

HOW DO THE NEW BALLOT COUNTING MACHINES WORK?

NEW THIS YEAR

Paper ballots will be counted using optical scan equipment.

The Model 100 is a voter-activated paper ballot counter and has been used by Teton County, Wyoming for several years. The M100 will greatly simplify the county's ballot-counting process while maintaining voter privacy and anonymity. An election worker will demonstrate the ballot marking process at every polling place.

Voters will receive a paper ballot and will select their candidate by using a pencil or black pen to blacken ovals on that ballot. The voter will then insert their ballot into the M100 ballot counter, which uses optical scan technology to record the vote.

If a voter inserts an unmarked ballot (undervote), or selects two candidates in a race (overvote), the machine will display a message notifying the voter of the mistake. The voter may then push a button to instruct the machine to "accept" or "return" the ballot. If the voter selects "return" their ballot will be ejected so they may correct their mistake. If the voter selects "accept," all correctly voted races will be counted.

Immediately after the polls are closed, the M100 will print the vote totals which will be posted at the precinct polling place and delivered to the county courthouse. These machines will allow posting of county-wide election results much sooner than the former hand-count method. And if there is ever a question about election results, the paper ballots can be recounted by either machine or hand.

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