



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEW VOTING MACHINE FAQ

## **Voting Machine Open House**

Montgomery County will be purchasing new voting machines this year. The county invited all residents to a Voting Machine Open House on Saturday, February 24. Voting machine vendors were on site with machines that have been certified, or are currently in the process of being certified, for use in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If you were unable to attend, you can view the voting machines that were displayed at the open house at [www.montcopa.org/vmfeedback](http://www.montcopa.org/vmfeedback). The feedback form will be open for all county residents to submit comments until Friday, March 16 at 12:00pm.

## **What is the voting machine certification process?**

Pennsylvania's Election Code provides for the use of only those voting machines that the Pennsylvania Department of State has certified to be safe for use by voters and meet all the requirements of the Pennsylvania Election Code. Prior to certification, the Pennsylvania Department of State evaluates each machine for confidentiality, security, accuracy, safety, reliability, accessibility, durability and auditability. Before a voting machine may be considered for certification by the Pennsylvania Department of State, the voting machine must be certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission for conformance with federal voting system standards.

## **Will the voting machines have a paper backup?**

Yes, per the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's directive, any new voting machines will have a paper backup.

## **Will the new voting machines be secure?**

Yes, the machine will have met all state and federal security requirements for ensuring a secure system. Additionally, the county has a robust IT and security team to ensure that the database, voting tally stations, and network are secure. The new machine will also have a paper backup to ensure there is a verifiable record of the votes cast.

## **Will the new machines be ADA accessible?**

Yes, the new machines will have accessibility features to allow a person with a disability to accurately and anonymously cast a vote.

## **What is the timeline for purchasing the new voting machines?**

- The process began at the open house on Feb. 24 by receiving the public's feedback (in person and online), which will be considered as the county creates the RFP (Request for Proposal) for purchasing new voting machines
- The RFP will be released in March 2018
- The voting machines are expected to be purchased this year upon approval at a Board of Commissioner's meeting
- The new machines are expected to be in place by the 2018 General Election or 2019 Primary Election – depending on the availability of the voting machine that is selected

## **I'm a poll worker. How will I know how to operate the new voting machines?**

The county will reach out to all Election Day workers and will hold several training sessions on how to operate the new voting machines.

## **I'm a Montco voter. How will I know how to use the new machines on Election Day?**

The county will develop an extensive public outreach campaign to raise awareness of the new machines and to educate voters on how to use them. Outreach will include local press, social media, online videos, and engagement with local community organizations

## **How can I stay informed about this process?**

- Subscribe to the county's twitter page: <https://twitter.com/MontcoPA>
- Subscribe to the county's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/montgomery.county.pa/>
- Call the county's Voter Services office at 610-278-3275
- If you are a poll worker, the Voter Services team will reach out to you regarding training at the appropriate time after the new machines are selected