

Contact: Walter Jones,
Communications Manager
(470) 312-2803

Press Office: (404) 360-9033



Georgia's New Paper-Ballot System a Success

(ATLANTA) – Voting on Georgia's new, secure paper-ballot system was successful in the pilot conducted in six counties Nov. 5, according to Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

More than 27,000 votes were cast, including 9,304 cast during early voting. Tabulation of the paper ballots was handled as voters inserted their ballots into scanners which deposited them in locked ballot boxes.

Even the backup measures worked as designed and assured that voters made their choices securely and confidently that the count is accurate.

"Congratulations to the candidates who prevailed and the communities that made important decisions about a range of issues Nov. 5," Raffensperger said. "Among the winners, surely, is the new voting system and the voters who will use it for years to come."

Georgia is in the midst of rolling out equipment for more than 30,000 voting stations with touchscreen devices to make their choice, printers, ballot scanners and locked ballot boxes. The first statewide use will be in time for the early voting in the March 24 Presidential Preference Primary.

The Nov. 5 municipal elections were the initial test in Georgia in the pilot counties of Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Decatur, Lowndes and Paulding.

Voters in Cobb County voted with hand-marked ballots which were tabulated on scanners including in the new system which demonstrated that the new system can function in case weather or a natural disaster prevented the use of electrical equipment.

In Cobb, 11,786 ballots were cast, including 2,221 in early voting. Tabulation of those votes was accomplished without major problems.

The Secretary of State's Office, in conjunction with Verified Voting and VotingWorks, will perform an audit Nov. 12 in Bartow County. Examination of a random sample of paper ballots and hand counting ballots are methods experts recommend for verifying the outcome of an election. Verified Voting and VotingWorks have extensive experience conducting election audits in multiple states.

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What: Post-election audit
Where: 10 Elizabeth Street in Cartersville upstairs from the County EMA Office
When: 9 a.m., Nov. 12
Who: Election officials from Bartow County, the Secretary of State's Office and experts from Verified Voting and Democracy Works

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