



SB66 – PROHIBIT THE USE OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONIC BALLOT MARKING SYSTEMS

A series of strikeouts
and amended
sections to remove
machines and make
hand counting the
practice for our
sacred elections



2026 South Dakota Legislature
Senate Bill 66

Introduced by: **Senator** Carley

1 **An Act to prohibit the use of automatic tabulating equipment and electronic ballot**
2 **marking systems.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 12-1:**

5 The State Board of Elections may not authorize the use of any automatic tabulating
6 equipment or electronic ballot marking system.

7 The governing body of a political subdivision having supervision of an election may
8 not adopt, implement, or use any automatic tabulating or electronic ballot marking system
9 in an election.

10 **Section 2. That § 12-16-2 be AMENDED:**



TOP 10 REASONS

*We should ban the machines – and do trustworthy
hand counting*



10. PRESIDENT IS ENCOURAGING

Our United States President Trump is encouraging STATES to secure elections in this manner

JUST AFTER LAST YEAR'S SESSION

Feb 21, 2025



South Dakota Canvassing Group 

@SDCanvass · [Follow](#)



President Trump just addressed the nations governors. He urged them to return to hand counted paper ballots. Hand Counted paper ballots for safety and national security, protecting the Constitution, and massive \$\$\$\$ savings.

Hand Counted Paper Ballot elections conducted by We the [Show more](#)



 Last edited 1:04 PM · Feb 21, 2025



222



Reply



Copy link

HUGE: PRESIDENT TRUMP PROMOTES PAPER BALLOTS, VOTERID, PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP AND ONE-DAY VOTING!

February 21, 2025 by Joe Hoft

Truth

Tweet

Telegram

Gettr

Gab

Share



President Trump recommended that all governors across the country implement four things in their elections going forward – paper ballots (no machines), voterID, proof of citizenship and one-day voting.

PRESIDENT TRUMP TRUTH SOCIAL POST

DECEMBER 2025

President Trump to sign an executive order. Before the midterm election - eliminating mail in ballots and voting machines. Clarifying: President Trump is going to do it: the executive order to ban voting machines and absentee mail-in ballots (with rare exceptions).

This is just the start, hold on to Toto as a full tornado is coming. 😎



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

I am going to lead a movement to get rid of MAIL-IN BALLOTS, and also, while we're at it, Highly "Inaccurate," Very Expensive, and Seriously Controversial VOTING MACHINES, which cost Ten Times more than accurate and sophisticated Watermark Paper, which is faster, and leaves NO DOUBT, at the end of the evening, as to who WON, and who LOST, the Election. We are now the only Country in the World that uses Mail-In Voting. All others gave it up because of the MASSIVE VOTER FRAUD ENCOUNTERED. WE WILL BEGIN THIS EFFORT, WHICH WILL BE STRONGLY OPPOSED BY THE DEMOCRATS BECAUSE THEY CHEAT AT LEVELS NEVER SEEN BEFORE, by signing an EXECUTIVE ORDER to help bring HONESTY to the 2026 Midterm Elections. Remember, the States are merely an "agent" for the Federal Government in counting and tabulating the votes. They must do what the Federal Government, as represented by the President of the United States, tells them, FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY, to do. With their HORRIBLE Radical Left policies, like Open Borders, Men Playing in Women's Sports, Transgender and "WOKE" for everyone, and so much more, Democrats are virtually Unelectable without using this completely disproven Mail-In SCAM. ELECTIONS CAN NEVER BE HONEST WITH MAIL IN BALLOTS/VOTING, and everybody, IN PARTICULAR THE DEMOCRATS, KNOWS THIS. I, AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, WILL FIGHT LIKE HELL TO BRING HONESTY AND INTEGRITY BACK TO OUR ELECTIONS. THE MAIL-IN BALLOT HOAX, USING VOTING MACHINES THAT ARE A COMPLETE AND TOTAL DISASTER, MUST END, NOW!!! REMEMBER, WITHOUT FAIR AND HONEST ELECTIONS, AND STRONG AND POWERFUL BORDERS, YOU DON'T HAVE EVEN A SEMBLANCE OF A COUNTRY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER!!! DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



9. ALREADY IN STATE STATUTE

SDCL already has language for hand counting – we need to use it exclusively



Codified Laws

[Home](#) > [Codified Laws](#) > [12](#) > [20](#) > [13.1](#)

[← PREVIOUS](#)

[NEXT →](#)

Go To:(1-1-1) or Google Search

[PRINTER FRIENDLY](#)

12-20-13.1. Means of counting provisional ballots--Appointment of officials.

The person in charge of the election shall decide if the provisional ballots are to be counted by hand or by automated tabulating equipment. If a decision is made to count the ballots by hand, a provisional ballot counting board shall be appointed as provided in § 12-15-1. If the provisional ballots are counted by automated tabulating equipment, a resolution board and tabulation machine operators shall be appointed as provided in chapter 12-17B.

14 **Section 12. That § 12-17B-2 be REPEALED.**

15 ~~Any automatic tabulating or electronic ballot marking system used in an election~~
16 ~~shall enable the voter to cast a vote for all offices and on all measures on which the voter~~
17 ~~is entitled to vote. No automatic tabulating, electronic ballot marking, or election voting~~
18 ~~equipment system may be connected to the internet. No ballot marking device may save~~
19 ~~or tabulate votes marked on any system. Each system shall fulfill the requirements for~~
20 ~~election assistance commission standards certification and be approved by the State Board~~
21 ~~of Elections prior to distribution and use in this state. No system may be approved unless~~
22 ~~the system fulfills the requirements as established by the State Board of Elections. Any~~
23 ~~changes or modifications to an approved system shall be approved by the State Board of~~
24 ~~Elections prior to distribution and use.~~

25 **Section 13. That § 12-17B-3 be REPEALED.**

26 ~~Any governing body having supervision of elections within any political subdivision~~
27 ~~may adopt, experiment with, or abandon any automatic tabulating or electronic ballot~~
28 ~~marking system approved for use by the State Board of Elections. Any governing body~~
29 ~~may use the system in all or some of the precincts within its jurisdiction or in combination~~
30 ~~with any other type of voting system approved for use by the State Board of Elections.~~



8. SOUTH DAKOTA IS THE PERFECT STATE

Low population so even easier, small precincts, you know your neighbors,
trained volunteers



SD STATS

- A. 924,669 population – under a million
- B. 428,922 in one of the highest turnouts
- C. 66 Counties
- D. Precinct sizes: 50 to under 2000
- E. Friendly, small world knowledge of our community
- F. Great volunteers
- G. Desire to have secure elections



7. WE'VE DONE IT FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS

Even as recent as early 2000's did machines start coming in full force....before that South Dakota had elections done by hand

HAND COUNTING STATS

- A. Germany, Norway, Netherlands, France, Denmark, Italy, UK, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Sweeden, Finland
- B. Canada's federal elections
- C. Instead of finishing 10 hrs later at 6am in the morning at two of the largest counties in 2024's election, hand counting can finish in 2-4 hours afterwards



6. WE'LL SAVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

Machines, software, maintenance agreement, certifications, virus updates, personnel to manage all are costing our taxpayers more than it needs to

MACHINES VS. HAND COUNTING COSTS

- Each county will spend 20% of the current costs for elections switching to hand counting
- Examples:
LOCAL: \$60,000 spend with ES&S with 18,000 ballots....that's ~\$3.35 per ballot
STATE: \$1,700,000 spent with ES&S with 500,000 ballots....that's ~\$3.35 per ballot

COMPARED TO: \$600,000 hand counted cost = \$1 per ballot

WOULD SAVE SOUTH DAKOTA OVER \$1.1m PER YEAR



5. IT BUILDS TRUST IN ELECTIONS

SDCL already has language for hand counting – we need to use it primarily

TRUST BRINGS VOTERS AND PEACE

- Many people don't understand computers/machines
- EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS 4 people sitting at a table
- Tech people DO understand the computers/machines
- AND MANY ARE CONCERNED (if they aren't biased/profiting)



4. WE HAVE THE SMALL PRECINCTS

Small precincts = simple, trusted, fast counting



Codified Laws

Codified Laws

[Home](#) > [Codified Laws](#) > [12](#) > [20](#)

> [1](#)

← PREVIOUS

NEXT →

Go To:(1-1-1) or Google Search



PRINTER FRIENDLY

12-20-1. Delivery of supplies to counting board--Certificate of transmittal and receipt--Commencement of count--Continuation without adjournment--Comparison and correction of poll lists--Penalty.

As soon as the polls are closed, the precinct superintendent and precinct deputies shall audit the ballot count as prescribed in §§ 12-20-2 and 12-20-3. The precinct superintendent and precinct deputies shall then immediately deliver the ballot boxes, registration book, pollbook, and other election supplies, including voided and unused ballots, to the counting board, if appointed, and sign a certificate of transmittal and receipt as prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The members of the precinct election board or the counting board, if appointed, shall then immediately proceed to count publicly, in the presence of all persons desiring to attend the count, the votes received at the polls, and continue without leaving the site of the count until the count is completed. A person charged with implementing this section may not delay the counting of ballots other than to authorize short recesses for the health and wellbeing of those employed to implement this section. In counting the votes, the members of the precinct election board or counting board shall use the tally sheets provided.

Source: SDC 1939, § 16.1701; SL 1975, ch 119, § 11; SL 1976, ch 105, § 68; SL 1993, ch 113, § 13; SL 1993, ch 118, § 20; SL 1999, ch 69, § 39; SL 2002, ch 76; § 7; SL 2021, ch 68, § 1.



3. SOME CITIZENS HAVE TRIED ONLY TO BE REBUFFED

There's a citizen desire for hand counting



SOME CITIZENS HAVE HAVE ASKED FOR COUNTIES FOR HAND COUNTS

1. Taxpayer funded attorneys have fought them back
2. HB1140 – was threatened in 2024 to remove peoples ability to petition (fortunately didn't pass)
3. Some that did make it to ballot had “less than honorable” presentations on the ballot with ONLY the negative side presented or biased



2. THE COUNTING HAS BEEN PERFECTED AND DEMONSTRATED

Hand count classes, demos, and standards have been established

GOLD STANDARD FOR ELECTIONS

- US – CASE
(US Council for Accurate & Secure Elections)
- Illustrates Hand counting as a tried and true method
- Has outlined vulnerabilities with machines and software



HAND COUNTING 2025 DEMOS



1. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

EVERYTHING can be scrutinized in hand counting, with tabulators you just accept the result and assume nothing went wrong

SDCL already has language for hand counting – we need to remove the tabulators, update the law and use counting exclusively to secure, steward, and put complete trust in our elections.

TOP 10 REASONS WE NEED TO REMOVE THE MACHINES AND GO TO PRECINCT HAND COUNTING

- 10. **President** is Encouraging
- 9. Already in State **Statute**
- 8. South Dakota is the **perfect** state
- 7. We've **done it** for hundreds of years
- 6. We **save** millions of dollars
- 5. It builds **trust** in elections
- 4. We have the small count **precincts**
- 3. Some **citizens** have tried only to be rebuffed
- 2. The counting has been perfected and **demonstrated**
- 1. It's the **right** thing to do

FAQ'S

- A. Doesn't this violate ADA?
NO, disabled people voted before machines were around and can if they are gone. Federal/State law allows someone to help them on site. Law requires accessibility NOT electronic equipment.
- B. We have post election audits, so why do we need this?
5% post election audits is not robust enough to catch anomalies or errors. Would the IRS accept an audit of 1 day of your receipts as acceptable?
- C. A small test was done in one county of hand vs. machines and they were equal?
Machines are capable of counting correctly if programmed correctly, however, one line of code can be changed at any point in time or a bug, making all races at all time susceptible to manipulation.
- D. Why does the SOS not support this if it's a good idea?
The Secretary is there to simply follow and implement laws made by the legislature. The legislature represents and gains it's consent from the governed. The people are here today requesting their power back.
- E. Why do some county auditors not support this if it is a good idea?
Some County auditors appear to be under the impression it will be more work for them. However, they currently do ALL the work, counting all the ballots at the courthouse sometimes until the next day. The work would actually fall back to the people of the precinct, and the county parties to staff and count the elections. All the auditors have to do is report the results.

VOTING MACHINES

VOTING MACHINES BY DEFINITION OF THE EAC AND HAVA : “voting machines” means any electronic or automated device that casts, records, interprets, counts, tabulates, aggregates, or reports votes, including but not limited to:-

Electronic vote tabulators, including optical-scan ballot scanners that electronically count or tally votes

- Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) that electronically record voter selections prior to producing a ballot
- Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines, with or without a paper record
- Precinct or central-count tabulation devices that electronically aggregate vote totals
- Electronic vote-counting or result-aggregation systems used at any stage of tabulation or reporting

SB66 – PROHIBIT THE USE OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONIC BALLOT MARKING SYSTEMS

Please vote YES to support returning our elections to the longest tested, most reliable, and largest trusted way to count elections with our people.