

Electronic Voting System Services for Boards of Elections

Implementing electronic voting systems involves far more than purchasing the right equipment. To comply with state regulations, counties must also develop and implement many complex technical policies and procedures. NYSTEC is a leader in electronic voting systems implementation and can help you meet all the requirements necessary for success.



The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 mandates that states transition to new electronic voting technologies. Unfortunately, use of these new technologies requires states to rethink how they handle election activities and develop new procedures to maintain the integrity of the voting process in an electronic environment. In that regard, the recent NYS Election regulation 6210 and other NYS Election regulations require County Boards of Election to create their own written procedures and follow more stringent requirements for documenting the chain of custody and security of the new voting machines.

The new 6210 regulation requires counties to establish a robust electronic voting process that includes:

- Procedures for using memory cards and obtaining SBOE approval. (6210.3)
- Procedures for use of voting systems during an election. (6210.3)
- County Security Procedures. (6210.11b)
- Security Logs. (6210.11b)
- Voting Systems Chain of Custody Log. (6210.11d)
- Contingency Plans. (6210.11j)
- Record Retention. (6210.11k)
- Optional written agreements for sharing election configuration and ballot configuration programming services between multiple counties. (6210.11l)
- Procedures for ballot security, ballot distribution and counting, the challenge process and systems evaluation which must include security provisions for covering multiple activities which must be submitted and approved by SBOE before use. (6210.12)

NYSTEC is uniquely positioned to help counties implement their electronic voting program and associated policies and procedures. Since 2006, NYSTEC has helped plan, test and implement electronic voting systems on a statewide scale. As part of this effort, NYSTEC helped define policies and procedures, recommended best practices and numerous training programs for creating test decks and performing necessary testing based on federal guidelines approved by the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission and New York State regulations. NYSTEC is currently providing assistance in the creation of the templates that will be provided to the county BOEs as recommended best practices for security policies, chain of custody procedures, contingency plans and various system testing procedures. NYSTEC can assist the counties in modifying these templates so they fit the unique requirements of each county.

This effort has provided NYSTEC with unique knowledge of the detailed requirements mandated by regulation 6210. NYSTEC can leverage this knowledge and expertise to help counties comply with regulation 6210 and develop the technical policies and procedures necessary for successful implementation and operation of electronic voting systems.

NYSTEC SERVICES

Project Management – NYSTEC’s project managers have helped government agencies manage their compliance with requirements for using new technology systems, including the drafting of security and operational policies and procedures for the new systems. Company project managers will use proven processes to monitor the development of all necessary electronic voting system policies and procedures.

Independent Reviews – As a not-for-profit company with no ties to vendors and an impartial approach, NYSTEC is well qualified to perform comprehensive reviews of county plans for electronic voting testing, preparation for elections, chain of custody and other security and operational policies and procedures.

Development of County Voting System Policies and Procedures – Citizens must be assured that election processes are absolutely secure. This requires robust security policies and procedures. NYSTEC’s security specialists can assist in developing county specific system-security policies for electronic voting, and help counties develop or modify electronic voting procedures. NYSTEC will also help counties develop operational policies and procedures for testing, maintenance, support, test deck preparation, and inventory management. Policies and procedures can also be developed for system operations and related activities before, during, and after Election Day.

Security Services – NYSTEC’s services for ensuring the full security of an electronic voting system encompass a wide range of activities in addition to written policies and procedures. Our services include providing an independent security review of existing procedures which may include: an “as is” assessment of the county’s machine testing plan, security policies, contingency plans and other security related procedures as well as quality assurance of security procedures or testing plans developed by other parties.

Funding – Federal HAVA grant funding may be available for services that relate to poll worker training. NYSTEC can help counties develop grant applications.

For more information please contact:

F. Michael Donovan, President

100 State Street, Suite 900

Albany, NY 12207

Direct line: 518.431.7028

Cell phone: 518.281.3831

Fax: 518.431.7037

E-mail: mdonovan@nystec.com

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888-9NYSTEC