampering with the Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) or other computer-assisted voting systems in public elections.”
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Myth 2

“The voting systems do not accurately record and tabulate the votes cast.”

FACTS

- All of the analyses of Maryland’s voting system confirmed that the system counts and tabulates votes with 100% accuracy.
 - An independent testing authority tests the source code, a human-readable program written by a programmer, to ensure that the software accurately records and tabulates votes cast.
 - Election officials and an independent verification firm thoroughly test each voting unit to ensure accuracy.
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Myth 3

“A single person could cast multiple votes.”

FACTS

- A voter must have an access card specifically activated for a voting unit in the polling place. Only election judges can activate voter access cards. After a voter casts a ballot, the access card cannot be used again until an election judge reactivates the card.
 - A combination of physical security (and visual oversight of the voting process at the precinct), software, and system features would make casting multiple votes extremely difficult and highly unlikely.
 - Throughout the day, election judges reconcile the number of voters who have checked in at the polling place against the number of votes recorded on each voting unit. Any discrepancy would be identified immediately.
 - It is a felony to cast multiple votes and is punishable by fines and imprisonment.
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Myth 4

“Paper receipts solve the concerns regarding electronic voting system fraud.”

FACTS

- Maryland only uses a voting system that meets all voting system standards established by the federal government.
 - Until standards for printers are established and voting systems are tested and certified against these standards, it would be irresponsible to attach a printer to a voting system and would violate Maryland’s election law.
 - Paper receipts provide a false sense of security, because they do not guarantee that the results recorded in the machine are the same results printed on the receipt.
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Myth 5

“Hackers could alter a voting system by introducing a ‘Trojan Horse’ or breaking into the election management system.”

FACTS

- A person must have physical access to source code in order to plant a “Trojan Horse” (i.e., hidden program or utility that can cause harm). Election offices do not receive source code and only receive “application” software (i.e., computer-readable program).
- A person would need physical access to the main computer to break into the election management system. This computer is password protected and is located in a secure location.
- The voting units and the main computers are never connected to the Internet.

Myth 6

“A person could intercept the electronically transmitted unofficial and incomplete election results.”

FACTS

- The data on the memory cards inside the voting machine become the official results. These cards are transported to the local election office by sworn election judges.
- Results are only official once all memory cards have been physically uploaded directly into the elections server.
- Final reconciliation of official and unofficial results would immediately uncover discrepancies.

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Maryland's Better Way to Vote

Electronic Voting: Myth vs. Fact



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