



TRANSPARENT/SECURE

Hand Counting Enhances Transparency and Security

By Linda Rantz, Author, *Missouri Elections: Return to Hand Counting*

The Myth: Machines Are Safer Than Humans

Many claim voting machines are secure because they don't cheat, but machines are vulnerable. [Norway](#) and the [Netherlands](#) reverted to hand counting in 2017 due to hacking fears. [DEF CON](#)'s Voting Village (since 2017) exposes voting machine vulnerabilities annually, and the 2022 CISA advisory confirmed [nine critical flaws](#) in Dominion systems. Meanwhile, in 2023, the Missouri Director of Elections stated, "The elections world wanted... to take the humans out," revealing a push to reduce oversight, leaving clerks reliant on unelected vendors for security.

Finding: Hand Counting is More Transparent and Secure

Hand counting ensures security through human oversight:

- **Verifiable Forms:** Osage County's 2023 hand count used Ballots Tally Forms with details (batch numbers, judges' initials, ink colors) that prevent counterfeiting. Sharpie bleed-through adds another layer of authenticity.
- **Social Media Transparency:** Judges posted results online after polls closed, allowing public access before materials left polling places, akin to historical result postings.
- **Chain of Custody:** Multiple judges transport forms, making tampering nearly impossible.

Secure Elections with Hand Counting

Experts like Clay Parikh and Shawn Smith advocate hand counting to eliminate machine risks. The eManual provides tools to implement transparent, secure hand counting at the precinct level.

[Action for Elected Officials](#)

Hand counting ensures transparency and security machines can't match. Support policies to adopt hand counting, using the tools at [ReturntoHandCounting.com/Tools](#). For more, scan the QR code, visit the hand count [website](#), or email ContactUs@ReturntoHandCounting.com.

