

The State of Texas



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Ruth R. Hughes
Secretary of State

REPORT OF REVIEW OF HART INTERCIVIC VERITY VOTING 2.5 SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

On January 4-8, 2021, Hart Intercivic Inc. (“Hart” or the “Vendor”) presented the Verity Voting 2.5 system for examination and certification. The examination was conducted in Austin, Texas at the Office of the Secretary of State (the “Office”). Pursuant to Sections 122.035(a) and (b) of the Texas Election Code, the Secretary of State appointed the following examiners:

1. Mr. Tom Watson, an expert in electronic data communication systems;
2. Mr. Brian Mechler, an expert in electronic data communication systems;
3. Mr. Brandon Hurley, an expert in election law and procedure; and
4. Mr. Charles Pinney, an expert in election law and procedure.

Pursuant to Section 122.035(a), the Texas Attorney General appointed the following examiners:

1. Dr. Jim Sneeringer, an expert in electronic data communication systems; and
2. Ms. Lesley French, an employee of the Texas Attorney General.

At the time of the examination, the Office of the Secretary of State was closed to the public due to health and safety concerns relating to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). As a result, certain procedures were implemented for the examination of the Verity Voting 2.5 system. For example, the examination was held in a manner that allowed some of the examiners to participate in person and other examiners to attend remotely via live video conference. The examiners who were not physically present in the exam room on a specific day were able to view the other examiners’ interactions with the equipment and ask questions to the in-person examiners and the vendor. Each examiner had the opportunity to examine the equipment in person for at least one day during the exam week.

On January 4-5, 2021, Mr. Pinney was present to witness the extraction of the trusted build and the installation of the Verity 2.5 software and firmware that the Secretary of State’s office received directly from the Independent Testing Authority. The other examiners observed this process remotely by watching the live video conference.

On January 6, 2021, the Vendor demonstrated the system and answered questions presented by the examiners. Test ballots were then processed on each voting device by Mr. Pinney and Mr. Hurley. The results were accumulated and later verified for accuracy by staff of the Secretary of State’s office. Mr. Pinney and Mr. Hurley also examined the accessibility components of the Verity Voting 2.5 system.

On January 7, 2021, Mr. Watson and Mr. Mechler conducted an in-person examination of the system. Ms. French conducted an in-person examination of the system on January 8.

Examiner reports regarding the Verity Voting 2.5 system are attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

On March 4, 2021, pursuant to Section 122.0371 of the Texas Election Code, the Office held a public hearing, by telephone, for interested persons to express views for or against the certification of the Verity Voting 2.5 system.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF VERITY VOTING 2.5

The Verity Voting 2.5 system is an updated version of the Verity Voting 2.4 system, which the Office certified in June 2020 for use in Texas elections. The updated version includes enhancements to the existing hardware and software components of the Verity voting system.

Verity Voting 2.5 has been evaluated at an accredited independent voting system laboratory for conformance to the 2005 Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG). Verity Voting 2.5 was certified by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) on September 9, 2020.

The components of Verity Voting 2.5 are as follows:

Component	Version	Description
Verity Data	2.5.0	Election management software
Verity Build	2.5.0	Election management software
Verity Count	2.5.0	Election management software
Verity Central	2.5.1	Central scanner
Verity User Management	2.5.0	Election management software
Verity Election Management	2.5.0	Election management software
Verity Desktop	2.5.0	Election management software
Verity Scan	2.5.1	Precinct scanner
Verity Touch Writer with Access	2.5.1	Ballot marking device
Verity Controller	2.5.1	Voting machine ballot activation device
Verity Touch	2.5.1	Direct-recording electronic voting machine
Verity Touch with Access	2.5.1	Direct-recording electronic voting machine
Verity Touch Writer Duo	2.5.1	Ballot marking device

Verity Touch Writer Duo Standalone	2.5.1	Ballot marking device
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FINDINGS

The following are the findings, based on written evidence submitted by the Vendor in support of its application for certification, oral evidence presented at the examination, and the written reports of the voting system examiners (all of whom recommended certifying the Verity Voting 2.5 system for use in Texas elections).

The Verity Voting 2.5 system, including its hardware and software components, meets the standards for certification as prescribed by Section 122.001 of the Texas Election Code. Specifically, the Verity Voting 2.5 system and its components, among other things:

1. Preserve the secrecy of the ballot;
2. Are suitable for the purpose for which they are intended;
3. Operate safely, efficiently, and accurately and comply with the voting system standards adopted by the Election Assistance Commission;
4. Are safe from fraudulent or unauthorized manipulation;
5. Permit voting on all offices and measures to be voted on at the election;
6. Prevent counting votes on offices and measures on which the voter is not entitled to vote;
7. Prevent counting votes by the same voter for more than one candidate for the same office or, in elections in which a voter is entitled to vote for more than one candidate for the same office, prevent counting votes for more than the number of candidates for whom the voter is entitled to vote;
8. Prevent counting a vote on the same office or measure more than once;
9. Permit write-in voting; and
10. Are capable of providing records from which the operation of the voting system may be audited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, based upon the foregoing, I hereby certify Hart InterCivic’s Verity Voting 2.5 system for use in Texas elections.

Signed under my hand and seal of office, this 1st day of APRIL 2021.



 JOSE A. ESPARZA
 DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE