

FOR RELEASE: Monday, February 6, 2006  
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## 69 Million Voters will use Optical Scan Ballots in 2006 66 Million Voters will use Electronic Equipment

A new study by Election Data Services Inc. of voting equipment used by county election jurisdictions across the United States shows that at least 69.5 million registered voters will cast optical scan ballots this fall, while at least 66.6 million voters will use electronic equipment. Jurisdictions with some 22.5 million voters are still reporting the use of punch cards and lever machines, although voting equipment procurements are still underway. The study's findings are summarized below.

### Voting Equipment Reported for the 2006 Elections

| Type of Voting Equipment | Counties     |              | Registered Voters <sup>1</sup> |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                          | Number       | Percentage   | Number                         | Percentage   |
| Punch Card               | 124          | 3.98         | 5,166,247                      | 3.03         |
| Lever                    | 119          | 3.82         | 17,356,729                     | 10.18        |
| Paper Ballots            | 176          | 5.65         | 653,704                        | 0.38         |
| Optical Scan             | 1,502        | 48.23        | 69,517,991                     | 40.79        |
| Electronic               | 1,050        | 33.72        | 66,573,736                     | 39.06        |
| Mixed                    | 143          | 4.59         | 11,154,765                     | 6.55         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>3,114</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>170,423,172</b>             | <b>100.0</b> |

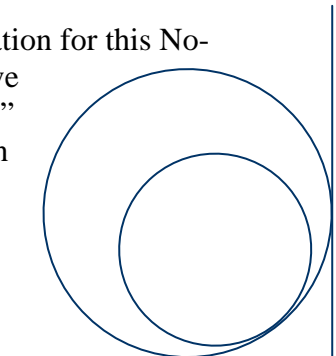
<sup>1</sup>Registered voter counts are from the November 2004 general elections.

“While 40.8 percent of voters will cast optically scanned ballots, over 48.2 percent of counties will be using optical scan equipment,” noted Kimball Brace, president of Election Data Services Inc., referring to the fact that optical scan equipment is typically used by smaller jurisdictions. “The opposite is true of electronic equipment, favored by larger jurisdictions.”

### Change in Voting Equipment Use

The study also shows that more than a third of the counties have changed voting equipment since 2000. At least 1,395 counties will have changed or are planning to change voting equipment by the November 2006 general election. This means that nearly 82 million registered voters have seen voting system changes over the past six years.

At least 647 counties are in the midst of changing voting equipment in preparation for this November's election. “Almost half of the changes over the past six years will have occurred during the two-year period from November 2004 to November 2006,” said Brace. More than 30.6 million voters will see new voting equipment when they go to the polls this year. “Unfortunately,” Brace noted, “history shows that it's the first election with new equipment when jurisdictions are most likely to experience problems.”



## Lever and Punch Card Equipment

The 2006 Voting Equipment Study found that considerable progress has been made towards the elimination of punch cards and lever machines, one goal of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The number of counties (124) still reporting the use of punch cards is down substantially from the 566 counties that used punch cards in November 2000, before HAVA was enacted. Likewise, the number of counties (119) still reporting the use of lever machines is down from the 434 counties that used lever machines in 2000. The state of New York, with 62 counties, accounts for more than half the total number of counties still using lever machines. HAVA deadlines for the replacement of lever and punch card voting equipment occur with the first federal election in 2006—in most cases, a primary election. Because voting equipment procurements are still underway in many states, there will likely be fewer lever and punch card users come November. For example, by November, the 13 Arkansas counties that still use lever and punch card equipment will either have electronic or a combination of electronic and optical scan systems in place.

### Voting Equipment Changes since the 2000 Elections

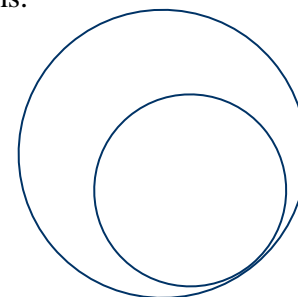
| Type of Voting Equipment | Number of Counties |              |              |              |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                          | Nov-2000           | Nov-2002     | Nov-2004     | Nov-2006     |
| Punch Card               | 566                | 454          | 322          | 124          |
| Lever                    | 434                | 287          | 262          | 119          |
| Paper Ballots            | 365                | 302          | 290          | 176          |
| Optical Scan             | 1,275              | 1,332        | 1,423        | 1,502        |
| Electronic               | 320                | 562          | 646          | 1,050        |
| Mixed                    | 153                | 177          | 171          | 143          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>3,113</b>       | <b>3,114</b> | <b>3,114</b> | <b>3,114</b> |

## Hand-Counted Paper Ballots

A slower, but significant reduction in the number of counties using hand-counted paper ballots has also occurred. The number of counties reporting hand-counted paper ballots for November 2006 is about half the number that used paper ballots in 2000. This study focuses on counties. However, elections in Michigan, Wisconsin, and the six New England states are administered by townships, and many small townships in those eight states use paper ballots. When townships are included with counties, slightly more than one-quarter of election jurisdictions in the U.S. use hand counted paper ballots. However, when township data is aggregated to the county level, most of the counties in Michigan, Wisconsin, and the six New England states fall into the “mixed” category. And in most instances, “mixed” refers to a combination of hand-counted paper ballots and optical scan equipment.

## Electronic (DRE) Equipment

A big change noted by the 2006 study was the recent growth of electronic systems. Whereas, the use of optical scan equipment has grown steadily over the past six years, there was a significant rise in the last two years in the number of counties with electronic systems. The relatively recent introduction of VVPAT (Voter



verified Paper Audit Trail) components and the availability of HAVA funding for the replacement of lever and punch card equipment have likely contributed to this increase.

## Uniform Statewide Voting Systems

Another trend that appears to be continuing is the establishment of uniform statewide voting systems. Oklahoma led the way with a uniform optical scan voting system in the early 1990s. Delaware followed with an electronic system in 1996, and Hawaii and Rhode Island with optical scan systems in 1998. Georgia, Nevada, and Maryland established uniform electronic voting systems in 2002, 2004, and 2006, respectively. North Dakota will implement a uniform optical scan system in 2006.

## About the Study

Election Data Services conducts surveys on voting equipment usage every two years. The 2006 Voting Equipment Study is the 12th survey. The first survey was conducted in 1980 for the Federal Election Commission. Election Data Services has conducted the surveys independently since 1986. The surveys classify voting equipment according to seven categories: (1) DataVote punch cards, (2) other punch cards, (3) mechanical lever machines, (4) hand-counted paper ballots, (5) optical scan systems, (6) electronic systems, and (7) mixed (multiple systems). There are two punch card categories. DataVote punch cards display candidate names on ballots, which are inserted into mechanisms with punching devices for voting. Other punch card ballots, including the Votomatic style, are pre-scored at numbered voting positions and are punched with a stylus. The optical scan category includes both precinct and central tabulation systems. The electronic category refers to “Direct Recording Electronic” (DRE) devices, which include touch screen displays as well as electronic panels with push buttons or pointing devices.

The primary information source for the voting equipment studies is a nationwide election administration database that Election Data Services has maintained since 1980. The database covers current and past use of voting equipment by some 8,000 county and township-level election jurisdictions. The database is periodically updated from surveys, news articles, interviews, and inventories compiled by state election directors.

With each voting equipment study, Election Data Services also publishes a map that depicts voting equipment usage at the county level. The 2006 Voting Equipment Map is color-coded by equipment type and includes summary data for counties and registered voters. Maps from previous voting equipment studies dating back to 1980 are compiled on a Voting Equipment History Poster. The poster also includes charts depicting trends in voting equipment usage.

## About Election Data Services

Election Data Services is a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm that specializes in redistricting, election administration, and the analysis of census and political data. Information on voting equipment is contained in one of several nationwide databases Election Data Services that maintains on elections and voting.

