

Glossary

Absentee Voter (also called Mail-in Voter): A voter that has requested and already been issued a paper ballot. A voter may not put their absentee ballot in a scanner at the polling place.

Absentee Ballot Bag (Mail-in Ballot Bag): A yellow canvas bag with a black strap that is used to collect and secure voted absentee ballots.

Archiving: A process that saves the day's activities on the pollbook's compact flash card.

Audio Ballot: The ballot that can be heard by a voter while using a headset that is connected to a ballot marking device.

Ballot Activation Card (BAC): A card issued to a voter to be inserted into a ballot marking device. The BAC activates the ballot marking device so the voter can make selections and print a ballot.

Ballot Box: Locked storage compartment where scanned ballots are deposited after the ballots have been inserted into the scanning unit.

(Consolidated) Ballot Counts Report: A report run from the pollbook prior to opening and closing the polls that shows the number of ballots issued during the day.

Ballot Marking Device (BMD): A device that enables a voter, including a voter with a disability, the ability to cast his or her vote independently. Any voter who asks to vote using the BMD should be allowed to do so.

Ballot Transfer Bin: Blue plastic case with two flaps and a black handle that is located inside the ballot box. This device is used to transport, collect, and store ballots securely.

Blank Ballot: A ballot in which a voter has made no selections. The scanning unit will initially caution a voter that the ballot is blank. The voter has the option of having the ballot returned to mark selections or casting the blank ballot.

Cast Ballot Button: This touchscreen button is located on the scanning unit's help screen. The voter has the option to press this button after inserting a ballot into the scanning unit and the screen indicates that there are over-voted contests on the ballot (or a blank ballot). The voter should be made aware that all selections in an over-voted contest on the ballot will not be counted.

Chain of Custody: The chronological documentation, or paper trail, showing the custody, control, and transfer of voting equipment, memory sticks, voted and unvoted ballots, reports, forms, and other equipment and supplies.

Challengers & Watchers (also “Poll Watcher”): Registered voters designated by a candidate, political party, or other group to be in a polling place or early voting center for the purpose of observing an election.

Closing Summary Report: An election critical report completed by the chief judges after ending the election that summarizes the data from each scanning unit, electronic pollbook, provisional ballots, and voter authority cards.

Compact Flash Card (CF Card): A device used in the electronic pollbook for storing a list of eligible voters.

Configuration Report: A report printed by the scanning unit when the scanning unit is powered on before the first Zero Report is printed.

Contest: Candidates run against each other for a particular office.

Contingency Plan: The materials and instructions used in the polling place or early voting center in case of an emergency.

Drop Box: A secure, durable, weatherproof container used to collect mail-in ballots.

Early Voting: A period of time prior to Election Day in which voters can cast their ballots.

Electioneering: Includes wearing hats or clothing supporting or opposing a political candidate or issue. Also includes the distribution of political literature, posters, banners, buttons, or otherwise soliciting votes. Electioneering is prohibited inside the polling place and within the “No Electioneering Zone”. Voters are allowed to wear political hats or clothing with political messages, and may carry political literature with them inside the polling place, but may not otherwise electioneer (i.e., solicit votes from voters) while inside the polling place or within the “No Electioneering Zone.” Voters may not distribute or leave political literature inside the polling place.

Emergency Ballot Compartment: The locked compartment located in the top of the ballot box of the scanning unit. Used to store ballots if the scanning unit malfunctions.

Ending the Election: The process performed on a scanning unit after the precinct closes to print closing reports and to shut down the scanning unit.

Exit Polling: The process used to interview voters leaving the polling place or early voting center. This activity may take place inside the “No Electioneering Zone” but not inside the voting area.

Extended Hours Voting: A court order that extends regular voting hours.

Fleeing Voter: A voter who leaves the polling place without casting a ballot. The chief judge must be notified of this situation immediately when it happens in order to keep a record of these occurrences.

Handheld Barcode Scanner: A device connected to the pollbook to scan the barcode on the back of the MVA driver’s license or MVA ID card. This is used during same day registration transactions.

High Contrast Text: An option on a ballot marking device that changes the screen content to black and white for the benefit of voters with low vision.

Hub: A device that connects to the pollbooks with cables and allows them to synchronize data. Used when more than two pollbooks are being used in a polling place.

Inactive Voter: A voter is listed as “Inactive” because the voter has not responded to two mailings at the address on file with the local board of elections or has not responded to certain confirmation mailings.

Keypad: A keypad that is used for making ballot selections while using the audio ballot component of a ballot marking device. The keypad allows voters to select candidates, move around the ballot, vote for write-in candidates during a general election, and mark a ballot.

Large or Magnified Text: An option on a ballot marking device that increases the size of ballot text for the benefit of voters with low vision.

Mail-in Voting (also called Absentee Voting): A process in which any registered voter may request and receive a paper ballot. A voter may not put their mail-in ballot in a scanner at the polling place.

Memory Stick: Portable memory device used in voting equipment to store election information and results.

No Electioneering Zone: Marked boundary where electioneering is not allowed.

Overvoting: Selecting more than the allowable number of candidates in a contest.

Pollbook: A device that contains an electronic list of all registered voters and is used to check-in voters.

Power Indicator Light for pollbooks: Power light in the lower right corner of the pollbook flashes green when the electronic pollbook is plugged into electrical power and charging.

Precinct Register: A list containing the names of all the registered voters in a particular precinct or county.

Pre-qualified Voter: An individual that has been screened to make sure the requirements have been met to register and vote a regular ballot during early voting or on election day.

Privacy Screen: Screens that are used to guard the voter's privacy at the various voting areas and the scanning unit.

Privacy Sleeve: Folders used to cover the ballot selections made by a voter. Only provisional voters use an orange privacy sleeve.

Protected Count: The total number of ballots cast on an scanning unit since the date of manufacture.

Provisional Ballot: A paper ballot issued to a voter whose qualification or entitlement to vote cannot be established by the election judge. The provisional ballot is not scanned in the scanning unit at the polling place. Provisional ballots are reviewed by the local election office.

Provisional Ballot Voting Booth: A voting booth that allows for privacy while voting a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Transfer Bag: An orange canvass bag with a black strap that contains and secures voted provisional ballots.

Public Count: The total number of ballots cast on each scanning unit during the election.

Results Report from the Scanning Unit: A report showing the number of votes for each contest as recorded on the scanning unit.

Router: (Also referred to as Cradlepoint Router) A device that connects all of the pollbooks to each other. The router allows the pollbooks to synchronize with the network at the State Board of Elections.

Same Day Registration (SDR): Same Day Registration allows individuals who are not currently registered to register and vote during early voting and on election day.

Scanning Unit: A paper ballot scanner and tabulator designed for use at the polling place and early voting center.

Security Seal: A device used to lock voting equipment compartments and to verify that the compartments have remained locked until the security seals were removed.

Serial Number on the Memory Stick: The memory stick's serial number printed on its label (usually near the barcode).

Spoiled Ballot: A ballot on which the voter made a mistake or is otherwise damaged (because of extra marks, creases, etc.) such that a scanning unit will not accept it.

State Asset Tag Number on the Pollbook: The electronic pollbook's State Asset Tag Number that is identified on a label on the external surface. The asset number may also be printed on a tag attached to the pollbook's storage case.

Stylus: A pen-shaped instrument used to tap on the screen of the pollbook to make selections.

Summary Page: The summary screen shown on the ballot marking device touchscreen that gives the voter the opportunity to review selections prior to printing a ballot.

Tamper Tape: An adhesive strip with a unique number that is used to verify that voting equipment compartments, doors, windows, etc. have not been opened after the tamper tape was affixed. Tamper tape will show the word "Void" when there is an attempt to remove it after it has been affixed.

Touchscreen: The screen on the ballot marking device which allows a voter to make selections by pressing directly on the screen.

Undervoting: Voting for fewer than the number of selections allowed in a contest. All selections made in an undervoted contest will be counted. The scanning unit will not alert a voter who inserts a ballot with undervoted contests.

Voting Booth: Used by voters to ensure privacy while voting their ballot.

Voter Authority Card (VAC): A document printed from a pollbook that contains certain voter information.

(Consolidated) Voter Counts Report: A report printed from the electronic pollbook prior to opening and closing the polls that shows the number of voters checked-in during the day. This report may also be printed during the day, as needed.

Write-In Vote: During a general election only, a voter has an option to vote for an individual whose name does not appear on the official ballot.

Zero Report: A report that is printed by the scanning unit before the polls are opened that verifies that no votes have been cast on the scanning unit prior to opening the polls.