

History of Voting Methods used in Charlottesville, Virginia

November 2015 election - *All City of Charlottesville voters are using digitally scanned paper ballots beginning with this election.* The City has acquired Hart Verity, an integrated voting system which provides two ways of marking a paper ballot in the polling place, conventionally by hand (with a pen), or by using an ADA compliant, accessible machine and printer to mark and print the ballot. Both types of ballots are scanned and counted in the precinct in an identical manner. The same kind of ballot is used for absentee voting by mail. The vendor is Hart InterCivic, based in Austin, Texas. The city has been using this vendor since 2002.

In July, the new Hart Verity equipment was delivered, and the old equipment was traded in and picked up by the vendor. Acceptance testing was later conducted on the new equipment, and staff was trained. Officers of Election who work at the polls on election day were trained on the equipment in October.

Additional information:

<http://www.hartintercivic.com/content/verity-system-overview>

http://www.hartintercivic.com/sites/default/files/ScanBrief_0.pdf

http://www.hartintercivic.com/sites/default/files/TouchWriterBrief_0.pdf

June 2015 Democratic Primary – Last Charlottesville election to use the eSlate and eScan voting machines.

2008 – Hart eScan machines and scanner-read paper ballots were made available in Charlottesville polling places for high turnout elections in addition to the familiar eSlate machines (DREs).

2007 – The Virginia General Assembly passed the first of a series of state laws limiting the acquisition of (and thereby phasing out use of) DRE voting machines in the state.

2002 – Hart eSlate voting machines replaced punchcard machines in Charlottesville. The eSlate is classified as “DRE” or direct recording electronic voting equipment.

2002 - A high-speed Hart-programmed scanner was first used to tabulate mailed absentee ballots. **[This was the city’s first use of scanned paper ballots, similar to those that will now be used by all voters.]**

After the close 2000 presidential election, the 2002 Help America Vote Act provided federal funds to help localities replace punchcard and lever machines.

1985 – Eight lever machines purchased in 1972 were sold for \$2500 to Virginia Election Services, a private vendor, and 24 lever machines bought in the late 1950s were given to UVA, which had been borrowing them for student council elections for several years.

1984 – Punchcard ballots and tabulators (called a “computer election system” in electoral board minutes) replaced lever machines in Charlottesville.

1958 – Lever machines purchased from the Automatic Voting Machine Corp., of Jamestown, NY, replaced hand counted paper ballots at the polls in Charlottesville. (The machines were nicknamed “AVMs.”) Manually counted paper ballots were still used as mailed absentee ballots.

1894 – The Virginia General Assembly passed a law requiring the state to supply official ballots that listed all candidates (the “Australian” or secret ballot).

1870 – In Virginia, ballots printed by the parties replaced viva voce (voice) voting.

Source: Compiled by the Charlottesville Voter Registration Office. Revised 10/29/15.