

Observations On Voting Equipment Use And Replacement: A Comprehensive Guide

Voting is a fundamental right in democratic societies, and the integrity of elections is paramount. In recent years, there has been increasing concern about the security and accuracy of voting equipment. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has conducted extensive research on voting equipment use and replacement, and this article summarizes the GAO's findings and recommendations.

Voting Equipment Use

The GAO's research has found that voting equipment is used in a variety of ways across the United States. Some jurisdictions use only paper ballots, while others use electronic voting machines (EVMs) or direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems. EVMs are similar to mechanical voting machines, but they use electronic components to record votes. DRE voting systems are computer-based systems that allow voters to cast their votes directly on a touchscreen or keypad.

The GAO's research has found that there are a number of advantages to using voting equipment. Voting equipment can be more accurate than paper ballots, and it can help to speed up the voting process. Voting equipment can also make it easier for voters with disabilities to cast their ballots.



ELECTIONS: Observations on Voting Equipment Use and Replacement (GAO - DOC) by Mark Hertsgaard

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However, the GAO's research has also found that there are a number of potential risks associated with using voting equipment. Voting equipment can be vulnerable to hacking and other forms of cyber attack. Voting equipment can also malfunction, which can lead to lost or miscast votes.

Voting Equipment Replacement

The GAO's research has found that voting equipment is often replaced on a regular basis. The reasons for replacement vary, but they often include the need to upgrade to more secure or reliable equipment. The GAO's research has also found that the cost of replacing voting equipment can be significant.

The GAO's research has found that there are a number of factors that jurisdictions should consider when replacing voting equipment. These factors include the security of the equipment, the accuracy of the equipment, the ease of use for voters, and the cost of the equipment.

Recommendations

The GAO has made a number of recommendations to jurisdictions for replacing voting equipment. These recommendations include:

- Jurisdictions should conduct a risk assessment to identify the potential risks associated with using voting equipment.
- Jurisdictions should develop a plan for replacing voting equipment that takes into account the risks identified in the risk assessment.
- Jurisdictions should consider using voting equipment that is certified by an independent testing laboratory.
- Jurisdictions should provide training for poll workers on the use of voting equipment.
- Jurisdictions should have a plan in place for responding to voting equipment problems.

The GAO's research has found that voting equipment is used in a variety of ways across the United States. There are a number of advantages to using voting equipment, but there are also a number of potential risks.

Jurisdictions should consider these risks when replacing voting equipment. By following the GAO's recommendations, jurisdictions can help to ensure the integrity of their elections.

Additional Resources

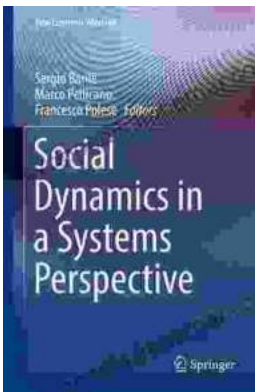
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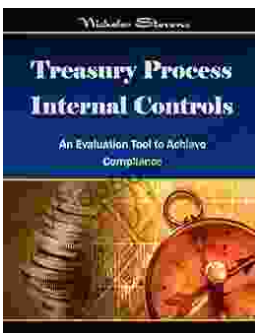
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