



## Everything You Need to Know About New Hampshire Ballot Counting Devices

*New Hampshire is in the process of approving new machines to count election ballots for the first time in over 30 years. Read on to find out everything you need to know:*

### Voting in New Hampshire:

In New Hampshire, every voter casts a paper ballot. Towns can choose to count those ballots by hand, or they can count ballots via machine (called a ballot counting device).

New Hampshire towns that count their ballots by machine use [AccuVote machines](#), which were first introduced in 1989. Although these machines are accurate, they are no longer produced, run on outdated software, and often experience ballot jams. The company that services the AccuVote machine in NH has said [they cannot guarantee to support them beyond the 2024 election](#).

[Since 2019, New Hampshire officials have discussed the need for new ballot counting devices.](#)

Purchasing new devices is an urgent and crucial step to strengthen New Hampshire's election infrastructure, support voter confidence, and [ensure election officials have the resources they need to run elections smoothly](#).

### Approving a new machine:

The New Hampshire [Ballot Law Commission](#) is responsible for approving and certifying a new machine for towns to use to count ballots. The [Ballot Law Commission has set criteria](#) for all new machines, which include a paper ballot for every voter, no ability to connect to the internet, and independent verification of their accuracy.

So far, towns have tested four different devices by utilizing them for a local election. These new devices were [Voting Works](#), [Dominion ImageCast Precinct](#), [Clear Ballot](#), and [ES&S](#). After each of these tests, a subsequent audit was conducted to ensure that the machine worked and to report on the experience for both election officials and voters.

The Ballot Law Commission has shared a commitment to approve either one or two new devices before the end of 2023. In August of 2023, all of the companies whose machines have been tested will provide pricing and additional information to the state to help inform the Ballot Law Commission's decision.

### What can you do?

Currently, all New Hampshire towns must purchase their own devices if they wish to use them, without financial support from the state. You can **encourage your town officials** to set aside funding to purchase new machines as soon as they are approved so they can be used in the 2024 election, and **encourage your state legislators** to support legislation that would utilize existing Help America Vote Act funds to purchase new machines for towns.