

# TOP 10 LIST

## “ Reasons why OPTICAL SCAN voting is better than Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Voting Machines”

[www.VotePA.us](http://www.VotePA.us)

**NUMBER 10: Tried and True Technology** Optical Scan voting has a proven track record of use for over 20 years. In the 2008 presidential election, more than 50% of the US population voted on Optical Scan, including many whole states and large cities. Most DRE technology is only a little over 5 years old and we are still learning about how these all-electronic machines behave during real elections.

**NUMBER 9: Fewer Machines Needed** With an Optical Scan system, only two units are required per polling place (a scanner and a ballot marker.) This means less space is needed for machines both in storage and in the polling place, fewer machines have to be transported, and less chance for breakdowns.

**NUMBER 8: No Lines Waiting for Machines** With Optical Scan lines won't form with people waiting for the voting machines because many voters can mark their ballots at once. Each voter only needs to use the scanner for a few seconds. DREs require a separate machine to be tied up by each voter the entire time while voting.

**NUMBER 7: Fewer Broken Machines** Optical Scan systems are more rugged and break less often than DREs. And even if the machines do break down, voting can continue because voters fill out a paper ballot which can be scanned later if necessary. When DREs break, no voting can take place until the machine is repaired or replaced.

**NUMBER 6: Easier For Pollworkers** Optical Scan systems require less specialized training and less physical labor for poll workers and county election staff to set up and run elections. Counties can learn to manage their own Optical Scan elections without massive and costly ongoing assistance from voting machine companies.

**NUMBER 5: Disabled Can Vote Privately and Independently** Using Optical Scan, more people with disabilities are able to vote privately and independently as required by the Help America Vote Act. The ballot markers used for disability access with Optical Scan systems include audio ballots for the visually impaired, a binary switch (“sip and puff”) for people who do not have use of their hands, and excellent wheelchair access. Many DREs are sold as accessible but lack a lot of these features.

**NUMBER 4: Saves Money** Optical Scan systems cost less overall factoring in initial purchase and upkeep -- even including the cost of the paper ballots. And scanners last longer (10-20 years) than touchscreens (5 years?)

**NUMBER 3: Preserves Secret Ballot** Optical Scan voting preserves the secrecy of each vote on a separate full-size plain paper ballot that is deposited into a locked ballot box at random. This allows for efficient manual audits, and easy hand recounts if needed. DRE printouts on a roll can be matched to the order of voters signed in a pollbook to discover how someone voted. They also fade, tear, jam, tangle, and are hard to read.

**NUMBER 2: Provides Hard Copy Backup for Every Vote** Optical Scan ballots preserve a “hard copy” of all votes cast to save the election results in case the electronic counter fails. A DRE with no paper backup may have lost or corrupted memory, and votes can be lost forever.

**And the NUMBER 1 reason why Optical Scan is better than DRE: VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER BALLOTS**  
Every voter marks his or her own vote on paper and the paper shows the genuine will of each voter on a true, legal, voter-verified paper ballot!