



The Association for Computing Machinery  
Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession

## ACM media resource for electronic voting information

Nov. 7 is the first national test of new e-voting systems and voter databases. Our experts analyzed key issues for ways to improve this technology for future elections.

- Access to **Computing Technology Experts** on what's needed to lessen the risks of e-voting, and ensure public trust in our election process.
  - **ACM Past President and e-voting expert Barbara Simons:** E-voting machines, like all computer systems, can fail or be compromised for many reasons. To ensure trust and reliability in our voting systems we need **voter verified paper audit trails.**
  - **ACM U.S. Policy Committee Chairman Eugene Spafford:** "Some e-voting machines may fail not only from an overt software attack but from simple oversight. Ensuring that computer-based systems are secure, reliable, usable, and trustworthy will require **ongoing involvement of technical experts, usability professionals, voting rights advocates, and dedicated election officials.**"
  - **Princeton Professor and ACM U.S. Public Policy Member Ed Felten:** "There is **much to learn from work in other areas of computer security** –even video game consoles like the Xbox are more tamper-resistant than voting machines."
  - **ACM staff and members working the polls on election day** will be available for comment on their experiences.
- ACM experts' **Congressional testimony** addressing computer-based e-voting system flaws from poor design, inferior software engineering, limited audit capabilities, and lack of backup procedures.
- ACM Policy Report - **Voter Registration Database Study** - nearly 100 high-level recommendations for state and local election officials and policy makers to ensure accurate, private, secure voter registration data accessible by people with diverse backgrounds, purposes, and knowledge.
- **ACM Policy Statement** on **deploying reliable, secure, verifiable computer-based electronic voting systems** for public elections.
- ACM **Washington Update** with news digests on e-voting, security, privacy issues

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## E-Voting Fast Facts

- ❖ Some 34% of counties acquired new voting equipment in the past two years; **55 million of the nation's registered voters** will use new equipment in 2006.
- ❖ Despite a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) deadline, some **12 million registered voters** reside in counties that still use lever machines or punch card ballots.
- ❖ Some **22 states require voter-verified paper trails** on touch screen machines; 5 states require paper-based ballot systems.
- ❖ Use of **touch screen** or Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines grew 235% from 2000-2006.
- ❖ Most voters in jurisdictions that failed to meet the HAVA deadline are in **New York State**, where all 62 counties continue to use lever machines.
- ❖ In **Connecticut** where townships conduct elections, only 25 of the state's 169 towns switched from lever machines to optical scan equipment for the 2006 elections. Punch cards have been eliminated, except in 13 **Idaho** counties.