

ExpressVote® XL: Myths vs. Facts

In July 2023, the New York State Board of Elections certified the ExpressVote XL Universal Voting System. This widely used paper-based technology displays the full ballot on a 32-inch interactive screen and produces an independent voter-verifiable paper record.

<p>MYTH: The ExpressVote XL is easily hackable</p>	<p>FACT: This claim is false. The ExpressVote XL has met and exceeded rigorous testing standards set by the EAC – the same standards required by New York for certification.</p>
	<p>ES&S granted a team of cybersecurity students who are part of the nationally recognized Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) security program the opportunity to conduct an independent security test of the ExpressVote XL voting machine. After weeks of research, the team conducted a 10-day penetration test and found zero attacks that could alter or manipulate a voter’s choices under real-world conditions at an active polling site. The university’s testers said, “there was nothing we could find ... that someone can do to change a voter’s choices in the real world,” Furthermore, the same tester is quoted as saying, “we really liked the device’s defense-in-depth approach and the number of safeguards in place.” “All of the restricted input points were out of reach or secured with multiple tamper seals.” <i>Here is a link to the story by RIT:</i> https://www.rit.edu/news/rit-cybersecurity-student-researchers-put-voting-machine-security-test</p> <p>While the threats are very real, there’s no evidence that any vote in a U.S. election has <u>ever</u> been compromised by a cybersecurity breach. ES&S equipment – including the ExpressVote XL – undergoes thousands of hours of performance, reliability and security testing by us, by Federal government certified voting system test labs, and by states that conduct their own rigorous testing. Six layers of security protect ES&S voting systems, including physical security, system hardening, user authentication, encryption, data integrity and validation, and verifiable audit trails. <i>See the video here:</i> https://www.essvote.com/feature/security/</p>
<p>MYTH: The ExpressVote XL causes long lines at the poll place.</p>	<p>FACT: This claim is false. Jurisdictions that use the ExpressVote XL have not reported that it causes long lines.</p>
	<p>Jurisdictions decide equipment needs based on the number of voters in a precinct. Generally, lines originate during the check-in process — not at the voting machine. On the ExpressVote XL, voters have an extremely fast voting experience at around 80 seconds on average and in as little as 20 seconds. It allows voters to review their selections twice before tabulation — on the summary screen and the printed card.</p>

<p>MYTH: Votes cast using the ExpressVote XL are unverifiable and not auditable.</p>	<p>FACT: This claim is false. The ExpressVote XL produces a voter-verifiable paper trail and has been proven to be 100% accurate and fully auditable in post-election audits.</p>
	<p>The ExpressVote XL is the latest in paper-based election technology and it's been proven in real world elections to be secure and accurate. It's been used in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey since 2019, serving a total of 5.9 million voters. The ExpressVote XL produces a voter-verifiable paper ballot and has proven its accuracy and auditability time and again. Audits have shown the ExpressVote XL to be 100% accurate in post-election audits.</p> <p>Read more here: https://www.essvote.com/blog/our-customers/risk-limiting-audit-verifies-election-results/</p> <p>And here: https://www.essvote.com/blog/our-customers/technology-helps-philly-voters-cast-paper-ballots/</p>
<p>MYTH: The ExpressVote XL is too expensive.</p>	<p>FACT: This is an untrue statement. When the costs of paper and printing costs associated with elections are figured in with the analysis, the ExpressVote XL has been shown to be a less expensive option over time when compared with systems where voters mark their ballots with a pen.</p>
	<p>One study showed that when comparing the two methods over the life of the equipment, systems using ballot marking devices are less expensive. According to the Director of Administration for Northampton County, PA, their analysis of costs showed that purchasing the ExpressVote XL system saved the county \$600,000 over the course of a decade.</p> <p>Here is a link to an article where he cites his research: https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/opinion/2019/08/northampton-countys-new-voting-machines-more-secure-economical-than-paper-ballots-opinion.html</p>
<p>MYTH: The ExpressVote XL miscounted votes in Northampton County.</p>	<p>FACT: This is an untrue statement. The issue in In Northampton County in November 2019 was a human error in formatting the ballot which resulted in the incorrect display of results.</p>
	<p>This error in initial results reporting was immediately identified on election night and subsequently corrected by physically tabulating each paper record. The issue experienced during the 2019 election in Northampton County will not occur again - a fact, which has been proven in subsequent elections. In fact, the County Council openly praised the technology for its outstanding performance.</p>

<p>MYTH: The ExpressVote XL can change votes after the paper ballot is reviewed by the voter.</p>	<p>FACT: This is false. By design, the mechanical components of the ExpressVote XL make it impossible to add, modify or invalidate votes after the voter has reviewed, confirmed and cast their ballot.</p>
	<p>There is no ability for the voter’s selections to be changed after the voter casts his or her ballot. The mechanical components of the ExpressVote XL make it impossible to add, modify or invalidate votes after the voter has reviewed, confirmed and cast their ballot. Additionally, the design of the ExpressVote card makes it virtually impossible to modify the voter verifiable ballot after it has been printed. It is even more secure than a traditional oval-filled ballot that can be modified with only a pencil or pen.</p> <p><i>Watch this video to learn more about how the design of the ExpressVote XL makes it impossible to add, modify or invalidate votes after the voter confirms and casts their ballot:</i></p> <p>https://www.essvote.com/blog/video/video-how-expressvote-xl-protects-your-ballot/</p>
<p>MYTH: The ExpressVote XL uses barcodes on the ballot, which cannot be verified or trusted.</p>	<p>FACT: This is a false claim. Barcodes exist on both hand-marked paper ballots and machine-marked paper ballots and those barcodes are used in the very same manner in both scenarios to count votes. All tabulation machines that count paper ballots use a barcode to properly and accurately count the vote. The security of each method of voting is confirmed by election officials during pre-election tests and in post-election audits.</p>
	<p>Along with the machine-readable barcode, ballots produced by the ExpressVote XL also print the voter’s selections in human-readable text, so a voter can verify their selection before casting their ballot. All ExpressVote XL ballots are fully auditable.</p> <p><i>Watch this video to learn more about how ballots are counted:</i></p> <p>https://www.essvote.com/blog/video/video-how-are-ballots-counted/</p>
<p>MYTH: Voters do not trust or want to use voting machines.</p>	<p>FACT: This is untrue. When given a choice between marking ballots with a pen or by using ExpressVote universal voting technology, voters overwhelmingly elect to mark their ballots using a touch screen versus hand marking a paper ballot.</p>
	<p>A few examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the Nov. 2022 election in Shelby County, TN, voters were offered a choice of voting styles, and 97% chose the ExpressVote. • When given a choice between hand marking a paper ballot versus marking the paper ballot with a touch screen, voters in Washington DC overwhelmingly preferred using the ExpressVote. • In a survey of New York voters who tested the ExpressVote XL, 96% say they prefer using this technology over hand-marked paper ballots.

MYTH:

Voters with a disability cannot use the ExpressVote XL.

FACT:

This is completely false. The ExpressVote XL closely follows guidelines set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and was built to ensure all voters – including those with a disability or speak a language other than English – have a simple and inclusive voting experience.

The ExpressVote XL has received high praise for the inclusiveness it brings to the election process. It can be configured to serve every voter as a fully compliant ADA voting solution, ensuring everyone votes in the same private and independent manner.

