

Ten Types of DRE Problems in the News

While many people are advocating the use of voter-verified paper ballots (VVPB) on DREs, VVPB wouldn't have been sufficient to fix many of the problems that counties have faced when they used DRE systems. This fact causes many people to question the wisdom of using the current crop of paperless DREs, even if they have a printer attached.

Many different types of e-voting problems have occurred in recent years. Hundreds of elections have been impacted by the malfunctions, causing voters to be disenfranchised and calling the results of elections into question. In some cases, paper backup was available, and election officials were able to recover the voters' intents. In other cases, there was NO paper backup, and localities have either certified the elections anyway or conducted a second election to replace the first.

Here are a variety of types of recent problems that have been reported in the news.

- 1) Electronic Voting Machines Fail to Record Ballots¹**
- 2) Suspicious E-Voting Tallies Cannot be Manually Recounted²**
- 3) Tabulation Software Tallies Votes Incorrectly³**
- 4) DREs Break Down During Election; New Election Required in One Case⁴**
- 5) Electronic Voting Machines Fail to Start Up⁵**
- 6) Smart Card Encoders Fail to Operate Properly and Break Down⁶**
- 7) Confusion Over Ballot Code Numbers, Voters Receive Wrong Ballots⁷**
- 8) Touch Screens Register the Incorrect Choice⁸**
- 9) Ballot Too Large for Touch Screen; Paper Supplement Required⁹**
- 10) Touch Screens Present Incomplete Ballot to Voters¹⁰**

¹ **Electronic Miscounts and Malfunctions in Recent Elections**
<http://www.verifiedvoting.org/resources/documents/ElectronicsInRecentElections.pdf>

² **Electronic vote recount stumps Broward officials**
Sun-Sentinel; January 10 2004; By Jeremy Milarsky and Lisa J. Huriash, Staff Writers

³ Election results certified after software blamed

Albuquerque Tribune; November 19, 2002; By Frank Zoretich, Tribune Reporter
http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news02/111902_news_vote.shtml

Voting machine glitch shows thousands of extra votes

IDG News Service; November 13, 2003; By Grant Gross, Washington Bureau
<http://www.itworld.com/Tech/2987/031113votingglitch/>

⁴ Long lines, machine malfunctions mark today's voting

November 4, 2003; By Clay Harden
<http://www.clarionledger.com/news/0311/04/mvproblems.html>

District vote set; contender may quit

Democrat says he's "been through enough" in disputed Senate race

Clarion Ledger; January 21, 2004 ; By Julie Goodman
<http://www.clarionledger.com/news/0401/21/ma04.html>

⁵ Polling machine problems anger many voters

From 11 News Staff Reports; 07:27 PM CST on Tuesday, November 4, 2003
http://www.khou.com/news/local/houstonmetro/stories/khou031104_mh_pollingprobs.1a536189.html

⁶ Poll workers, voters cite tied-up hotline, poor training, confusion

Union Tribune; March 7, 2004; By Jeff McDonald and Luis Monteagudo Jr.
<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/politics/20040307-9999-1n7vote.html>

Voters short changed at the polls

Oakland Tribune; March 7, 2004; By Ian Hoffman, Staff Writer
<http://www.oaklandtribune.com/Stories/0,1413,82~1865~2002277,00.html>

⁷ 7,000 Orange County Voters Were Given Bad Ballots (Excerpts)

Los Angeles Times; March 9, 2004; By Ray F. Herndon and Stuart Pfeifer, Staff Writers
http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=2026&ncid=2026&e=3&u=/latimests/20040309/ts_latimes/7000orangecountyvoterswereregivenbadballots

⁸ NAACP disputes sales tax results

DuBose files complaint in Muscogee Superior Court

Ledger-enquirer; November 13, 2003; By Mark Rice, Staff Writer

Area Democrats say early votes miscounted

Court hearing delayed as meeting planned on touch-screen problems

The Dallas Morning News; October 22, 2002; By Ed Housewright and Victoria Loe Hicks
Staff writers Gromer Jeffers Jr. and Todd J. Gillman contributed to this report.

⁹ Blah-blah ballot too long for touch screen

Miami Herald; Feb. 26, 2004; By Jesse Abrams-Morley
http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/local/states/florida/counties/broward_county/8043698.htm

¹⁰ Think You Voted in Md.? Think Again

Washington Post; March 7, 2004; By Jeffrey F. Liss, a lawyer who lives in Chevy Chase
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37007-2004Mar6.html>