

Voting with Verity (Verity Duo and Scan)

Voters in Hays County will use a secure, accurate and easy-to-use voting system called Verity® Voting. This system is federally certified and meets our state's most stringent standards.

To vote in the polling place, you move through the ballot, mark your choices and print your ballot using a familiar touchscreen interface. You will then cast your paper ballot using a separate scanning device. You know your ballot was successfully cast when the machine displays the image of the American flag on the touchscreen. Verity is user-friendly and provides accessibility features that enable all voters, including those with disabilities, to cast their ballots privately and independently. These features include an audio ballot reader and accommodation of adaptive devices such as a sip-and-puff.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the system use touchscreens?

A: Yes. Plain language, step-by-step instructions on the voting machine touchscreen walk you through the entire voting process. Accessible units include ADA-compliant features such as tactile buttons, audio ballots, and compatibility with common adaptive devices.

Q: I have never been able to vote without someone helping me. Will someone be there to help me with this system?

A: Yes. Someone will be there to help you, but the system is designed to be easy for you to use without assistance. If your eyesight is poor or you have difficulty reading the ballot for some other reason, headphones are available so the entire ballot, including your selections, can be read to you. If you cannot make your selections by using the touchscreen, you can use accessibility features such as the device's rotary wheel and button or a standard two-button device, such as jelly switches or a "sip and puff" device. In addition, a Help button is on every screen.

Q: How do I know my votes are private and there is not a database in the computer somewhere that records how I have voted?

A: There is no way for the system to connect your vote to you. The process of voting is completely removed from the process of checking in and being qualified to vote. When you vote, no personal identifying information is connected with your ballot.

Q: How do I know the voting system recorded my vote the same way I cast it?

A: Extensive testing is performed before each election to verify the integrity of installed software and to ensure that the system is recording votes correctly. Each ballot marking device creates a voter-verifiable paper record that can be audited according to your state’s requirements.

Q: What if I change my mind or make a mistake on my ballot?

A: Your vote is not officially cast until you insert the ballot into the scanner and the machine displays the “Your vote has been recorded” screen. At that point, it is no longer possible for you to make any changes. However, if you change your mind before you print your ballot, you can change your selections. A ballot review screen appears before you print your ballot. This screen lists all the choices you have made and lets you know if you missed voting in any race. From this screen, you can return to any race on the ballot and change selections you have made, if you wish.

Q: What if I don’t want to vote in a particular race?

A: It is your decision and right to choose not to vote in any race. Simply skip the race(s) you do not wish to vote in by selecting the Next button.

Q: What if I accidentally vote twice in a race? Will my vote be discarded?

A: The ballot marking machine does not allow you to select/mark more than the permitted number of votes in a race.

Q: How do I know that my vote has been cast and counted?

A: After you scan your ballot, the screen will display the American flag and the message “Your vote has been recorded”, and an audible chime sounds. This lets you know your vote has been cast and counted.

Q: If the power fails or if there is some other system failure, will my vote be lost?

A: No, your vote cannot be lost once you have cast your ballot with the voting machine and the machine displays the “Your vote has been recorded” screen. Your vote is stored in three separate places, and all data is protected and cannot be lost in the unlikely event that the system fails. In addition, the voting machine has a built-in battery back-up power, so it will continue to function even if the main power supply fails.

Q: What if a recount is necessary?

A: The system provides election officials with images of every vote that was cast on each voting device. Election officials can use these cast vote record images to electronically recount votes and ensure that results are accurate. Officials can also conduct a manual recount of the paper records.

Q: Does this system have paper backup?

A: Yes. Every voter uses the ballot marking machine to print a paper ballot, which is cast on the scanning machine. That original paper ballot is retained throughout the process and remains the official record of the vote.