



The Gold Standard for US Elections

Restore voter confidence by enhancing accessibility, security, transparency, and verifiability.

Problem: Voters need fair, safe, and transparent elections. The current electronic election system is complex, opaque, and vulnerable, and voter distrust is at an all-time high. The process utilizes proprietary software known only to the vendor. Why are we running our elections with a black box?

Solution: Simplify the process, reduce complexity, and remove electronics from the entire process to restore transparency and confidence. The Gold Standard method uses people, paper, and pens, significantly reducing costs and ensuring the counting is public and observable.

The best way forward is to remove electronics from all four phases of the system—Voter Registration, Voter Validation, Marking and Counting of the ballots, and Reporting of the results. The Gold Standard achieves this by enhancing accessibility to qualified voters, security of the physical ballots, vote transparency, and results verifiability. The Gold Standard is a system “for the people by the people. Below is a summary of the key requirements and recommendations.

Phase 1: Voter Registration: controls who and how many ballots are issued

- In-person registration with valid ID and proof of citizenship at least every 4 years (affidavit and confirmation of legitimate domicile)
- Paper “library card” system of voter rolls sorted by precinct at the county with redundant read-only computer copy
- Separate database for active and inactive/archived registrants
- Voter rolls are free of charge, downloadable online, including active, inactive, and archived databases

Phase 2: Voter Validation: controls the legitimacy of ballots eligible for tabulation

- Ongoing validation of voter rolls: if the voter is activated after inactive status, they must re-register with a new voter registration number assigned.
- Paper poll books- confirm accuracy against the paper card registration system above and freeze 30 days before an election- no new registrations beyond this point.
- Voters must have a valid current ID at the time of voting
- Periodic checks of voter qualifications and status to ensure accuracy

- **Phase 3: Marking and Counting of Ballots:** controls when/where/how the votes are counted. (We have tested several hand-counting methods successfully)
- **One day of voting**, a state/federal holiday (**early voting is discouraged**)
- Hand-marked, hand-counted paper ballots tallied before midnight
- Count in batches of 25/50 and count one race at a time
- Ballots must employ security features and procedures, e.g., watermarked
- Increase poll workers to ensure timely counting (before midnight)
- Count where cast at the precincts which should be small, <1,500 electors; penalties for violations
- Sequentially numbered ballots randomly selected (pick a card)
- Observable by the public; recorded and/or live-streamed, if possible (cell phones mounted over ballots and tally sheets)
- Secure transfer of ballots by LEO with detailed logs
- Strong chain of custody measures
- Public access to chain of custody docs
- Procedures for chain of custody must be published, and election workers must be trained on these procedures.
- Absentee balloting–minimal; sorted and counted at their precinct (secure transfer from county)
 - Do not open absentee ballots until counting commences
 - Sequential numbering is used to track and reconcile prior to count
- Disability provisions – ADA and curbside

Phase 4: Election Night Results Reporting: controls what results are ultimately reported and certified promptly

- Tally results are provided on “Summary Total Sheets,” which are then sealed, reported to the county and state, and posted on the precinct door.
- Ballot counting is open to the public and can be recorded with a cellphone camera mounted over the tally sheets, ballots, and totals sheets.
- Vote results shall be provided to all citizens within 24 hours of the count, preferably posted on county websites.
- All election records should be free of charge to citizens.

For more detailed instructions, materials, and videos, see the QR code below:

Goldstandardelections.com

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