

SECRETARY OF STATE

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SECRETARY OF STATE



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VOTING SYSTEM CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

(LAC 31.III.303(B))

The Secretary of State sets the following standards for any new voting system to be tested and certified for use in Louisiana:

1. The voting system shall:

- a. comply with all applicable federal and state laws and administrative rules, including but not limited to R.S. 18:1366;
- b. be capable of producing a manually auditable voter verified paper record. For purposes of this Section, “manually auditable” means capable of being audited by humans by hand, without use of electronic devices;
- c. provide a combined report of early voting results and absentee results, with the capability to report results by voting method and by precinct;
- d. provide a combined report of all election day precinct results as one total;
- e. provide for customization of unofficial and official reports, including absentee voting, early voting, election day voting, and total vote counts;
- f. provide the ability to produce custom designed reports or tests as required by the Secretary of State. Provide that each portion of data is imported and assigned to the corresponding data field on the applicable components of the voting system, then propagated to the removable memory devices used at a voting location;
- g. create redundant backups of election definitions, ballot images, cast vote record, and necessary logs to eliminate loss of data due to the failure of a data storage device. These redundant backups must be recorded to more than one persistent storage system;
- h. prevent and detect tampering of hardware, software, election configuration, and election results during any period of the election cycle. It must also supply evidence of attempted and actual unauthorized access;
- i. provide for the customizable import from the statewide voter registration system into the Election Management System (EMS) before programming begins as required by the Secretary of State; and
- j. provide password protection and multi-factor user authentication on every device used for tabulation.¹

¹ This standard (j) is subject to removal upon passage of HCR 1 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

2. The Election Management System (EMS) shall:

- a. provide that the import process can be done during election programming and does not require repetitive manual entry;
- b. be able to export a results file compatible with the statewide voter registration system. This results file shall have the ability to be encrypted and sent electronically by each parish to the statewide voter registration system through an existing private network;
- c. run on an operating system that falls under mainstream support and allow for critical security patches at request of the Secretary of State; and
- d. be capable of uploading bulk audio files.

3. Any ballot marking device or voter-facing vote capture device shall:

- a. secure secrecy of the ballot throughout the in-person voting process;
- b. be capable of printing multiple zero reports at the opening of polls and multiple results reports after polls are closed;
- c. provide functionality for voting for or against a question or proposition included on a ballot;
- d. provide functionality to allow a voter to vote for as many persons for an office as he is lawfully entitled to vote for, but no more. However, when a voter is allowed to cast a vote for multiple candidates in one race, the system must also count each vote cast for an individual candidate in the event the voter chooses to vote for fewer candidates than permitted by law;
- e. provide each voter an opportunity to modify their selections before the voter's ballot is cast only by first de-selecting the incorrect vote and then making the corrected selection;
- f. notify the voter of undervotes before his ballot is cast;
- g. prevent the voter from overvoting or casting a blank ballot;
- h. have the ability to exclude any contest from a given ballot style in which the voter is prohibited from voting because of residence address or political party registration;
- i. accurately register, record, and count all votes cast for each candidate and for or against each question;
- j. be capable of complying with La. R.S. 18:1259 for presidential general elections;
- k. contain a sound creating device which will audibly indicate that a voter has cast their ballot or a clear visual cue that the ballot has been cast;
- l. must prevent unauthorized applications from being installed and executed;
- m. be capable of printing for each voter the voter's selections to a voter verified paper record for the voter to view the printed selections before casting a ballot;
- n. be capable of physically securing, retaining, and preserving the voter-verified paper record;
- o. be configurable such that write-in voting is disabled and not visible to voters;
- p. be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for voters who are blind or visually impaired in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters;
- q. provide alternative language accessibility, if required at a future date;
- r. prevent printing of election results prior to the closing of polls; and
- s. include securely closed cases for transportation, storage, and prevention of damage and tampering.

4. The tabulation software must:

- a. be capable of processing at least 200 contests, at least 250 candidates per contest, 1000 different ballot types, and 1000 precincts in each parish;
- b. support manual data entry of the election definition to define the ballot tabulation criteria for a specific election;
- c. be capable of producing pre-marked or hand-marked logic and accuracy test ballots and be able to complete a logic and accuracy test to ensure full system accuracy;
- d. be capable of manual entry of results;
- e. remove, during the early voting tally process, challenged or voided ballots cast on early voting machines as required by law and in a way that protects the secrecy of that ballot;
- f. be capable of scanning each ballot, creating a signed digital image file containing an image of both sides of the ballot, and a record indicating how the ballot was read by the software;
- g. be capable of producing the following on one report: summary totals for printing, accumulation of blank and over-votes for each contest (which must be available for optional printing on reports), and the percentage of votes cast for each selection in a contest;
- h. be capable of producing a full ballot processing audit trail, indicating for each precinct processed, the total number of each type of ballot and other relevant statistics;
- i. be capable of operating multiple tabulating devices without experiencing system degradation; and
- j. be capable of re-scanning ballots and separately storing the ballot images for auditing, recounts, or other necessary election integrity measures.

5. An absentee ballot tabulation system shall utilize a document scanner and software capable of:

- a. scanning all ballots;
- b. reading marks on the ballot made with a pencil or with a blue or black ink pen;
- c. scanning both sides of the ballot in a single pass through the scanner;
- d. automatically feeding ballots through the scanner from an input tray that holds at least 100 ballot pages;
- e. reading at least 60 ballot pages per minute;
- f. automatically detecting the feeding of two or more ballot pages simultaneously;
- g. recognizing, flagging, and segregating for adjudication of blank ballots, ballots containing ambiguous marks by the voter, and ballots containing overvotes. The state must be able to dictate and adjust parameters for ambiguous marks; and
- h. being easily transported and stored.