

Voting Machines

Threat Level – 3 (Moderate) Higher in battleground states

Question: What is the issue with voting machines in our elections?

Answer: The Trump administration has called for certain voting machines to be removed from use, describing them as potential national security risks and citing newly declassified information that it says shows Chinese interference in the 2020 election and a discussion about a plot by the Maduro regime in Venezuela planning to “rig their own country’s elections in 2020”. (Source: The Whitehouse-Election Integrity)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/election-integrity/>

The administration has also argued that some currently certified voting systems pose an unacceptable security risk and they are reviewing whether these machines should lose their federal certification or be phased out.

Update: this refers to Executive Order 14248 (March 2025), which directs the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to rewrite its Voluntary Voting System Guidelines to bar barcode/QR-code vote counting and require paper records, then re-certify or decertify machines against the new standard. As of the EAC’s September 17, 2026 working session, the revised guidelines (“VMSG 2.1”) were still in draft — no machines have actually been decertified yet, and the process is also being challenged in multiple federal courts.

Source: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IN12590>

While these details suggest potential vulnerabilities for hacking and interference within our electoral process, officials **present no evidence that voting machines have altered election outcomes.**

Voting machines are only one part of the election system. Additional safeguards commonly include:

- Voter-verified paper ballots or paper audit trails
- Pre-election testing of equipment
- Bi-partisan chain-of-custody procedures
- Post-election audits comparing paper ballots to machine counts
- Recount procedures when warranted

U.S. Election Assistance Commission (official):

https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/electionofficials/security/Voting_System_Security_Measures_508_EAC.pdf

States United Democracy Center: <https://statesunited.org/resources/facts-about-voting-machines/>

The rhetoric about our voting machines and systems is believed to be part of a broader strategy to undermine public confidence in the U.S. election system ahead of the 2026 midterm elections and disrupt elections in the 7 “battleground” states (Michigan, Ohio, Alaska, Texas, Iowa, North Carolina, and Georgia). (source: Indivisible)

[Indivisible’s “Battlegrounds 2026” campaign](#) names these seven states directly.

Question: Why is this important?

Answer: Undermining the integrity of our voting systems may provide traction for federal interference in voting. Federal interference could take **the form of removal of the machines, having federal agents/"ICE" at polling stations, seizing completed ballots, pressure on election officials, voter-role purges** and other maneuvers to interfere in election. Also, lacking public trust in the legitimacy of elections, some voters may opt out of voting although there is no supporting evidence for the legitimacy of these claims.

Question: What is the Urgency?: **5** in "battleground states"

Answer: The administration is intensifying attacks on all voting methods but the "battleground states" are a primary target. (Michigan, Ohio, Alaska, Texas, Iowa, North Carolina, and Georgia).

Question: What can we do?

Answer: Mitigating these threats requires actively **combating disinformation campaigns on social media, engaging in direct voter outreach like canvassing**, and other grassroots efforts especially in the battleground states.

All state voters should **verify their registration status regularly** and ensure they possess valid, current identification. (source: IndivisibleHands Off Our Vote Website)

Source: <https://indivisible.org/campaigns/our-vote/>

A few more concrete, Washington-specific actions worth adding:

- **Observe a post-election audit yourself.** Washington law already requires two separate machine-count checks after every election — a random hand-count batch audit and a statistical risk-limiting audit (RLA) — and both are open to public observation. Contact your county auditor's office to find out when and where you can watch one.
- **Know the actual numbers so you can correct rumors with facts, not just reassurance.** Washington's RLAs use a 5% risk limit (95% statistical confidence the outcome is correct), require a voter-verified paper record for every ballot, and every RLA conducted so far has confirmed the machine count. That specificity is more persuasive than a general "trust the system" message.
- **Volunteer with an organized election-protection effort.** Indivisible's Election Defense Corps is training 10,000 volunteers nationally, including in several of the battleground states named above, to watch for and respond to interference in real time.
- **Weigh in while the federal rulemaking is still open.** The EAC's revised voting-system guidelines (VVSG 2.1) are still in draft as of September 2026. EAC proceedings are subject to public comment — track the docket and submit comments when it opens, rather than waiting until a final decertification decision is announced.
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WA safeguards, in plain language: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/securing-your-vote>

WA post-election audit schedule & reports: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/data-research/election-technology/post-election-audits>