

Electronic Voting: a Failed Experiment

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) voting machines are computers that record the voter’s selections in electronic memory, tally the electronic records, and provide a summary of the tally, usually in both printed and electronic form. Some DREs print a “voter-verified paper audit trail” (VVPAT), which is printout of the voter’s selections for the voter to approve before the vote is finalized.

However, the initial, and usually official, tally of the votes comes from the electronic records the voters can neither review nor approve. **A ballot cast on a DRE is a secret from the voter who casts it.**

In addition to this fundamental violation of democracy, DREs malfunction in ever-increasing ways, disenfranchising voters and providing no basis for confidence in the outcome of elections. For these reasons, DREs can only be regarded as a failed experiment.

A DRE may allow a voter to make selections through a touch screen, push button, rotary dial, jelly switches, audio and keypad, or other interface. DREs are not inherently accessible to voters with disabilities, though some do include high-tech features that provide assistance. These high-tech assistive features are **not** related to the creation of an electronic ballot; they can also be used on computers that produce a paper ballot to be counted by hand or by a more high-tech method.

This document provides brief summaries of **only some of the many DRE failures** that have been reported in news articles, along with short excerpts from the articles. The list is in order by state.

More details about the pre-2006 incidents, including the brand of DRE used and links to original articles, can be found through this page: (www.votersunite.org/info/failuresbystate.asp)

More details about the 2006 incidents are here: (www.votersunite.org/electionproblems.asp)

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	AR	Benton	Combining touch screen votes 3 times yields 3 different results. “With three different election results, this is about clear and transparent elections for everybody, and with three different election results,... I don’t think we’d be really confident. I don’t think anybody should be really confident (about the latest results),” Robbyn Tumey, chairwoman of the Benton County Democratic Party, said.
2006	AR	Garland	Ballot access cards scramble the ballot display. “When we got to the point of trying to do our three amendments, everything just scrambled,” said Garland County Election Commissioner Charles Tapp.
2006	AR	Poinsett	All votes for a mayoral candidate were lost. Randy Wooten figured he’d get at least one vote in his bid for mayor of this town of 80 people even if it was just his own. He didn’t. Now he has to decide whether to file a formal protest.
2000	AR	Pulaski	Voters report touch screens registered the wrong choice. Virginia Buck isn’t sure what went wrong with the machine she used Thursday at the Walker Tennis Center in Little Rock. She said she marked her vote for Snyder and went on to fill out the rest of her ballot. When she went back to double check her votes, she found a mark beside Thomas’ name.

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2006	AR	Pulaski	<p>Voting machine flips votes from Republican to Democratic.</p> <p>I had a voter from Jacksonville call me to say that he and his wife tried to vote for me (on different machines) four different times but each time they selected my name, my opponent’s name popped up on the touch screen,” says Jim Lagrone, Republican candidate for Arkansas Secretary of State. “On the fifth try, it finally worked for both of them.”</p>
2006	AR	Pulaski	<p>Malfunctions and misprogramming disrupt the election.</p> <p>[County attorney Karla] Burnette said the problems were two-fold, resulting from a malfunctioning opening and closing system of the electronic voting machines and mistakes in programming.</p>
2006	AR	Sebastian	<p>County Clerk says purportedly “accessible” machines aren’t accessible.</p> <p>The new electronic iVotronics voting machines supplied by Election Systems and Software are not user-friendly for the visually or hearing impaired, she said. During the primary election, she said, a visually impaired voter became frustrated when he had difficulty following the lengthy and complicated screen navigation instructions.</p>
2006	AR	Washington	<p>Screen doesn’t match the paper printout (“voter-verifiable paper trail”).</p> <p>Washington County Clerk Karen Combs Pritchard said that for the first two days of early voting in that county, the machines’ paper printouts listed the wrong district number for a state representative candidate, although the number appeared correctly on the screen.</p> <p>The mistake was discovered by the candidate himself when he came in to vote, she said.</p>
2006	AR	White	<p>Ballot access cartridges are mis-programmed.</p> <p>ES&S has now proven in four states that they are unable to meet deadlines for the delivery of programming, regardless of the time period they have to do the work,” [White County Election Commissioner John] Nunnally wrote to Janet Harris in the Secretary of State’s office.</p>
2004	CA		<p>Voting machine loses votes when Spanish was selected.</p> <p>[Alfie] Charles [Sequoia representative] tried again to vote in Spanish with the same result: He cast votes on two mock ballot initiatives, but they were absent from the electronic summary screen and the paper trail.</p>
2005	CA		<p>10% of the voting machines fail during State certification testing.</p> <p>After possibly the most extensive testing ever on a voting system, California has rejected Diebold’s flagship electronic voting machine because of printer jams and screen freezes.</p>

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2004	CA	Orange	<p>Massive disenfranchisement leaves no way to recover.</p> <p>Poll workers struggling with a new electronic voting system in last week's election gave thousands of Orange County voters the wrong ballots, according to a Times analysis of election records. In 21 precincts where the problem was most acute, there were more ballots cast than registered voters.</p> <p>... David Hart, chairman of Texas-based Hart InterCivic, which manufactured Orange County's voting system, said it would be impossible to identify which voters cast ballots in the wrong precincts because of steps the company had taken to ensure voter secrecy. For this reason, an exact account of miscast ballots is impossible.</p>
2004	CA	Orange	<p>Nine eSlate machines break down in one precinct.</p> <p>A malfunction with one machine caused all nine machines to go down for about an hour, according to NBC4.</p>
2006	CA	Orange	<p>Machines break down across the county.</p> <p>Calls coming in from the 48th District of Orange County, California are reporting voting machines in over 30 heavily Democratic precincts are not working and at most of these locations there are no paper ballots available as backups.</p>
2000	CA	Riverside	<p>Voting machine dropped votes during the election.</p> <p>During the 2000 presidential election, a computer from Sequoia began dropping touch-screen ballots from the vote tally.</p>
2004	CA	San Diego	<p>Many problems include the failure of 24% of "smart card" encoders.</p> <p>Poll workers saw unfamiliar Windows screens, frozen screens, strange error messages and login boxes none of which they'd been trained to expect. A report released Monday by Diebold Election Systems shows that 186 of 763 devices known as voter-card encoders failed on election day because of hardware or software problems or both, with only a minority of problems attributable to poll worker training.</p>
2004	CA	San Diego	<p>Massive disenfranchisement in Carmel caused by machine malfunctions.</p> <p>Hundreds of voters, perhaps even thousands, were turned away from their polling place because the machines were not operating as planned. Some were advised to return later, but that was impractical for many voters. Others were sent to alternate precincts, where they were handed provisional ballots.</p>
2004	CA	San Diego	<p>Touch-screen voting machine lost 10 votes at one polling place.</p> <p>We lost 10 votes, and the Diebold technician who was there had no explanation," said Pilch, who registered complaints with elections officials, his county supervisor and several others. "She kept looking at the tapes.</p>

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2006	CA	San Diego	<p>Machines malfunction in dozens of precincts.</p> <p>Registrar of Voters Mikel Haas said the registrar’s office had 350 computer technicians ready to respond to problems Tuesday. The computers were not running when [Mark Knoll] arrived at 7 a.m. and after several minutes of waiting, the voting machine jammed twice and his vote had to be cancelled both times, Knoll said. “Everyone was having a hard time with the machines. They didn’t know how to work them,” Anne Carter said. “I’m very, very, very scared about this election.”</p>
2006	CA	San Joaquin	<p>Malfunctions disenfranchise voters.</p> <p>Electronic voting machines malfunctioned and poll workers ran out of English-language paper ballots used as backups.</p>
2004	CA	Santa Clara	<p>Blind voters criticize electronic voting machines.</p> <p>“Very few of our members were able to vote privately, independently, despite Santa Clara County’s supposed ‘accessible’ touch screens,” Dawn Wilcox, president of the Silicon Valley Council of the Blind, wrote in a letter to the registrar of voters after the March primary. “I feel this is an unacceptable state of affairs.”</p>
2006	CA	Santa Clara	<p>Five machines malfunction in one precinct.</p> <p>100 voters in a Santa Clara County precinct had to cast their votes by marking sample ballots for about an hour, after five e-voting machines malfunctioned.</p>
2006	CO	Denver	<p>Machines confuse poll workers.</p> <p>Training sessions in Jefferson and Denver counties this week showed that although some judges are comfortable with computerized voting machines, others are baffled. Many of the judges are retired and trying to learn new technologies, often after years of working all-paper elections. “I’ve reached my saturation point,” said Pat Gressett, 77, after more than an hour working with the new computers.</p>
2000	DE	New Castle	<p>Electronic voting machines show 3.6% blank votes for president.</p> <p>“I find it difficult to understand the huge undervote in New Castle,” [Delaware Commissioner of Elections Frank] Calio said. “That research was eye-opening. We’ve never had any reports of anything going wrong with our machines. We need to find out what the problem is. We’re not going to whitewash this.”</p>
2002	FL		<p>State finds undervote rate is much higher on touch-screen voting machines than optical scanners.</p> <p>A report from the Florida Division of Elections on the November 2002 election showed that the undervote rate varied from 0.31% to 0.58% on paper-based optical scan machines. The rate varied from 0.92% to 0.93% on touch screens. “The differences in error rates among various kinds of voting systems are much too high to be accounted for solely by uneducated, uninformed or disinterested voters,” the report said.</p>

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2004	FL		<p>Sun-Sentinel study finds more blank ballots cast on touch screens than on paper.</p> <p>A study by the Florida Sun-Sentinel shows an average of 8 times more blank ballots recorded by paperless touch-screen voting machines than the number of blank paper ballots in the March primary.</p>
2002	FL	Broward	<p>A software error caused 103,222 (22%) ballots cast on touch screen voting machines not to be counted in the initial tally.</p> <p>"The Broward County Election Department said the software error was discovered between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Wednesday, revising voter turnout from 35 percent to 45 percent once the votes were counted.</p>
2002	FL	Broward	<p>Machines register votes for opponents.</p> <p>"I voted for McBride, but the machine counted it as Bush. It did this three times. The polling worker finally said, 'We have to re-program this machine.' Another person was having the same trouble while I was there," a voter told Neil Rogers on his highly rated AM radio show.</p>
2004	FL	Broward	<p>134 blank ballots are cast in a one-contest election, over 11 times the winning margin.</p> <p>In Tuesday's special election to fill state House seat 91, 134 Broward voters managed to use the 2-year-old touch-screen equipment without casting votes for any candidate.</p> <p>In a seven-candidate field, Ellyn Bogdanoff beat Oliver Parker by just 12 votes.</p>
2004	FL	Broward	<p>Touch screens malfunction and register votes incorrectly.</p> <p>At least 21 voting machines in Broward County malfunctioned and were replaced Tuesday, and some votes on at least one of them might have been recorded inaccurately, election officials said.</p>
2004	FL	Broward	<p>DRE malfunctions close down an early voting site, with voters waiting.</p> <p>Some people waited in line from early in the day until after the sun went down. Unfortunately, for a group of about 50 people, the waiting did not pay off. A mechanical problem with the voting machines caused election workers to close down polling place.</p>
2005	FL	Broward	<p>Commissioner's contest fails to appear on the screen.</p> <p>What we discovered was that in the Parallel Election 16 voters signed, wrote and testified that the Commissioner Race was missing on their ballot. That only the Gambling Amendment was included in their ballot.</p>
2006	FL	Broward	<p>Voting machines flip Democratic votes to Republican.</p> <p>After casting her votes, Marek, a Democrat, was surprised to see name of Charlie Crist -- the Republican candidate for governor -- on the review screen. ... She said poll workers told her the machine had been problematic before, but that they had reprogrammed it, a process they repeated after speaking to her.</p>

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2006	FL	Broward	<p>Voting machines flip Democratic votes to Republican.</p> <p>Debra A. Reed voted with her boss on Wednesday at African-American Research Library and Cultural Center near Fort Lauderdale. Her vote went smoothly, but boss Gary Rudolf called her over to look at what was happening on his machine. He touched the screen for gubernatorial candidate Jim Davis, a Democrat, but the review screen repeatedly registered the Republican, Charlie Crist.</p>
2006	FL	Broward	<p>Voting machine breakdowns halt voting.</p> <p>Only three people had voted when all 14 machines stopped working. After about 45 minutes, voters in Precinct 26A were able to cast ballots on four machines. But most voters, those in Precinct 23A, were out of luck until about 8:30 a.m., when technicians brought at least some machines back on line.</p>
2006	FL	Broward, Miami-Dade	<p>Attorney General and Chief Financial Officer races don't appear on ballots.</p> <p>Walter "Skip" Campbell, a Democrat who lost to Republican Bill McCollum, said voters complained to him that neither the attorney general nor the chief financial officer races appeared on their ballots in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.</p> <p>"There were at least 100 reports to me directly," Campbell said. "One guy said, 'I wanted to vote for you, but I couldn't because your name wasn't on the ballot.'"</p>
2006	FL	Charlotte, Sumter, Lee	<p>Excessive undervotes in the contest for state attorney general.</p> <p>In Sumter, ballots with no recorded votes known as "undervotes" accounted for 22 percent of all ballots in the attorney general's race. In Lee, 18 percent of ballots in that race were unvoted, and in Charlotte, 21 percent were blank.</p>
2004	FL	Hillsborough	<p>245 "test votes" were determined to be real votes.</p> <p>They brought the machine's results cartridge in for its results to be counted. And the machine reported zero votes. I talked to [County Registrar] Buddy Johnson on Monday. He was frank about what happened. The machine was left in test mode; his procedures had not contemplated such a possibility.</p>
2004	FL	Hillsborough	<p>Cause of high undervotes remains a mystery.</p> <p>Hillsborough's undervote on countywide contests ranged from 9 percent in the race that re-elected State Attorney Mark Ober, to a whopping 17.5 percent in the race in which Charles "Ed" Bergmann was elected circuit judge.</p>
2004	FL	Hillsborough	<p>255 blank ballots are cast in a one-contest election.</p> <p>... the presidential preference primary last March, where a single question was listed on the ballot but where 255 Hillsborough voters, or 0.76 percent of the turnout, had no vote tabulated. Had 255 residents driven to the polls, signed in, walked to the touch screen machine, then decided to abandon the whole idea?</p>

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2006	FL	Lee	<p>Printer won't print opening tape proving it contains no ballots.</p> <p>The electronic voting machines are checked each morning to make sure they have no votes on them and poll workers then print the proof of those "zero tapes," Harrington said. But the printer ... was malfunctioning.</p>
2002	FL	Miami-Dade	<p>Programming error gives votes to the wrong candidate.</p> <p>When the technician saved the edit, a prompt most likely popped up on the monitor asking him if he was sure he wanted to change the order of the names. The technician ignored the prompt and confirmed the change.</p> <p>"It was something that should have been picked up and caught and was missed and was not flagged because the normal follow-up procedures to making a change in the database were not followed," [Mike] Limas [ESS Chief Operating Officer] said.</p>
2002	FL	Miami-Dade	<p>Electronic voting machines lose 21.5% of the votes in some precincts.</p> <p>An examination of 31 problem precincts revealed at least 1,544 lost votes, approximately half of which were from African-Americans, and a "lost vote" rate of 8.2% of all voters who went to the polls and signed in to vote.</p> <p>... While the average "lost vote" rate in the 31 targeted precincts is 8.2%, in some precincts that rate is as high as 21.5%.</p>
2004	FL	Miami-Dade	<p>Elections Official Orlando Suarez finds audit bugs in iVotronics.</p> <p>"In my humble opinion (and based on my over 30 years of experience in the information technology field)," Suarez wrote, "I believe that there is/are a serious 'bug' in the program(s) that generate these reports making these reports unusable for the purpose that we were considering (audit an election, recount an election and if necessary, use these reports to certify an election)."</p>
2004	FL	Miami-Dade	<p>14,253 voters file complaints reporting problems.</p> <p>The iVotronic's ADA model, an audio ballot machine meant for the visually impaired, stumped poll workers throughout the day by "freezing up" or switching to a "white screen," according to the forms election workers at the calling center were required to fill out for every call for help.</p> <p>Complaints showed that poll workers faced with "dead" iVotronics discovered the machines came to life again after workers were instructed to plug them into different electrical outlets at precinct sites.</p>
2004	FL	Miami-Dade	<p>Machines lose valid votes and create "phantom votes" in the November election.</p> <p>The number of voters reported by election workers didn't match the number of ballots cast in 260 (35%) of Miami-Dade's 749 polling places. Some showed more votes than voters ("phantom votes"); others showed significantly more voters than ballots cast.</p>

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2005	FL	Miami-Dade	<p>Voting machines throw away votes, calling six elections into question.</p> <p>Electronic voting machines tossed out hundreds of ballots during this month's special election on slot machines -- and elections workers have traced the same computer error to five other municipal elections in the past 12 months.</p>
2006	FL	Miami-Dade	<p>Voting machines flip Democratic votes to Republican.</p> <p>Mauricio Raponi wanted to vote for Democrats across the board at the Lemon City Library in Miami on Thursday. But each time he hit the button next to the candidate, the Republican choice showed up.</p>
2002	FL	Palm Beach	<p>Voting machines register votes for the wrong candidate in an upset race.</p> <p>What really alarmed us was the next day when we started getting phone calls from voters who had gone into the voting places -- people we didn't even know -- and pushed Emil Danciu's name only to end up with a check mark by Susan Haynie's name. They repeatedly tried to vote for him, but another name, particularly Haynie's, came up. They couldn't get their vote registered. They were telling wild stories about poll workers unplugging and kicking the machines. They didn't know whether their votes ever counted. Some were told to vote again.</p>
2002	FL	Palm Beach	<p>Voting machines lose 78 entire ballots in an upset election.</p> <p>Councilman Al Paglia lost his seat by four votes to Lizbeth Benacquisto during a runoff contest held March 26 in Wellington, a town of 42,000 in central Palm Beach County. Although Paglia and Benacquisto were the sole candidates on the ballot, 78 so-called undervotes were registered, meaning 78 voters used the machine but did not cast a ballot.</p>
2002	FL	Palm Beach	<p>Touch screens freeze when voters select a language, register incorrect vote.</p> <p>Touch screen machines sometimes froze up when voters selected which language to use. Phil Foster from Sequoia Voting Systems said that was a software programming error. Elections Supervisor Theresa LePore also said she heard that some people touched one candidate's circle on the screen, only to see an X appear by another candidate's name.</p>
2004	FL	Palm Beach	<p>Touch screens fail in the second day of early voting.</p> <p>At Palm Beach County's West Boca branch library, voters were turned away Tuesday morning after touch-screen voting machines failed to work properly.</p> <p>"I voted, but my machine froze," [Morris Jay of Boca Raton] said. "They fiddled around with it, then they closed it up. They gave me another card and I went to another machine."</p>
2004	FL	Palm Beach	<p>Complex technology confuses poll workers, causing errors.</p> <p>For regular elections, workers turn two knobs, one to turn off the power and the other to close the polls. For early voting, they're only supposed to turn off the power. They did both Monday night, which meant the machines couldn't be activated Tuesday.</p>

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2004	FL	Palm Beach	<p>Touch screens register votes for the opponent on the review screen.</p> <p>Tina [Knight] worked nine hours election day. She talked to a woman who said the voting machine had repeatedly registered the wrong presidential candidate. After 8 or 9 tries, it finally showed the candidate she had selected.</p> <p>Another lady said when she got to her review screen, at the end of the voting process, the opposing presidential candidate was listed. . . . She called the poll worker and demanded it be fixed. The poll worker went back through the screens” and agreed the woman had voted for a different candidate than the review screen showed.</p>
2006	FL	Palm Beach	<p>Votes flip from Democrat to Republican.</p> <p>“When I touched the one [button] for the Democratic vote, that button disappeared and the vote went to the Republican,” Stier said. The same thing happened when his wife voted, said Stier, who once worked for a computer manufacturer.</p>
2004	FL	Sarasota	<p>Touch screens lose 189 entire ballots.</p> <p>According to the county Board of Elections, the votes of 189 people were never counted.</p>
2006	FL	Sarasota	<p>Valid votes for Jennings do not appear on the review screen.</p> <p>David Shapiro, the Democratic candidate for state representative for District 69, said he’s sure he went through the ballot carefully and was particularly interested in voting for Jennings, whom he had campaigned with. When his review page came up, his vote for Jennings hadn’t been recorded, he said.</p>
2004	GA		<p>Touch screens show 14% undervote rate in U.S. Senate Democratic primary.</p> <p>While the machines reported 14.5% Democratic undervotes for U.S. Senate, they reported only 3.2% Republican undervotes.</p> <p>... On the Democratic side of the U.S. Senate race, 625,115 votes were cast. That means nearly 106,000 Democrats — 14 percent of the total — took a look at the eight-candidate field. And passed.</p>
2006	GA	Bibb	<p>Machines register votes for the wrong candidate.</p> <p>Issues first arose in the morning when voters at New Griswoldville Baptist Church reported that their ballots weren’t being recorded correctly.</p> <p>The machine was initially shut down, but when long lines started to develop during the day, it was brought back into use, [Macon-Bibb County Elections Supervisor Elaine Carr] said. Voters were told to be careful.</p>

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2005	GA	Cobb	<p>Touch screens lose 285 entire ballots in one-race election – over twice margin of victory.</p> <p>About 285 voters showed up at the polls on Sept. 20 for Cobb’s Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum but never cast a vote.</p> <p>The number of these “nonvotes,” where a registered voter received a ballot but left without voting either yes or no, was more than twice SPLOST’s 114-vote victory.</p>
2004	GA	DeKalb	<p>Voting machines reject memory cards, overheat, and register votes incorrectly.</p> <p>One precinct reported almost upon opening of the polls that all machines (10) were failing. Voters inserted the access card and the card was immediately ejected.</p> <p>We spoke with the technician and he explained that the machines were behaving erratically. Because of the heat, when a voter placed their hand on the touchscreen, their chosen candidate would change (the red X would jump all over the screen) and voters would have great difficulty casting their vote for the candidate of their choosing. He informed us the problem began occurring at 12:15 and was getting progressively worse as the environment in the polling place was heating up with the daytime heating.</p>
2004	GA	DeKalb, Chatham	<p>Electronic voting machines flip votes on the review screen.</p> <p>Ziyadah Sabir said she’s concerned the touch-screen machine didn’t properly record her vote. The summary page, which allows voters to review their choices before casting their ballots, failed to show some of her choices and showed incorrect choices for others, Sabir said. Poll workers could not fix the problem, she said.</p>
2006	GA	DeKalb, Fulton, Cobb	<p>30 to 40 voters report votes flipped on the screen.</p> <p>Some voters reported that when they tried to cast votes for Democrats, the voting machines showed an X by the Republican candidate’s name.</p> <p>“It was infuriating,” Bryant said. “I had to go back and double-check every one of my ions. It seems like we spent a lot of money to put machines in place that aren’t reliable.”</p>
2004	GA	Fulton	<p>Touch screen machines violate ballot secrecy of early voters.</p> <p>Craig Kidd cast a ballot ahead of the July 20 Republican primary during the five-day period for advance voting. A designated Republican poll watcher and campaign worker for a GOP state Senate candidate, Kidd showed up at his Buckhead polling place on Election Day to make sure his advance vote had been recorded. Kidd claims a poll worker told him there was no record of his vote and advised him to vote again to be sure his vote would be tallied.</p> <p>Fulton officials later disqualified Kidd’s early vote, which has a unique identifying number allowing election officials to know who cast it.</p>

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2004	HI	Honolulu	<p>Electronic voting machine malfunction when the battery is low.</p> <p>Greg Hogue said ... the machine flashed a low battery indicator after he selected his party. The machine then flashed a "cast ballot" indicator and his ballot was accepted before he was able to vote for anyone.</p>
2004	HI	Honolulu	<p>Electronic voting machines present non-existent selections.</p> <p>State elections officials said the computerized voting machines provided by Hart Intercivic allowed voters to "click on" a political party, even though there weren't any candidates running from that party on their island.</p> <p>So a couple of dozen Green Party ballots were recorded, even though there were no candidates.</p>
2006	IA	Fayette	<p>Screens freeze when the voter access cartridge is inserted too quickly.</p> <p>Precinct workers have to insert a cartridge that brings up a ballot for each voter, but if they do it too quickly, the screen will freeze, [auditor Larry Popenhagen] said. "That's just a common problem," he said. "They just have to be careful to do it when they're supposed to."</p>
2006	IL	Cook	<p>Vote-flipping and other machine malfunctions hassle poll workers.</p> <p>Corrine Stoker pushed the button for one candidate, but her voting machine showed she voted for the opponent.</p> <p>"Alignment keeps going out. Voters complain," a poll worker complaint filed Friday said. "They recalibrate. A couple voters later, they complain. They recalibrate. They complain, etc. For two days straight."</p> <p>"Screen goes black, beeps," reads one poll worker form. "Card will not lock into the unit," reads another.</p>
2006	IL	Cook	<p>Votes flip to the opponent on the screen AND the paper printout.</p> <p>Used the touch screen voting machine - if this is the new technology, forget it. When I would touch on the candidate of my choice, in several instances the check mark would jump to the other candidate. After finally resolving this I reviewed my choices on the screen (before seeing a printout) only to find that six candidate choices had mysteriously changed, so again I went back to correct these "mistakes." Finally, everything looked good so I ran the printout to review my choices only to find that again choices (different ones) were wrong so I went back and made the changes - imagine my dismay when this happened two more times after that.</p>
2006	IL	Cook	<p>Machines don't operate correctly, are not intuitive.</p> <p>Whoever designed the program and features of the "computerized version" should be fired. The program does not have a feature to eject the plastic card that is selected. The "green button" on the back of the computer that was supposed to cause the card to eject did not work. There also was NOT a clear indication of how to change a vote. If you elected a candidate where only one could be chosen from three, the X appeared next to the one chosen but there was NO instruction on how to cancel that and change the vote.</p>

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2006	IL	Cook	<p>Complex technology confuses poll workers, disenfranchises voters.</p> <p>I was unable to vote (district 12) due to the judges/machines etc "not being ready". I left at 6:35 a.m. after being told it would be a least another 1/2 hour; others also left commenting that they would now not be able to vote (I won't be able to either). Last year, we had to wait until 6:15.</p>
2006	IN	Delaware	<p>Mis-programmed machines won't start up normally.</p> <p>County clerk Karen Wenger told 6News that the company who provides the voting machines, MicroVote, did not have the machines programmed properly that would allow for turning them on correctly Tuesday morning. Machines were being turned on one-by-one under the direction of an inspector over the phone at each precinct in the county. Delays have been as long as three hours.</p>
2004	IN	Four counties	<p>Manufacturer installed uncertified software because the certified version didn't count votes correctly.</p> <p>"Am I so damn stupid...that for me to use the word "work," do you understand that to run an election for something to work, it's gotta count the votes?" asked an exasperated election commissioner S. Anthony Long to ES&S executive Ken Carbullido.</p> <p>"I just think I was absolutely lied to by your CEO and I'm more than on the slow burn about it. I sat in this room and you all lied to me. You're so derelict in your duties that you can't look at a piece of paper and answer the question? Give me a break," said Brian Burdick, who also serves on the election commission.</p>
2004	IN	LaPorte	<p>Voting machines report 300 voters in every precinct.</p> <p>At about 7 p.m. Tuesday, it was noticed that the first two or three printouts from individual precinct reports all listed an identical number of voters. Each precinct was listed as having 300 registered voters. That means the total number of voters for the county would be 22,200, although there are actually more than 79,000 registered voters.</p>
2006	IN	LaPorte	<p>Malfunctions delay voting.</p> <p>Two polling places stayed open late because of difficulties getting machines to operate properly.</p>
2006	IN	Marion	<p>Machines break down in 19% of the county's precincts.</p> <p>In Indiana's Marion County, which includes Indianapolis, election officials switched to paper ballots in 175 of the county's 914 precincts because they couldn't operate the electronic-voting machines.</p>
2006	IN	Marion	<p>Complex machines confuse election director AND manufacturer.</p> <p>Marion County got approval Friday to get the votes out of 520 touch-screen machines used by disabled voters. When the polls closed at 6 p.m., poll workers were unable to get the votes out. That is because the voting machine maker, ES&S, had programmed the machines for Pennsylvania's polls, which were open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Disabled voters are worried their votes will not count.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2004	IN	Vanderburgh	<p>Voting machines create phantom votes (more votes than voters).</p> <p>Workers in the Election Office are doing a precinct-by-precinct study of votes cast compared to signatures. Most of the county's 139 precincts have been checked. Workers are paying particular attention to precincts where the discrepancy of votes and signatures is more than 10.</p>
2006	KY	Calloway	<p>Straight-party votes switch to the opposite party in contested races.</p> <p>"I tried to vote a straight ticket, but when I checked the final page, which summarizes one's vote, I noticed that I had voted for some of the candidates of the other party. I went to the first screen again and ticked the straight ticket box for the Democratic party, and, again, I found that for all of the contested races the Republican boxes were ticked."</p>
2002	LA	Ascension Tangipahoa	<p>Voting machines overheat, lock up, shut down while voters are voting.</p> <p>[Ascension Parish Clerk of Court Hart] Bourque said his staff was on the road repairing machines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. In one case, a machine wasn't repaired until 12:30 a.m. Wednesday.</p> <p>"A mechanic would fix a machine, and before he could get back to the office, it would shut down again," Bourque said.</p>
2004	LA	New Orleans	<p>Electronic voting machines break down at the start of election day.</p> <p>State election officials received about 200 complaints of problems with machines, including two confirmed reports of Sequoia AVC Advantage voting machines in New Orleans Parish that were not working, according to Scott Madere, press secretary for the Louisiana Secretary of State.</p>
2002	MD		<p>Voting machine flips vote from Republican to Democrat.</p> <p>"I pushed a Republican ticket for governor and his name disappeared," said Kevin West of Upper Marlboro. "Then the Democrat's name got an 'X' put in it."</p>
2004	MD		<p>Touch screens lose votes due to a variety of malfunctions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Incomplete ballots that were missing candidates or entire races ◆ Machines crashing or freezing before the voter cast a ballot ◆ "Smart card" and encoder failures ◆ Delayed poll openings because of machine boot-up failures ◆ Voter abandonment because of unacceptably long waits ◆ Touch screen failures that included vote switching, review screen malfunctions, unintended selections and submission of ballots before voters had made selections, hypersensitivity to touch that caused voters to complain that "it was out of control and I have no idea who my votes were cast for," screens going blank ◆ Unreadable voting machine hard drives (PCMCIA cards)
2006	MD	Allegany, Dorchester, Montgomery Prince George	<p>Four year old "screen freeze" problem finally repaired.</p> <p>To eliminate unpredictable "screen freezes" that have occurred since the machines were first used in Maryland in 2002, Diebold Election Systems installed new system boards in about 4,700 voting machines from four Maryland counties.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2005	MD	Montgomery	<p>County reports problems with 12% of the voting machines.</p> <p>From Help Desk tickets and GEMS reports, 189 voting units (7%) of units deployed failed on Election Day. An additional 122 voting units (or 5%) were suspect based on number of votes captured.</p>
2006	MD	Multiple	<p>Machines prevent voters from selecting candidates of their choice.</p> <p>Screens have been malfunctioning all over the State, where voters cannot select the candidate of their choice because either the check box is not available, or the screen does not allow them to select the candidate at all.</p>
2006	MD	Multiple	<p>New "time-out" feature causes machine failures.</p> <p>Voters have not been sufficiently informed about the voting machine time out feature, where the machine times out after two minutes of inactivity. Several voters had their voter access card spit out and their ballot cancelled. Some of these timeouts resulted in the machine freezing and crashing.</p>
2004	MD	Prince George	<p>Touch screen won't display Democratic choices in primary.</p> <p>The only known glitch was at Mount Rainier Elementary School. When polls opened yesterday, nearly a dozen voters were told the machines were not pulling up the Democratic slate.</p>
2006	MO	St. Louis	<p>Voting machines flip votes.</p> <p>As of 8:00 a.m. the non-partisan group Missourians for Honest Elections has already received news of two incidents in today's election in which touch screen machines incorrectly recorded voters' intentions.</p>
2006	MO	St. Louis	<p>Voting machines malfunction, causing long lines.</p> <p>"It backed up really early," Sheila Jackson, an election judge, said. "At five minutes after 6 [p.m.], there were still 20 people left to vote, and we only had three touch screens. ? The line wasn't moving fast enough."</p>
2006	MS	Hancock	<p>New machines cause "major problems."</p> <p>"I think all 26 had problems. Some precincts couldn't even open the doors because it takes the poll workers so long to get one vote a-matic up," Hancock County Circuit Clerk Pam Metzler said. "We've had major problems. We've had more problems in this election than any other election, and I've been here 30 years."</p> <p>"Circuit Clerks fought this equipment with Eric Clark for months and months. We didn't want this. We're the ones out here in the ditches, we're the ones having to deal with it, and we fought it tooth and nail and it was shoved down our throats. We didn't want it. We wanted another system that is easier for everyone concerned," Metzler said.</p>
2006	MS	Harrison	<p>Machines freeze, printers malfunction.</p> <p>Of the 14 machines sent to the D'Iberville site, just three initially worked. Some were frozen. Others had printer problems. It took until almost lunch, but the deputy circuit clerks eventually fixed the voting machine snafus.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2003	MS	Hinds	<p>Extensive voting machine failures leave election results unknown.</p> <p>Nov 2, 2003. When [Elise Turner, 45] arrived at her polling place at Belhaven College, the voting machines were down and there were no paper ballots.</p> <p>Jan. 21, 2004. The state Senate voted Tuesday to hold a new election in Hinds County District 29, but the Democratic contender says he is financially and emotionally drained and is considering pulling out of the race.</p>
2005	MS	Hinds	<p>Batteries fail within minutes after the election opened.</p> <p>Things started smoothly at 7 a.m. at Jackson’s Ward 1 Precinct 36 at McLeod Elementary, but a few minutes after voting started touch-screen machines started going down. Within minutes all four were down.</p>
2006	MS	Hinds	<p>Screens display incorrect ballots.</p> <p>In Jackson, machines at one precinct offered voters the chance to cast a ballot on the wrong congressional race.</p> <p>[Hinds County election commissioner Connie Cochran] also said a school board race was left off the machines and voters were offered paper ballots for that race.</p>
2004	NC	Burke	<p>Voting machines register 11% blank presidential votes.</p> <p>Burke County voters cast 34,604 ballots, but only 30,762 votes for president were recorded. Less than 89 percent of the voters recorded a presidential preference.</p>
2004	NC	Carteret	<p>Voting machine throws away 4530 votes.</p> <p>Unilect claimed their paperless voting machines would store 10,500 votes, but they only store 3,005. After the first 3,005 voters, the machines accepted -- but did not store -- the ballots of 4,530 people in the 2004 Presidential election.*</p> <p>Jack Gerbel, president and owner of Dublin-Calif.-based UniLect, told The Associated Press on Thursday that the county’s elections board was given incorrect information. There is no way to retrieve the missing data, he said.</p> <p>“That is the situation and it’s definitely terrible,” he said.</p>
2004	NC	Craven	<p>Touch screens flip votes from Bush to Kerry.</p> <p>Charlie Jackson was one of at least three voters, who experienced difficulty registering his vote on electronic voting equipment. “I got to the machine and punched the box for Bush/Cheney on the very first item for president and the light appeared by Kerry/Edwards,” said Jackson.</p>
2003	NC	Guilford	<p>Voting machines lose 354 entire ballots.</p> <p>Records from Gilbert’s office [George Gilbert, Guilford County director of elections] show that voters in mostly rural precincts — where the bond was the only item on the ballot — cast 354 blank ballots. Gilbert said the percentage of blank ballots was “extraordinarily high” in some precincts.</p>

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Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2002	NC	Wake	<p>Voting machines lose 436 ballots.</p> <p>Machines lost 436 entire ballots in early voting. When the county director of elections contacted ES&S, company officials admitted that they knew the firmware was flawed. Jackson County had previously had the same problem, and the company had replaced it with version 6.2.1.3, which the Jackson County Director said had showed no problems.</p>
2006	NJ	Essex	<p>New, poorly built machines break down in first use.</p> <p>Essex County’s new electronic voting machines got their first real test last week.</p> <p>However, 24 machines experienced problems, Superintendent of Elections and Commissioner of Registration Carmine Casciano said Nov. 7. Of the 24 machines to experience problems, 14 will have to be replaced outright because of circuit problems. Another six machines scattered throughout the county experienced switch problems, but were able to be fixed by technicians, Casciano said.</p>
2006	NJ	Essex	<p>Voting machine loses 28 entire ballots.</p> <p>The Sequoia Advantage Voting machine in district 13 Maplewood recorded 28 fewer voters than the number of voters who signed in to vote. The official explanation was “Voters fled/machine malfunction” I was the Democratic Challenger at this poll and was there during all busy hours and observed no voters signing in and not staying to vote. This was a clear machine malfunction.</p>
2006	NJ	Middlesex, Hudson, Camden, Passaic, Union	<p>Voting machines have “default” candidates already marked.</p> <p>Republicans complained that in at least five voting booths in four Passaic County districts using electronic voting machines, a space next to the candidates that was supposed to be blank was already marked with a vote for Menendez. When voters tried to vote for a Republican candidate, the check marks would not change, the Republicans said.</p>
2006	NJ	Montclair	<p>Machine malfunctions hassle voters.</p> <p>My husband just came back (6:30 AM) from trying to vote; he said to me, “If you don’t have a pencil, don’t bother.” Three machines in the precinct were not working -- it’s unclear whether there’s anything wrong with them, or whether the poll workers couldn’t figure out how to get them working. 12 people were in line at that point.</p>
2004	NJ	Morris	<p>Voting machines produce unreadable vote data.</p> <p>“Nothing has ever happened like this,” said County Clerk Joan Bramhall. “There’s data on the (computer) cartridge, but it’s just not reading it. It shows zeroes.”</p>
2002	NM	Bernalillo	<p>Touch screen tabulation software loses 25% of the votes.</p> <p>Although about 48,000 people had voted early on 212 Sequoia-supplied touch-screen computers at six sites in the county, the initial figures given to the commissioners indicated that no race - not even for governor - showed a total of more than about 36,000 votes.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2004	NM	Bernalillo	<p>Touch screen machines create 355 phantom votes for President.</p> <p>The official canvass report shows that the touch screens recorded a total of 355 more presidential votes than the number of voters who voted. These "phantom votes" appeared in 24 precincts. Precinct 558 had nearly twice the number of votes as voters.</p>
2004	NM	Bernalillo	<p>Touch screen machines create a total of 8,656 phantom votes in 15 races.</p> <p>New Mexico certified election results show 187 precincts reporting presidential phantom votes (more votes recorded than ballots cast). In the presidential race and 14 down-ticket contests examined and shown in the chart below, a total of 8,656 phantom votes were reported in the certified canvass report.</p>
2004	NM	Bernalillo	<p>Touch screens flip votes from Kerry to Bush.</p> <p>Kim Griffith went to Valle Del Norte Community Center in Albuquerque, planning to vote for John Kerry. "I pushed his name, but a green check mark appeared before President Bush's name," she said.</p> <p>She again tried to vote for Kerry, but the screen again said she had voted for Bush.</p>
2002 2004	NM	Bernalillo	<p>Voting machine software adds thousands of phantom votes.</p> <p>County Clerk Mary Herrera acknowledged Monday that bogus votes have appeared in at least three elections.</p> <p>In one case, nearly four thousand phantom votes were added to just one race.</p> <p>However, the clerk says her vote-counting experts have always found the phantom votes before they were added to the final tally.</p>
2004	NM	San Juan	<p>Voting machines create 1,843 phantom votes in one precinct.</p> <p>With only 318 people casting election day ballots on the Danaher Shouptronic electronic voting machines in the Precinct 51, Fran J. Hanhardt, Republican incumbent running for County Clerk, received 2,079 votes, while Democratic challenger Glojean B. Todacheene received 82.</p>
2004	NM	Sandoval	<p>Touch screens register votes erratically.</p> <p>Stan Read, the Republican candidate for judge in the 13th Judicial District, said he was not initially allowed to vote for himself or House candidate Glenn Walters and that he had to vote for an unopposed Democratic candidate in another judicial race to make the machine accept his ballot.</p> <p>At least one other voter had a similar experience, having to vote for a Democrat he didn't favor to make sure the machine would cast his entire ballot.</p>
2004	NM	Sandoval	<p>Machines flip Republican votes to Democrat or Green.</p> <p>A Rio Rancho woman who attempted to vote a straight Republican ticket said the machine switched all of her votes to Democrat. She said her daughter attempted to vote straight Republican, but her votes were all switched to the Green Party.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
1996	NV	Clark	<p>Touch screen malfunctions during state certification testing; receives state certification anyway.</p> <p>In July, 1996 a public test to certify Clark County’s Sequoia Pacific machine for early voting was conducted. During the test, a cartridge malfunctioned: also the examiner (selected by the state) had difficulty casting his vote. He had to vote 51 times rather than the designated 50, an option not afforded the voter should the machine malfunction in an actual election. In spite of these malfunctions, the machine was given certification—the equivalent of declaring it accurate, reliable and secure.</p>
2004	NV	Clark	<p>New software introduced a new bug.</p> <p>They had to create new software that would support this printer and both voting machines we have. My guess -- in the process of getting it developed and federally certified, a bug that was there in 2002 must have crept back in.</p>
2004	NV	Elko	<p>Voting machines lose 271 ballots.</p> <p>[Elko County Clerk Win Smith] said the missing votes were discovered late Thursday when county employees inputting voter history into the system discovered that the number of voters and the number of votes did not match.</p> <p>“We found out all the votes were not counted,” she said.</p>
2006	OH	Cuyahoga	<p>Machines fail to start up in 7.5% of the county’s polling places.</p> <p>Forty-three of the county’s 573 voting places either failed to open on time or couldn’t get some or all of their electronic voting machines to work, Alan Melamed [elections board spokesman] said.</p>
2004	OH	Franklin	<p>Voting machine creates 3,893 extra votes for Bush.</p> <p>Bush received 4,258 votes and Kerry received 260 in a precinct with only 638 voters.</p> <p>Matthew Damschroder [director of the Franklin County Board of Elections] said ... after Precinct 1B closed, a cartridge from one of three voting machines at the polling place generated a faulty number at a computerized reading station.</p>
2004	OH	Mahoning	<p>Voting machines flip votes to opponent, freeze, confuse poll workers.</p> <p>Many problems plagued the touch screen voting machines in 16 of the 312 Mahoning County precincts.</p> <p>Some of the machines malfunctioned, others had problems with the personal electronic ballot cartridge placed into the machines before each vote to count the ballots, and other problems were caused by human error, Munroe said. ...</p> <p>Also, there were 20 to 30 machines that needed to be recalibrated during the voting process because some votes for a candidate were being counted for that candidate’s opponent, Munroe said. ...</p> <p>About a dozen machines needed to be reset because they essentially froze.</p>

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Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	OH	Stark	<p>Voters have to tap the screen repeatedly to register votes.</p> <p>Some voting machines at least two polling locations in Jackson Township — Rose Lane Health Center on High Mill Avenue NW and Shortridge Villa on Stephen Circle NW — had touchscreens that weren't working properly. A voter had to touch a spot as many as 15 times before the machine would recognize the selection.</p>
2006	OH	Trumbull, and others	<p>Machine malfunctions in the mode designed for visually impaired.</p> <p>The elections board staff has discovered a software problem that will cause voters to be unable to see one of the pages of text on state Issue 2 if they attempt to look at the text under a function called "large text."</p>
2006	PA	Allegheny	<p>Voting machines break down.</p> <p>Twenty of the new electronic voting machines were removed from polling places across Allegheny County this morning because of technical glitches.</p>
2006	PA	Allegheny, Butler, Crawford	<p>Voting machines flip votes from Republican to Democratic.</p> <p>State Republicans asked Secretary of State Pedro Cortes to investigate what they said were instances in at least 12 counties including Allegheny, Butler and Crawford where voters allegedly tried to vote for Republican candidates but that the machines reflected Democratic votes.</p>
2005	PA	Beaver	<p>Undervote rate soars with the use of e-voting machines.</p> <p>The county reports that since they began using DREs 8 years ago their undervote count has increased to about 6 times what it was when they used paper ballots.</p>
2005	PA	Berks	<p>Voting machines irretrievably lose 199 ballots, affecting two outcomes.</p> <p>Election staff apparently used a training cartridge instead of an actual election cartridge to record the votes, Winters said. A training cartridge is not designed to retain information once the computer system is shut down, he said.</p> <p>Officials said the lost votes could affect at least two races for Reading City Council and school Board seats.</p>
2006	PA	Cambria	<p>Machines flip votes in individual races and straight-ticket voting.</p> <p>Workers reported that some voters pushed the touch-screen button for one candidate and got the another candidate. Or, voters tried to vote a straight ticket and had problems.</p>
2006	PA	Centre	<p>Machines won't print "zeros tape."</p> <p>Centre County Board of Commissioners Chairman Chris Exarchos said that, six to eight precincts had problems printing zero tapes the print-out that shows no votes have been cast before voting begins.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	PA	Centre	<p>Machines flip votes in the Governor’s race.</p> <p>A machine in Halfmoon Township was replaced and one in Taylor Township was closed after unsubstantiated reports that the machine would only vote for Gov. Ed Rendell. Reported voting-machine glitches also included a machine in a Rush Township precinct that, according to one voter, refused to accept a Rendell vote.</p>
2006	PA	Centre	<p>Machines confuse and disenfranchise voters.</p> <p>Some ballots went uncounted Tuesday after some Centre County voters started but failed to complete the electronic voting process, county Board of Commissioners Chairman Chris Exarchos said Thursday. He estimated that fewer than 50 voters walked away from the iVotronic voting machines without pressing the button to confirm their votes.</p>
2006	PA	Cumberland	<p>Voting machine flips votes to the opposite candidate.</p> <p>Just returned from voting in Lemoyne, PA. Two of the five voting machines were not working. When asked why the machines were down, a poll worker said the two machines were automatically casting votes opposite of the ones selected.</p>
2005	PA	Harrisburg	<p>Voting machine malfunctions during official State examination.</p> <p>Until 2 p.m. yesterday, Jack Gerbel’s demonstration of his UniLect touch screen voting system was going smoothly. Then, suddenly, the screen froze up, unresponsive to numerous finger-pokes from Gerbel and a bystander.</p> <p>“It’s worked fine up to this point,” Gerbel said, faintly flustered, fiddling with wires. Minutes later, the UniLect system was back online, tabulating mock votes correctly, working just the way it’s supposed to.</p> <p>That brief episode, more than any other during yesterday’s demonstration before state officials, illustrated how the computerized system can be mostly reliable, yet prone to occasional glitches that can temporarily confound even the people who know the system inside and out.</p>
2006	PA	Lancaster	<p>Seven precincts report confusion and malfunctions.</p> <p>Lancaster’s 9th Ward, fourth precinct; 2nd Ward, first and second precincts; 6th Ward, first precinct; 8th Ward, eighth and ninth precinct; and Manheim Township’s 7th district had reports of malfunctioning machines and/or voter confusion about how to use the electronic machines. These touch-screen machines are not new to all voters.</p>
2006	PA	Lawrence	<p>Breakdowns disenfranchise voters.</p> <p>Some people walked away from polling places without casting ballots because some machines didn’t work properly, county elections director Marlene D. Gabriel said.</p>

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Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	PA	Luzerne	<p>Machine flips Republican votes to Democrat.</p> <p>Evelyn Graham, a Hazleton City Councilwoman, said she touched the box for Republican gubernatorial candidate Lynn Swann, and it highlighted as her selection. But when she moved on to the next race and picked Republican senatorial candidate Rick Santorum, Graham said she noticed that Rendell's name had become highlighted as her selection. Graham said she returned to the governor's race, de-selected Rendell and selected Swann. "I did it four to six times, and each time it changed back to Rendell." ... "I do not believe that there is an honest election possible anymore with these machines."</p>
2004	PA	Mercer	<p>Touch screens malfunction in bizarre ways after successful testing.</p> <p>Mercer County's director of elections said it was a computer software glitch that caused touch-screen voting machines to malfunction in about a dozen precincts Tuesday.</p> <p>"I don't know what happened," said James Bennington, who had been assured Friday that all 250 of the county's touch-screen units had been checked and rechecked. The county has 100 voting precincts. Some machines never operated, some offered only black screens and some required voters to vote backwards, starting on the last page of the touch-screen system and working back to the front page.</p>
2004	PA	Mercer	<p>Voting machine loses 83% of the presidential votes.</p> <p>One machine recorded 51 votes for president out of 289 ballots cast. The county's Web site reports that 51,818 people cast ballots but 47,768 ballots were recorded in the presidential race, including 61 write-ins. About 4,000 votes could not be accounted for.</p>
1995 1996	PA	Montgomery	<p>Voting machines malfunction, lose votes.</p> <p>The paperless voting machines shut-down haphazardly, causing the current voter's vote to be lost. The scroll motors emitted power surges that caused the machines to go into power-fail mode and shut down to protect the circuitry.</p> <p>Thus, when a voter pushed a button on a DRE to scroll to the next page, the scroll motor would activate, and the machine might randomly shut down in front of the voter.</p>
2006	PA	Westmoreland	<p>All 800 voting machines malfunction, disenfranchise voters.</p> <p>Programming errors in every voting machine in Westmoreland County left voters standing in long lines at some polls, turned away at others and using paper ballots in one Jeannette precinct.</p>
2006	PA	York	<p>Machines flip votes to Republican on straight-party Democratic vote.</p> <p>Nathalie Engdahl brought her 70 years of voting experience into a Manchester Township precinct building early this morning and voted straight Democrat. But her experience has taught her to check over her ballot, and it didn't take her long to realize there was something wrong. Incumbent Senator Rick Santorum is not a Democrat.</p>

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Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2005	SC	Charleston	<p>Software bug makes candidate names hard to read.</p> <p>Officials say there were a few kinks. Voters reportedly had problems seeing the names of the candidates. The problem was said to be the result of a glitch in the software.</p>
2006	SC	Charleston	<p>Review screen fails to show voters selections in “vote for more than one” races.</p> <p>If voters can vote for only one candidate, the review screen shows who they voted for, but if they can vote for two or more candidates, as is the case in a Charleston County School Board race and the Charleston County Soil and Water Commission race, then the review screen indicates only whether they have voted for the maximum number allowed. It does not state for whom they voted.</p>
2004	SC	Georgetown	<p>Voting machines create phantom votes (more votes than voters).</p> <p>The recount was done by re-accumulating the results from the machine’s cartridges. After comparing the poll books with the number of ballots in the recount, the commission determined that the initial count had contained too many ballots.</p>
2004	SC	Jasper	<p>Voting machines create 600 phantom votes.</p> <p>Some 521 people voted in the Ridgeland 1 precinct’s County Council Pocatoligo race, according to the Election Commission’s original election certification on June 10. Some 432 voted in the council’s Hardeeville race at the precinct. And, 548 voted in the precinct for the council’s at-large race.</p> <p>Yet, the precinct’s voter sign-in sheet shows that only 298 people actually voted there.</p>
2005	SC	Kershaw	<p>Voting machines report more than four (4!) times as many ballots as voters.</p> <p>Unofficial vote totals that night showed 3,208 of District 2’s 5,128 registered voters had cast ballots in the Republican and Democratic primaries. A manual recount Thursday proved only 768 votes were cast.</p>
2004	SC	Lexington	<p>200 votes are stuck in a broken machine.</p> <p>Town officials are searching for a way to tally more than 200 ballots stuck in a broken voting machine. Those uncounted ballots aren’t crucial to determining the outcome of the race for mayor and three council posts.</p>
2006	SC	Not known	<p>Voting machine flips votes to the opposite candidate.</p> <p>Computer scientist said that his attempts to vote for one candidate on were repeatedly changed to an opposing candidate by the time he got to the voter verification screen</p>
2006	TN	Hawkins	<p>Voting machines malfunction at the start of the election day.</p> <p>Most of the voting machines were down until noon, according to Peggy Fleenor, the county’s election administrator. The problem resulted after officials ran a program before opening to clear the vote totals to zero.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	TN	Knox	<p>“Smoking” voting machine may lose 2,625 ballots on which a pension issue depends.</p> <p>Knox County Election Commission Chair Pamela Reeves explains what happened to the machine. “Apparently, what it did was it smoked. I don’t know what caused it to smoke, but it was literally smoking. So they unhooked it at the time. Of course, we don’t read the votes and we didn’t know there was a problem until we went to read the votes Tuesday night.”</p> <p>Election Administrator Greg Mackay explains, “The machine won’t print the hard copy right now so they have several options. They can either read the chips and repair the data card or if they get the machine to print the hard copy, then we can just type in the numbers.”</p>
2006	TN	Shelby	<p>Voting machine displays the wrong ballot, times out, cancels vote.</p> <p>Shirley Neely ... comfortable using the Diebold Election system ... reached the last computer page of her ballot and says, “It had down there Germantown Mayor and two places for Alderman. So I looked around to ask somebody, you know, what’s going on. I don’t live in Germantown.”</p> <p>As Neely found a poll worker, she says her computer screen went blank, began a countdown, and then a message flashed. “It said, your vote has been canceled. Please see a poll worker.”</p>
2006	TN	Sullivan	<p>Voters have to wait when e-voting controller gets full of ballots and shuts down.</p> <p>Sullivan County uses electronic voting machines that voters saw for the first time this summer. The system uses one judges booth control (JBC) device at each polling place - all voting machines at that location are connected to one JBC. The problem Wednesday was that each JBC can only hold data from 10,000 ballots, Frye said - and turnout at the Kingsport Civic Auditorium surpassed that point about midday.</p>
2005	TN	Sumner	<p>Voting machine locks up won’t release votes.</p> <p>A Microvote machine malfunctioned in a city of Portland election in Sumner Co., TN. The report claims that 110 votes were not able to be retrieved on election night. The next morning changes were made and the 110 votes were supposed recaptured. This type of problem is very typical with the Microvote Infinity unit in the state of Tennessee.</p>
2006	TN	Williamson	<p>Voting machines break down.</p> <p>Only two of the precinct’s three machines worked</p>
2006	TX	Bexar	<p>Incorrect ballots and break downs frustrate voters.</p> <p>“It was a fiasco,” said Terri Jetter of Kirby, who said a half-dozen exasperated voters left a polling site at Hopkins Elementary because of glitches with the voting machines Tuesday morning.</p> <p>At Bowden Elementary near downtown, some voters claimed their ballots erroneously showed the race for Congressional District 23. One of those voters was election judge Nena Johnson.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	TX	Burnet	<p>Voting on computers confuses and disenfranchises voters who are used to paper ballots.</p> <p>In the old days, we used paper ballots. Sometimes we used more than one ballot so I thought I need to cast this ballot, then the Marble Falls propositions would come up, then I could vote on that. I pushed the button to cast the ballot, it said I had done everything. I was finished.</p>
2006	TX	Collin	<p>Machine flips votes to the wrong candidate on the summary screen.</p> <p>The machine I was using recorded a vote for a Republican three times instead of the Libertarian I chose in three cases for individuals listed in succession on the screen. I was so shocked I spoke out-loud that the machine was not recording my votes, but giving my votes to a candidate I did not choose. I had to make three corrections in successive order to correct these three errors. I was even more shocked when the summary appeared. I saw that Perry, Dewhurst and Combs were being credited with votes I DID NOT CAST FOR ANY OF THEM!</p>
2002	TX	Dallas	<p>Electronic voting systems lose thousands of votes.</p> <p>About 5,000 of nearly 18,000 ballots cast during the early voting period in April on touch-screen electronic ballots have not been properly counted and assigned to candidates, said Toni Pippins-Poole, the county’s assistant elections administrator.</p>
2006	TX	El Paso	<p>Machine flips votes to the wrong candidate on the summary screen.</p> <p>El Paso County Attorney José Rodríguez said 16 people complained Friday that a vote cast on their touch-screen ballot was the wrong vote when they reviewed their ballots.</p> <p>One man told Rodríguez he cast a vote for state Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, but the review ballot showed he had voted for Dee Margo, Shapleigh’s Republican challenger. The man, who voted at the Kern Place station, had to recast his vote three times before it registered correctly and the man could cast his final ballot, Rodríguez said.</p>
2003	TX	Harris	<p>Electronic voting machines won’t start up.</p> <p>Hundreds of Houston area voters didn’t get to cast ballots Tuesday morning because of problems with the eSlate system. The machines were down at some polling places so voters were told to come back later and try again.</p>
2006	TX	Harris	<p>Machines malfunction and behave in odd ways.</p> <p>Precinct 85 Judge Lynette Howard said three of the seven E-Slate voting machines at Lockhart Elementary school had not been working properly since the polls opened at 7 a.m. She said two of the machines were inactive and another was misnumbing itself.</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	TX	Jefferson	<p>Voting machines flip Democratic votes to Republican.</p> <p>Friday night, KFDM reported about people who had cast straight Democratic ticket ballots, but the touch-screen machines indicated they had voted a straight Republican ticket. Saturday, KFDM spoke to another voter who says it's not just happening with straight ticket voting, he says it's happening on individual races as well, Jerry Stopher told us when he voted for a Democrat, the Republican's name was highlighted.</p>
2006	TX	Nacogodches	<p>Machine breakdowns interrupt voting.</p> <p>On Election Day, eight voting machines malfunctioned, according to Todd Stallings, assistant elections administrator. One Douglass machine crashed while a voter was casting a ballot, and Stallings had to call the equipment's manufacturer, Hart InterCivic, to fix it.</p>
2004	TX	Tarrant	<p>Electronic voting machines freeze when voter access code is entered.</p> <p>"It looked like a couple of older guys were still voting when the computer screens completely shut down," said Cam Sanders, an Arlington teacher. "I think they were talking about whether their votes were lost."</p> <p>In Fort Worth on Tuesday, Singer said his wife and their friend waited nearly 1-1/2 hours to vote at the Southwest Subcourthouse. But when their friend punched in the access code, he said, the machine froze. Singer said their friend was not given another chance to vote.</p>
2004	TX	Tarrant	<p>Electronic voting machines cause early voters to undervote.</p> <p>The biggest problem of the day was in Arlington, where poll workers fielded numerous complaints from voters who said that the new electronic voting machines were confusing, and that they had mistakenly cast their ballot without voting on the stadium referendum.</p>
2006	TX	Tarrant	<p>Voting machine flips votes from Democrat to Republican.</p> <p>Voters complained to the advocacy group Common Cause that the electronic machines tried to switch their vote from Democratic gubernatorial candidate Chris Bell to Republican incumbent Rick Perry, Common Cause spokeswoman Mary Boyle said.</p>
2004	TX	Travis	<p>Voting machines are set up with a default candidate.</p> <p>Astonishingly, the eSlate electronic voting machines allow election officials to define default candidates.</p> <p>In Austin, they were set up with a default candidate for president. This default selection -- for Bush/Cheney -- overrode previous Democratic votes if voters weren't careful to press exactly the right buttons at the right times.</p>
2006	TX	Travis	<p>Review screen cuts off the last part of candidate names.</p> <p>As voters review their ballots, they may be surprised to see that the Hart InterCivic Inc. eSlate voting machines chop off candidate names longer than about 15 letters. So Kinky Friedman becomes "Richard 'Kinky' F." Carole Keeton Strayhorn: "Carole Keeton St."</p>

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Machine Failures Reported in the News

Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	TX	Williamson	<p>Straight-party voting doesn't work right.</p> <p>"When a straight-party vote was cast, the screen did not show that a candidate was selected for Precinct 3 commissioner," Elections Administrator Debra Stacy said.</p>
2006	TX	Williamson	<p>Electronic ballots are counted three times.</p> <p>County spokeswoman Connie Watson said that elections computer software counted each vote cast by electronic ballot three times, making the initial reported vote total about 6,500 more than the actual total.</p>
2006	UT	Utah	<p>Voters are turned away when machines break down.</p> <p>After arriving at his polling location at 7 a.m., Nelson said he spent an hour and a half hoping the machines would be fixed.</p> <p>"The workers were earnestly trying to get the machines to work, but not a one in our precinct worked," Nelson said. "I work in Salt Lake City, so I couldn't wait for the machines to work."</p>
2006	UT	Utah	<p>Voters are turned away when voter access cards fail to work.</p> <p>Voters in more than 30 polling locations couldn't cast ballots early in the morning because of a problem with the state's new electronic voting system.</p> <p>From Lehi to Payson, a small calculator-sized device that encodes plastic voter cards malfunctioned in approximately 32 of 118 polling locations.</p>
2006	VA	Alexandria, Falls Church, Charlottesville	<p>Review screen cuts off the last part of candidate names.</p> <p>A glitch on all voting machines in the City of Falls Church, as well as those in Alexandria and Charlottesville, will keep the full name of U.S. Senate candidate James Webb from appearing on all ballot summary pages on Nov. 7.</p>
2004	VA	Culpeper, Westmoreland	<p>Electronic voting machines malfunction, causing long lines.</p> <p>Two Unilect voting machines went down at Cardova precinct for about 30 minutes, creating long lines. Those waiting were told that people were voting too fast and machines didn't have time to reset.</p> <p>In Westmoreland, all four machines at the 2nd District precinct at Hague were down for an hour while Unilect manager Wout J. Kymmell worked on the problem. At least 75 people waited to vote in a line stretching around the building.</p>
2003	VA	Fairfax	<p>GOP Report tells of the electronic voting machines failures.</p> <p>The WINvote machines failed. The software failed (machines crashed throughout, voters reported difficulty in getting their choices to record), the hardware failed (some machines required new batteries, some needed to be "jiggled" back into operation, modems failed to transmit data) ... the sheer volume of problems and unresolved questions after Election Day, 2003 is mind-boggling; especially in a community where, in the past, such problems were few and far between.</p>

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Year	St	County	E-Voting Machine Malfunction and Excerpt from the News Story
2006	VA	Fairfax	<p>Machine flips votes for the U.S. Senate candidate on the screen.</p> <p>Reports indicated that when voters pushed the screen around the U.S. Senate box, the wrong candidate would light up. Harold said touching near the dividing line between the two was usually lighting up the opposite candidate.</p>
2004	VA	Richmond	<p>Electronic voting machines inexplicably shut down.</p> <p>City Registrar Kirk Showalter said both sets of machines worked well, with one exception. The eSlate machines at the Hermitage shut down at about 3:30 p.m. when the unit that controlled them “fried.” While that unit was being replaced, about a dozen voters had to use paper ballots, she said.</p>
2004	WA	Snohomish	<p>65 touch-screens crash, and smart cards jam.</p> <p>The biggest problem the county encountered was the disabling of 65 of 860 e-voting machines because of a software crash and jamming of the smart cards. Although affected voters managed to use alternate machines and no previously tallied votes were lost, “we can’t afford to have a repeat” of the breakdown during the November election, [Snohomish County Auditor Bob] Terwilliger said.</p>
2004	WA	Snohomish	<p>20 voting machines malfunctioned. Cause unknown.</p> <p>On the day of the primary, 20 of the 886 machines deployed in polling places had to be shut down after activation cards got stuck. While the problem has occurred in previous elections, it has never occurred on that many machines, [County elections manager Carolyn] Diepenbrock said.</p>
2004	WA	Snohomish	<p>Touch screens flip votes to the opposing candidate.</p> <p>Voters in Snohomish County said when they touched the Sequoia touch screen voting machine to vote for a candidate, an indicator showed they had selected the opposing candidate. It took at least four attempts before the indicator showed the correct candidate.</p>
2006	WV	Fayette	<p>Machines confuse poll workers, cause lost votes.</p> <p>Discrepancies were noted in two precincts where touch-screen machines were used. Holliday said that problem was caused by poll workers not properly closing out the machines. A manual override of the computer system had to be done — the votes of 110 people had to be manually entered race-by-race.</p>