

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Board Meeting and Voting Machine Demonstration, 23 August 2022

Participants: Director Melanie Thibault, Deputy Director Judy Fritts, Election Specialist John Williams, Gary Dills, Lynne Garrison, Kathy Tinsley, Jeff Gillette and John Vanhook.

Observers: Approximately 40 people from the community attended the demonstration.

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6PM. Director Thibault welcomed the public to the demonstration and introduced the PrintElect representatives (Mr. Glen Stoudemire – Field Service Manager and Mr. James Hartley – Field Tech (Machine Repairs)).

1. Review. Our current machines are using 40-year-old technology and are not mechanically supportable since the M100 is out of production. New machines, regardless of vendors, will get us to current technology with a system that is supportable.
2. Observations: The demonstration pointed out some benefits for the PrintElect system:
 - a. Ballots are more secure since they leave the tabulator in a lockable container within the tabulator. The boxes can be easily pushed (with 2 fingers) and inserting the M-200 into the box is very smooth and quiet. Additionally, it is easier to cross check serial numbers of USB drives for further checks and balances. The encryption key only allows access by those who need it.
 - b. Set up is easier for the poll workers. All they have to do is put in a key, turn on and it's ready to go. The tape in the machine is easy to load, just drop it in and close the lid – no feeding through a small space as we do now. We can access the scanner inside to wipe dust off if there is an issue with ballots only scanning one way.
 - c. Parts are available for any hardware issues.
 - d. The system is supported since PrintElect has people positioned across the state even on election days.
 - e. The system uses paper ballots so there is always a paper trail.
 - f. The Automark (ADA equipment) is approximately 50 pounds lighter than the current version.
 - g. The battery maintains a charge once fully charged. The amount of battery left is easily noted on the back of the machines via a lighting

code system. It takes approximately overnight to fully charge a battery.

3. Next demonstration: On 30 August at 6PM, the HART company will demonstrate their equipment.
4. Public Comments: The people present asked many questions mostly concerning perceived/real voting issues in venues outside North Carolina. The Director and Board members also reminded those present how the Macon County process works – voter check-in, tabulation of voters, counting, etc. It was clear that voters need more information on how our process works both in a primary and general election.
5. Adjourn: With no further business, Mr. Dills made a motion to adjourn until 30 August at 6 PM. Mr. Gillette seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved. The Board adjourned at 7:30 PM.