**SEQUOIA VOTING SYSTEMS**

SEQUOIA
*voting systems*

# CHOICES

Electronic Counting Solutions

Optical Scan Insight

Optical Scan 400c

SEQUOIA
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## At Sequoia Every Vote Counts

For most of the last century, the pencil and paper ballot have been democracy's key instrument. In the new millennium, the paper ballot lives on as local and state election officials consider alternative voting methods as a means to increase election turnout. In many parts of the country, municipalities continue to rely on the mechanical lever machine just as they have since the turn of the century. As the mix of election methods becomes more varied and increasingly complex, such as new provisional laws and instant runoff voting (IRV), jurisdictions need to work with a vendor that understands their challenges and can implement multiple technologies held together by a single piece of software.

In response to this need, Sequoia Voting Systems offers an extensive range of solutions for electronic counting and results tabulation, from portable, lightweight machines at polling stations, to larger high-speed machines for use in central count elections.

## Our Services Cover:

- **Design, manufacture and printing of secure ballots**

- **Production and distribution of mailers and ballots**

- **Opening, sorting and verification of ballots**

- **Electronic counting, results tabulation and results presentation**

- **Stacking ballots without shutting down the tabulation process**

# Electronic Counting Solutions

## The Benefits of Electronic Counting

The traditional hand counting of election ballots is slow, grueling work and prone to human error. Add to this increasingly complex ballots, tighter budgets, demands for faster election results and accelerating election cycles, and it is easy to understand that in the last few years many governments and election authorities have sought to automate the counting process using leading-edge electronic counting (e-counting) technology.

Sequoia Voting Systems offers e-counting solutions specifically designed for the differing needs of election officials. For instance, we provide a high-speed counting machine for use in central count election centers. We also offer a lightweight, portable model that is convenient for use in polling stations. Both these machines offer the key advantages of e-counting, namely speed, accuracy, ease of use, security and reliability.

## Speed

The Optical Scan 400C high-speed central count unit processes up to 400 ballots per minute, and its top-filled ballot hopper allows for continuous processing of ballots. The speed of the central count is further increased because the machines:

- Automatically count and tabulate multiple elections on a single ballot, which also reduces associated print and mailing costs

- Eliminate the need for pre-sorting of the ballots, by operating in mixed mode

- Accept ballots in any orientation

- Can be networked, where required, making it possible to accumulate totals automatically on a single counting unit

- Handle complex counting methods

- Identify incorrectly voted ballots for review by election officials

Our portable, lightweight solution for use in polling stations, the Optical Scan Insight, is effective for tabulating results continuously throughout the day, thereby replacing the traditional ballot box. The voter simply marks the ballot and inserts it in any orientation into the e-counting machine. At the close of polls, instead of manually counting ballots, election officials just remove the unit's results cartridge and read the encrypted results – a process that takes a matter of seconds.

## Accuracy

Manual counts are prone to human error. In contrast, Sequoia Voting Systems' electronic counting solutions are accurate, designed to specifications of less than one misread per 1 million voting positions. In addition, the machines are put through pre-election and post-election testing to ensure that they are functioning correctly throughout the election. As a result, election officials enjoy accurate tabulation, they can declare results more quickly after the polls close and they avoid the expense and inconvenience of recounts. The voters and the candidates can take comfort in the knowledge that the process is democratic, secure and accurate.

## Ease of Use

Sequoia Voting Systems' e-counting solutions are designed to make life easier for the election official. The election management systems that support our solutions control the entire process from ballot design through to results tabulation. They also allow local authorities to tailor the processing of ballots to their specific needs. The polling station based solution further streamlines the voting process by returning incorrectly voted ballots (e.g. over-voted) to the voter for review and correction prior to processing them. This reduces the number of invalid ballots and ensures an accurate capture of the voter's true intentions.

## Security

Trained election officials configure the election in a secure environment prior to the machines' use at the count center or polling station on election day. Safeguards ensure that only the appropriate election officials have access to the mechanics of the units, which are protected by means of physical locks and passwords. Votes are recorded onto proprietary results cartridges, which can only be read by the official results tabulation software. Because our products are not networked to the Internet or the outside world in any manner, they are not vulnerable to hackers or viruses. In both solutions, there is an internal processor that records the audit log of every action from initial election preparation until the last ballot is counted.

## Reliability

At Sequoia Voting Systems, we engineer our e-counting machines for superior reliability, longevity and security in order to give election officials the confidence they demand. We also manufacture all of our components in exacting ISO9000 manufacturing facilities. Rugged and robust, the machines have no consumable parts to interrupt their continuous operation. From the component level up, our solutions have worked dependably and consistently in thousands of elections. In addition, Sequoia Voting Systems offers both election day technical support and maintenance services to ensure the machines remain in prime condition election after election.
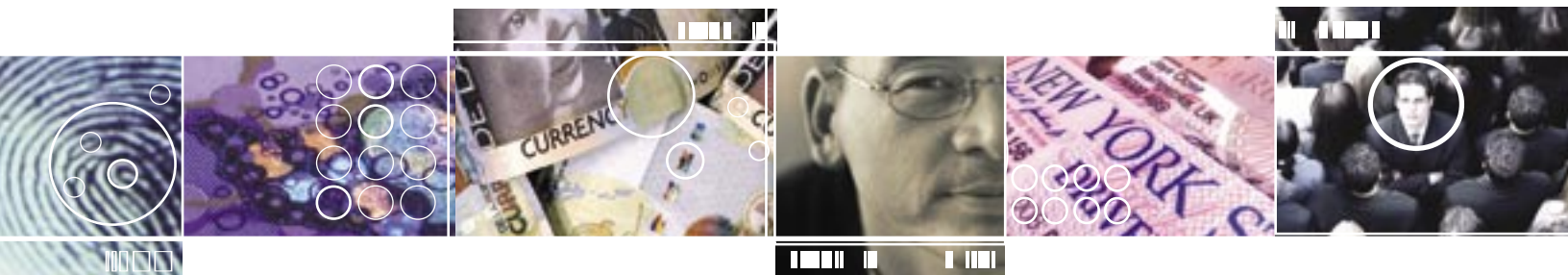
# From Start To Finish, It All Adds Up

Election officials are under extreme pressure to ensure the correct printing and distribution of ballots following the finalization of nominations through to the first issue of ballots. Sequoia Voting Systems has the experience and capability required to deliver the solution. Based on our familiarity with the printing of ballots for large-scale elections and the secure printing and mailing of cashier's checks and traveler's checks for the banking industry, we have proven experience of printing and distributing high volumes of secure documents within tight time frames. For jurisdictions of all sizes, we work with election officials through the design and proofing of the ballots to ensure that when the nominations are finalized, the printing and mailing systems are already in place and ready to go.

Moreover, Sequoia's e-counting solutions are part of a suite of integrated software and hardware products that all integrate and interconnect seamlessly. Sequoia's industry-leading election management software interfaces flawlessly with the company's e-counting solutions. It is also compatible with many legacy election systems, managing the voter registration and election process from a single database that eliminates the need for redundant data entry. In addition, the election management software programs and tabulates election results from Sequoia's line of ADA-compliant e-voting systems: the AVC Advantage and AVC Edge®.

From start to finish, it all adds up. Through our position as an election solutions provider committed to security, integrity and trust, Sequoia Voting Systems is uniquely positioned to partner with election officials, offering an end-to-end e-counting service that delivers successful, problem-free elections. Look to Sequoia Voting Systems for proven and reliable election solutions for the 21st century

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