

## SOUTH CAROLINA'S VOTING TECHNOLOGY

by Lynn Teague, 11-1-2020

First, a reminder to all that you must review the final review panel and the printed ballot VERY carefully if you vote in-person on the ES&S ballot marking device (BMD). Be especially careful that if you choose "straight ticket" voting you do not DESELECT some of your selections by clicking on their individual name.

Second, anyone interested in voting systems should read the excellent article in The State at <https://www.thestate.com/.../election/article246806162.html>. The article draws heavily on the expertise of League voting system expert Duncan Buell, as well as other national experts. There is general agreement that the new system is safer than the older machines used here, but that is not extraordinary praise.

For those who don't have access to The State, a few quotes:  
"The decision is just one example of how for years, choices about voting technology in South Carolina have been made behind closed doors, say lawmakers, citizens and voting scholars. Scientists believe the technology products S.C. officials ultimately selected, including the voting machines now being used in the 2020 presidential election, have not always met the "gold standard" for safety."

And useful information going forward:

"Audits conducted after an election can catch evidence of errors in voting technology by comparing the votes printed on paper ballots to the final votes registered. For audits on BMDs to be effective, however, Buell said that auditors would need to statistically sample not just whether the text on the pieces of paper printed by the machines matched up with the votes that were eventually recorded, but whether the text matched with the information transmitted through the barcodes. Buell doesn't believe sampling like that is being done in South Carolina, so the BMDs likely won't allow for the "gold standard" in auditing here, either, he said."