

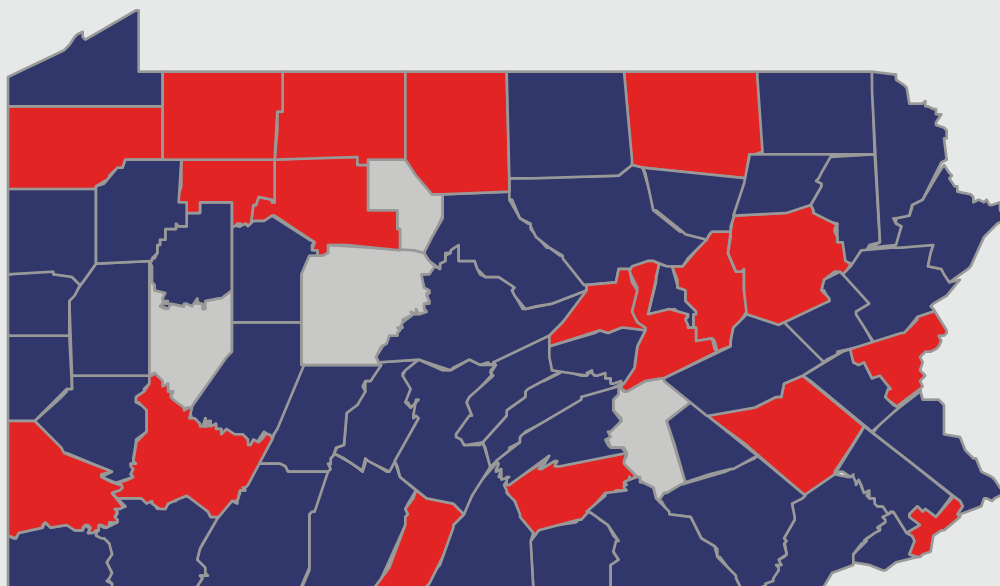


Pennsylvania Counties' New Voting Systems Selections: An Analysis

It is rarely the case that county officials have the luxury of selecting a better product at a lower price than the alternatives. When it comes to voting systems, hand-marked paper ballots are dramatically cheaper than ballot-marking devices with fewer security risks.

About the Analysis

Pennsylvania's counties have selected new voting systems, with implications for the security, reliability, and auditability of elections across the Commonwealth and beyond. Our organizations' analysis of county selections reveals that several have decided to purchase expensive electronic machines with security challenges (BMDs) over the better option: hand-marked paper ballots (HMPB).

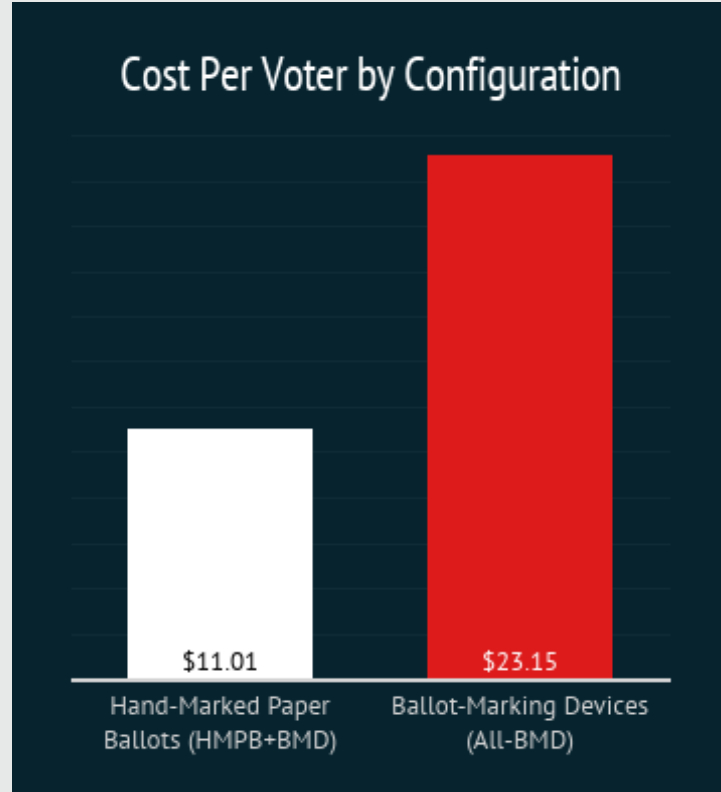


● All-BMD ● Full Data Not Yet Available ● HMPB+BMD

In fact, many counties have chosen the *All-BMD* configuration and are paying a hefty sum for it—twice as much per voter as counties that selected systems that rely principally on voters hand-marking their ballots. Pricier electronic systems also carry greater security risks and make it harder for voters to verify their ballots before casting.

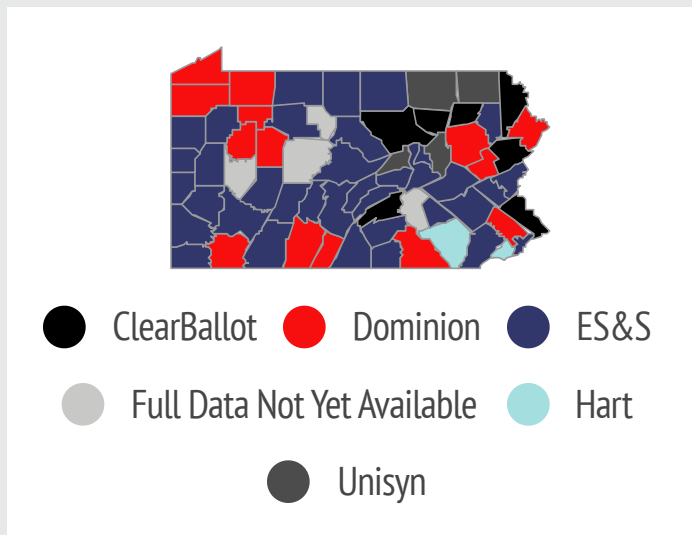
The Facts

- Counties that have selected BMDs are paying twice as much per voter as counties that have selected HMPBs.
- Counties buying expensive BMDs will receive a disproportionate share of state funds under the Governor’s plan to reimburse counties through a bond issuance for 60% of their actual costs for new voting systems.

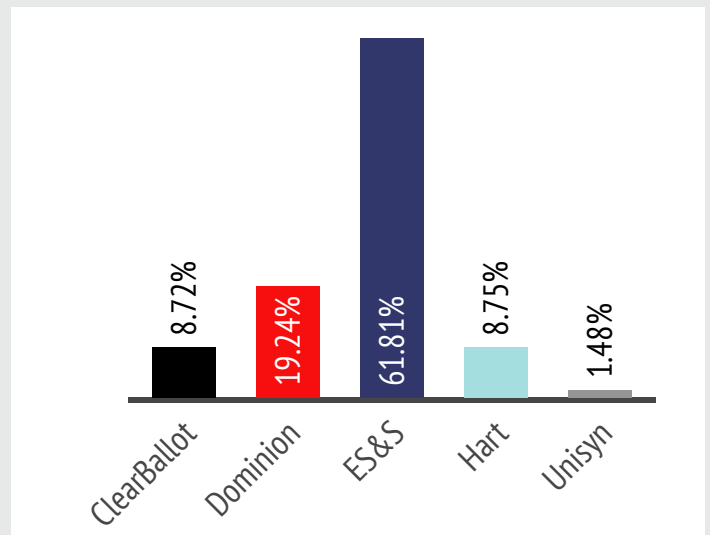


The nation’s largest voting system vendor—ES&S—has been the clear dominant vendor. Thirty-eight of the Commonwealth’s 67 counties, accounting for more than 60 percent of the registered voters in Pennsylvania, have selected ES&S. This includes Pennsylvania’s two most populous counties: Allegheny and Philadelphia.

Vendor Selections by County



Share of Total Voters by Vendor



For interactive maps and additional data, please visit cyber.pitt.edu/votingsystemsanalysis