





Election 2020: Process and Technology Risks in Competitive States

6 October 2020

State & Electoral Votes	Overall Risk	Approx. Total Registered Voters	Pre-2020 Voting Trend	e-poll books?	2018 Midterm by-mail % of total ballots	2020 Primary by-mail % of total ballots	Voting Policies	By-mail pre-processing Starts	Tabulation Starts	Exceptional Process or Technology Risks?
AZ 11		4,000,000	Heavily by-mail	Yes	79%	88%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee In-person early voting can start as early as Oct. 7 	Upon receipt	14 days before Election Day (Oct. 20)	
FL 29		14,000,000	In-person: Hand-marked paper + BMDs for accessibility	Yes	31%	59%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee In-person early voting Oct. 24-31, at a minimum 	22 days before Election Day (Oct. 12)	22 days before Election Day (Oct. 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optical scan tabulators with wireless modems
GA 16		7,000,000	In-person: pre-2019, paperless DREs; 2020 change to BMDs for all in-person voters	Yes	6%	52%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee In-person early voting Oct. 12-30 	Upon receipt	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New statewide voting system implemented this year, during pandemic (appears rushed) Tech-heavy: BMDs for all in-person voters Highly chaotic June 9 primary <i>Curling v. Raffensperger</i> reveals worrisome implementation risks
IA 6		2,200,000	In-person: Hand-marked paper + BMDs for accessibility	Yes	24%	78%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee Absentee ballot request forms mailed to all registered voters (a change due to Covid-19) In-person early voting Oct. 5-Nov. 2 	Oct. 31	Election Day	

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ME 4		1,100,000	In-person: Hand-marked paper + BMDs for accessibility	No	29%	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee 	Oct. 30	Election Day	
MI 16		7,800,000	In-person: Hand-marked paper + BMDs for accessibility	Yes	24%	64%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee Long in-person early voting period: Sept. 24- Nov. 2 	Nov. 2	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large influx of absentee by-mail ballots MI cannot begin even pre-processing ballots until Nov. 2; this bottleneck will extend counting period, and could increase the likelihood of human errors; long counting period raises risk for disinformation Optical scan tabulators with wireless modems
MN 10		3,500,000	In-person: Hand-marked paper + BMDs for accessibility	Yes	24%	60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee Long in-person early voting period: Sept. 18- Nov. 2 	14 days before Election Day (Oct. 20)	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influx of absentee by-mail ballots Many older BMDs for accessibility (AutoMARK)
NV 6		1,900,000	In-person: DREs with VVVPAT for all voters	Yes	9%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blank ballots will be mailed to all registered voters (a change due to Covid-19) 	15 days before Election Day (Oct. 19)	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to all-mail voting, in contrast to typical trend of in-person DRE voting
NH 4		1,000,000	In-person: Hand-marked paper + BMDs for accessibility	No	8%	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee, and Covid-19 concerns <u>are</u> a valid excuse (changes due to Covid-19) No in-person early voting 	One day of processing, up to 5 days before Election Day	Election Day	

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NC 15		7,100,000	Hand-marked paper + BMDs for accessibility	Yes	3%	1.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee In-person early voting Oct. 15-31 	Fifth Tue. before Election Day (Sep. 29)	14 days prior to Election Day (Oct. 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large influx of absentee by-mail ballots in a state accustomed to in-person voting In recent years, North Carolina abolished DREs and required counties to move to technology with a paper trail; first Presidential election for many counties using new voting systems Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) is tech-heavy, with BMDs for all in-person voters
OH 18		8,000,000	In-person: mixed patchwork of hand-marked paper, paperless DREs, & hybrid BMDs	Yes	21%	85%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee Absentee ballot request forms mailed to all registered voters (a change due to Covid-19) 	Oct. 6	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influx of absentee by-mail ballots Franklin County (Columbus) and many other counties are tech-heavy, with BMDs for all in-person voters
PA 20		8,800,000	In-person: Hand-marked paper + BMDs for accessibility	Only some counties	4%	42%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee 	Election Day; <i>Pending legislation</i>	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large influx of absentee by-mail ballots in a state accustomed to in-person voting Unless legislation is passed to change policies, PA cannot begin even pre-processing ballots until Election Day; this bottleneck will extend counting period, and could increase the likelihood of human errors; long counting period raises risk for disinformation Tech-heavy Philadelphia County uses controversial all-in-one hybrid BMD/scanners for all in-person voters. Similar devices had tabulation errors in Northampton County in their inaugural use in November 2019

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TX 38		16,200,000	In-person: Very mixed patchwork; combination of paperless DREs, hybrid BMDs, and hand-marked paper	Yes	6%	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An “excuse” is needed for absentee voting, and Covid-19 concerns are not a valid “excuse” “Disability” is a valid excuse, and court has ruled that voters may “self-determine” disability Early voting Oct. 13-30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counties with pop. <u>greater than</u> 100k: 12th day before Election Day (Oct. 22) Counties with pop. <u>less than</u> 100k: at end of early voting (Oct. 30) 	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tech-heavy large counties using BMDs for all in-person voters: Dallas, Bexar (San Antonio), Tarrant (Fort Worth), and Travis (Austin). Large number of jurisdictions using paperless DREs. Some of those DREs are quite old. Perhaps even more unusual, however, are the number of counties in Texas (some quite large) that “re-upped” their voting system with even newer paperless DREs (some as recently as 2017-2018). Even the largest counties are limited to only one mail-ballot drop box per county
WI 10		3,500,000	In-person: Hand-marked paper + BMDs or DREs for accessibility	No	6%	73%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-excuse absentee Absentee ballot request forms mailed to all registered voters (a change due to Covid-19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election Day 	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large influx of absentee by-mail ballots Unless policy is changed, WI cannot begin even pre-processing ballots until Election Day; this bottleneck will extend counting period, and could increase the likelihood of human errors; long counting period raises risk for disinformation Optical scan tabulators with wireless modems