



ELECTION PROTECTION **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

1-866-OUR-VOTE

Electronic Voting Machine Information Sheet

ES&S DS200 Digital Scan System

Name/Model: ES&S DS200 Digital Scan System

Maker: Election Systems & Software

Voter-Verifiable Paper Trail Capability: Uses paper ballots



Brief Description: The ES&S DS200 is a precinct-based, voter-activated paper ballot counter and vote tabulator. The DS200 possesses a 12" LCD touch screen, which is used to provide voters with feedback, such as an overvote warning. When the polls close, the ES&S DS200 prints out the voter logs so election officials can have a paper tally.¹

Detailed Voting Process: The ES&S DS200 functions much like a traditional paper ballot system. Upon entering the voting precinct, the voter will receive a paper ballot; the voter then shades in the paper ballot with any standard pen or pencil and inserts the ballot into the ES&S DS200, where they are given a chance to review their votes. As votes are entered, the ES&S DS200 stores the vote tallies on its internal memory card. Optional land line and wireless modems are available for the DS200.² When the polls close, the ES&S DS200's internal printer prints out the precinct's vote report on paper.³

¹ From the manufacturer's product brochure, available at:
http://www.essvote.com/HTML/docs/brochure_DS200_US_v5.pdf

² Id.

³ Id.



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What to Look For

- **Security Seals.** Ideally, the DS200's exposed ports, memory card access areas, ballot box doors and case seams would be covered with tamper-evident security seals. The integrity of these seals should be maintained at all times, and only breached under controlled, explained circumstances. A voided seal looks like this: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/joebeone/2247733620/> . Seals should be logged to maintain chain of custody of sensitive materials.
- **Ballot Box Access.** Optical scan systems have at least one and possible more ballot boxes. Each ballot box should be inspected by a voter at the beginning of voting to make sure that they are empty. These ballot boxes should locked and/or be sealed with tamper-evident tape.
- **The Memory Card is Sensitive.** Corrupt memory cards may be able introduce viruses, cause the main election server to crash and falsify votes. Access to the memory card should be controlled, monitored and logged at all times.
- **Correct Inks.** Some Optical Scan systems have trouble reading red inks or inks with red in them. Voters should use the writing instrument provided at the polling place or, if voting at home, black ballpoint pen that does not bleed through paper.

Past Problems:

August, 2008. Florida. In two counties, problems with DS200 scanners were noted; in Pinellas, screens froze and there were paper jams. In Pasco, minor problems occurred, followed by the inability to transmit results by modem.⁴

⁴ <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/elections/article785994.ece>