

Advantages of Hand Marked Paper Ballots

How it Works for In-Precinct Voting:

1. Paper ballots are marked by hand by voters (or with accessible ballot marking device (BMD) technology for voters who need assistance) with human readable marks that are verified by the voter for accuracy;
2. Ballots are cast by the voter into precinct optical scanners and auto-feed into attached, locked ballot boxes;
3. The locked ballot boxes are transported with results tapes and memory cards to county tabulation centers to be securely preserved for audits, recounts and contests.

Benefits:

1. **The most fiscally conservative initial expenditure** saving Georgia over \$100 million in its first year by eliminating the need to buy 30,000 vs 3000 BMDs (in addition to costs for precinct optical scanners = \$150 million vs. \$50 million).
2. **The most fiscally conservative ongoing expenditure** saving the state and counties millions of dollars in vendor services for the life of the technology at 30,000 vs 3000¹. Plus, allows the state the flexibility to upgrade the voting system as improved technology become available in next 15 years, circumventing threats to elections held on aged, vulnerable technology.
3. **Electronically tabulated election results can be audited for accuracy** using the voter-verified, physical source document.
4. **The voting method most recommended for democratic elections** by the nation's top cybersecurity and computing scientists.
6. **The preferred voting method of 55% of Georgians**² and overwhelming choice of Georgia election integrity activists and organizations as represented at SAFE commission meetings.
7. **Proven successful and the most common voting method in use statewide in 23 states** and in all 50 states for mail ballots. No state currently uses accessible BMDs statewide for all voters. The "hybrid" computers (DREs) for paper ballot marking presented by vendors at SAFE commission meetings **have never been used statewide in an election in the U.S.**
8. **Reduces likelihood of errors or malfeasance that would undetectably compromise** the accuracy of election results.
9. **The most reliable way to vote** reducing by 10x the state's dependency on electronic equipment with numerous threat and failure points.
10. **The fastest way for voter to vote**, allowing voters in a polling place to mark their ballots concurrently without waiting for machine availability.
11. **The most familiar way for voters to vote** using common technology employed throughout the U.S. for elections and in other applications, such as Scholastic Aptitude Testing.
12. **The simplest way to allow voters to verify their selections and correct mistakes directly.**

¹ If all-electronic BMDs/DREs are used in elections, the state and counties will incur a minimum of 10 times the costs for: software licensing and upgrades; maintenance and service contracts; physical and cybersecurity protection for all components; removable memory cards and media; staffing for county computers for programming; vendor programming; storage and trucking; pre-election testing; setup, troubleshooting, take down; increased rental space and power requirements. Additional costs for on-board BMD printers and paper ballot printing: line-item vendor costs for paper, layout, printing, and delivery of ballots; vendor technicians for offsite servicing or @\$1800/day for on-location troubleshooting.

² "AJC poll: Georgians support paper ballots and oppose voter purges." <https://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/ajc-poll-georgians-support-paper-ballots-and-oppose-voter-purges/mkdelgUXtzJL6TFVbM6BVP/>