

From: Katy Owens Hubler <katy.owenshubler@ncsl.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 1:41 PM
To: Power, Rebecca <Rebecca.Power@legmt.gov>
Cc: Wendy Underhill <wendy.underhill@ncsl.org>
Subject: Re: Cast Vote Records - Info Request from Montana

Hi Rebecca,

Thank you for speaking with Wendy and me last week about cast vote records and what might be involved with obtaining those. I said that I would follow up with ES&S to learn a bit more about what is involved with obtaining the cast vote record. Here is what I learned:

- All ES&S tabulators are capable of producing a cast vote record.
- Whether or not a CVR is produced is up to the election jurisdiction (or as required by state law or whether the CVR is required as part of a post-election audit).
- The selection of whether to provide a CVR or not is configurable within the election management system (EMS) software.
- If CVR's are enabled in the EMS software, then each time a tabulator scans a ballot, a CVR is produced and recorded on the tabulator's internal memory. At the end of the night after polls close, all CVR's, ballot images (if enabled) and vote tallies are encrypted and stored on a removable, secure, encrypted thumb drive that was inserted into the tabulator before polls opened. The secure thumb drive can then be inserted into the EMS computer to view or print the CVR report.
- It should be noted that not all election jurisdictions have an EMS computer and if they don't, they cannot view or print the CVR report (this is likely why some jurisdictions have been saying they would need additional computers). An EMS computer is required to read the secure thumb drive and access the CVR report.

Given this information, I think that the costs associated with new computers that election officials are mentioning come from the fact that many do not have a dedicated EMS computer. Again, though, this is something that the county election officials themselves would be best positioned to respond to and provide more precise costs. Having a separate EMS computer is a security feature and sounds like it is necessary, at least for ES&S systems to be able to access the CVR report.

Please let us know if there is anything additional you'd like us to dig into on this.

Best,

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