

Moderator Memorandum



To: Residents of Raymond
From: Jim McLeod
Re: Vote Tabulating Machines

7-16-2024

Greetings Citizens,

Late last month the Office of the Secretary of State advised election officials that a grant program is available to municipalities through funding from the federal HAVA (Help America Vote Act) in order to offset the cost of new vote tabulating machines. Replacing the aging AccuVote (AV) machines we currently use is an important and necessary step in keeping our elections fair and accurate. The grant program will allow the Town to “swap” our three existing machines with VotingWorks (VW) tabulators and enjoy about a 50% discount of \$3500 off the estimated cost per machine of \$6000-\$7000.

Integrity of our elections is a paramount concern for all citizens. Paper ballots ensure a record of the votes cast can be audited after the election. The tabulators are designed to count properly filled out paper ballots and print the results for the election officials to verify. Improperly filled out ballots that can not be read by the machine are hand counted and added to the machine tally. The tabulators, by law, are put through a rigorous testing procedure prior to every election. The machines are all offline and the source code for the programming is publicly available for those concerned. In March 2023 a citizen petition to adopt a “hand count only” procedure was defeated by the voters.

As the State Primary approaches, and the Presidential Election nears, questions about the process and integrity of the vote will inevitably increase, as will the misinformation that now permeates the discourse around elections. I therefore encourage citizens to visit the Election page on the Secretary of State website for accurate election and voting information. Questions specific to Raymond Elections can be forwarded to the Town Clerk or myself.

The political divide in our country may seem insurmountable, but one thing we all can agree on is that our elections must be untainted. My goal is that everyone that is eligible to vote has the *opportunity*, that all legal votes are counted *accurately*, and that machine tabulations can be *verified* by paper ballot. The candidates with the most votes win.

Thank you for supporting our elections.

Respectfully,


Jim McLeod

Town of Raymond Moderator
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