



RESPONSES TO CERTIFICATION TESTING

■ TAMPER-EVIDENT SEALS

Concern: Integrated Ballot Box (IBB) on the BMD may be opened and ballots removed/added without detection.

Note: For this vulnerability to happen, a malicious actor must, without being noticed, access the back of a BMD for a prolonged period. They must have tape, tweezers and a piece of cardboard and they must maneuver carefully not to trigger a sensor on the ballot box that alerts Election Workers that the ballot box has been opened. This testing was conducted on a BMD without the attached privacy shield, which is an additional layer of protection to the attack.

Mitigations/Resolutions: The County has procedures in place to prevent this issue

1. Election Workers are trained to securely lock BMDs with serialized seals;
2. Election Workers are trained to check seals and observe voting area for individuals who may be tampering with BMDs; and
3. Addition of adhesive tamper-evident seals placed over the seam of the IBB in addition to the serialized zip-tie seals that are used to securely close the box.

As voted ballots will be removed every night by Election Workers, this attack would need to be conducted during the hours that a Vote Center is open and in operation, which would make the likelihood of an attempted attack or exploit highly unlikely without detection and disruption in the Vote Center. There are Vote Center personnel assigned as Voting Area Monitors who are responsible for observing and being present in the voting area where the BMDs are located. Not only would these workers notice someone working behind a BMD, but also, removal or opening of the ballot box triggers a screen display warning and requires Election Worker engagement to bring the triggered unit back into service. BMDs are also visible to all Election Workers and voters. The addition of the adhesive tamper-evident seals provides an additional layer of detection and protection.

■ “MORE” BUTTON

Concern: Candidates who are not visible on first screen of contest may be at a disadvantage because voters may not see that they need to select the “MORE” button to see additional candidates.

Mitigations/Resolutions: The County consulted with its design and usability experts and with its development/manufacturing team to make refinements and modifications. These included:

1. Addition of a pulsating yellow ring to the “MORE” button; and
2. Addition of a gradient effect to visibly indicate that the contest continues vs hard page stops that appear that all options are visible in a single view.

The above referenced refinements and modifications were made before the November Pilot election in which voters were given the option to vote on the BMD or to use the traditional InkaVote ballot. While the Pilot Election was limited, the contest for Long Beach City Council, First District included eight candidates and thus provided a good test and comparison of ballots cast on the old system all listed on a single page to ballots cast using the BMD where the “MORE” button navigation was required to view all selections. From the pilot election, we analyzed three ballot types – Vote by Mail (VBM), BMD and InkaVote. The results revealed minimal differences between the ballot types, which is not unusual based on past elections.

The County will also be promoting the use of the “MORE” Button through its voter education and outreach plans. The topic will be highlighted in the Official Sample Ballot, video tutorials, and informational displays and handouts at Vote Centers. Additionally, Election Workers will be trained on the issue to assist voters, if needed, and will proactively tell voters about the “MORE” button at the Vote Centers.