

Voting System Examination Election Systems & Software (ES&S)

Prepared for the
Secretary of State of Texas

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Designee of the Attorney General

This report conveys the opinions of the Attorney General's designee from an examination of the equipment listed, pursuant to Title 9, Chapter 122 of the Texas Election Code, section 122.036(b).

Examination Date August 21, 2020

Report Date August 25, 2020

Examination of ES&S Voting System (EVS) 6.1.1.0

EAC Certification Number: ESSEVS6110

Components Examined	Version
ExpressTouch	1.0.3.0
DS200 Precinct Ballot Counter	2.30.0.0
DS450 Central Scanner and Tabulator	3.4.0.0
DS850 Central Scanner and Tabulator	3.4.0.0
ExpressVote, HW v. 1.0	4.0.0.0
ExpressVote, HW v. 2.1	4.0.0.0
ExpressVote XL	1.0.3.0
Electionware	6.0.1.0
ExpressLink	2.0.0.0
Event Log Service	2.0.0.0
ExpressVote Activation Card Printer	NA
ExpressVote Previewer	4.0.0.0
PaperBallot	6.0.0.0
Removable Media Service	2.0.0.0
Toolbox	4.0.0.0

Changes

The purpose of version 6.1.1.0 is to consolidate several minor engineering changes into a new version of EVS rather than having a collection of engineering change orders (ECOs).

System Overview

EVS is a comprehensive election system that supports most modern voting methods.

Election setup is done using the Electionware software and then transported to the various Election-Day devices on encrypted USB memory sticks.

On Election Day, voters can mark paper ballots manually, or use an ExpressVote, ExpressVote XL, or ExpressTouch voting station. ExpressVote is a touch-screen voting station that can be used either as a direct recording electronic (DRE) device that records voters' choices on electronic media, or for printing their choices on a paper ballot card for separate tabulation.

The printed ballot contains a complete record of the voter's choices in both human-readable form (so the voter can verify it) and machine-readable form (for tabulation).

ExpressTouch is a tablet voting station that is primarily for curbside voting.

At the polls, election workers first identify a voter's precinct and split, and then use ExpressLink to print an activation card to unlock a voting station. For manual voting, the voter is given a paper ballot.

The paper ballots and vote summary card can be scanned in the precinct using the DS200, or in a central-count location using the DS450 or DS850. The results of DRE voting and the ballots scanned in the precinct are written on USB memory, which is then carried to the central-count location for final tabulation.

Examination Procedures

This was a one-day examination. We observed as the vendor installed the firmware and software using files obtained directly from the VSTL by the Secretary of State, thus providing chain of custody. Then we heard a presentation about the system, verified version numbers, asked questions, and conducted a test election to verify correct tabulation.

Concern

Password Expiration

ES&S has provided an optional method for modifying the Microsoft Windows password policy to not expire on the EMS computer. In my opinion, passwords should be changed at least once a year. Otherwise access could be gained by someone who has a password from a previous election and does not have any role in the current election. I understand that the default 60-day limit can be annoying, but I believe it is a mistake to allow passwords that never expire.

This can be mitigated by telling counties not to set password expiration times of more than one year, but this option should still be removed.

Summary

In my opinion the EVS 6.1.1.0 is an excellent voting system, and I recommend certification, although I do recommend requiring passwords to be changed no less frequently than once a year.