

The State of Texas



Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
www.sos.state.tx.us

Phone: 512-463-5650
Fax: 512-475-2811
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

Jane Nelson
Secretary of State

TO: James Oakley, County Judge, Burnet County

FROM: Christina Adkins, Director of Elections, Texas Secretary of State

DATE: August 22, 2023

RE: Requirements Relating to Paper-Based Voting Systems

Handwritten notes in blue ink: "a/lr A/R" and "A/R" with a signature.

In the 87th Regular Session (2021), the Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 598, which requires counties to use electronic voting systems that use, create, or display a paper record that may be read by the voter and can act as the official record of the voter's ballot, and which prohibits the use of direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems in all elections occurring after September 1, 2026.

Our office is providing guidance on these requirements to all Texas counties that, according to our records, currently use DRE voting systems in their elections. Because your county has been identified as using a DRE voting system, we are issuing this notice to you.

Under Section 129.003 of the Texas Election Code, a DRE voting system may no longer be used in a Texas election after September 1, 2026 for any purpose other than curbside voting. After September 1, 2026, the county will need to provide at least one accessible voting machine at each polling place or early voting location that is capable of using, creating, or displaying a paper record that may be read by the voter and which can act as the official record of the voter's ballot.

As a reminder: When you acquire a new voting system, Section 123.035 of the Texas Election Code requires you to submit a copy of the contract to acquire that voting system to our office. You must receive written approval for that contract before it may be executed. If you are acquiring a new voting system, please submit a copy of that contract to our office at Elections@sos.texas.gov.

If you have any questions about these requirements or the systems that have been certified by our office to satisfy these requirements, you may contact our office at 1-800-252-2216 or at Elections@sos.texas.gov.

CA:CP