



ELECTION SECURITY FAQs

At the **Hopkins County Elections Office**, we are committed to conducting elections that are **fair, accurate, transparent, and secure**. The security of our elections is a top priority, and we follow strict procedures established by federal and state law to protect every aspect of the election process.

Below are frequently asked questions regarding election security and the safeguards used to protect Hopkins County elections.

Election Security Overview

The security of voting systems is essential to maintaining public confidence in elections. Every state and local election jurisdiction uses established security procedures and tools to safeguard the voting process.

Common election security practices include:

- Secure storage of election equipment
- Tamper-evident security seals
- Chain-of-custody documentation
- Restricted access to election equipment and materials
- Security testing before elections
- Post-election audits and reviews
- Physical and cybersecurity protections

Election administration begins months before Election Day with planning, budgeting, equipment preparation, testing, training, and the implementation of security procedures designed to protect the integrity of the entire election process.

Hopkins County election officials follow procedures that secure every stage of an election, from voter registration and ballot preparation through voting, tabulation, canvassing, and certification of election results.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are election and voting systems secure?

Yes. The security of voting systems is essential to a trustworthy election. Hopkins County Elections uses certified voting equipment and follows strict procedures to protect the accuracy and security of elections.

Security measures include:

- Testing voting equipment before each election
- Using tamper-evident seals
- Maintaining secure storage of election equipment
- Limiting access to authorized personnel
- Maintaining chain-of-custody documentation
- Conducting required audits and reviews
- Following Texas Secretary of State election security requirements

Voting equipment must meet federal and state certification requirements before being used in elections.

For more information regarding voting system testing and certification, visit:

[U.S. Election Assistance Commission – Voting System Testing and Certification](#)



Q: Can voting equipment used to count ballots be trusted?

Yes. Hopkins County uses certified voting equipment and follows multiple security procedures to ensure accurate election results.

Election security procedures include:

- Testing equipment for accuracy before elections through Logic and Accuracy Testing
- Programming equipment according to Texas election laws and approved procedures
- Providing opportunities for public observation of testing when required
- Using trained election workers
- Verifying the number of voters matches the number of ballots cast
- Conducting required audits and post-election reviews
- Maintaining strict chain-of-custody procedures
- Securing equipment before, during, and after elections

These procedures provide multiple layers of protection to ensure votes are counted accurately.

Q: How do election workers ensure the security of elections?

Election workers play an important role in maintaining election security.

Election officials and election workers:

- Receive required training
- Follow procedures established by Texas law
- Take an oath to uphold election laws
- Document actions throughout the election process
- Work together to maintain transparency and accountability

Many election activities require more than one trained election official to be involved, creating checks and balances throughout the election process.



Election observers, including authorized poll watchers and inspectors, may also observe certain election activities as allowed by law.

Q: How do I know election security procedures are being followed?

Transparency is a key part of election security.

Hopkins County Elections maintains detailed records throughout every election, including:

- Equipment testing records
- Security seal records
- Chain-of-custody documentation
- Ballot transfer records
- Audit documentation
- Election records required by law

The chain of custody is the documented process that tracks election materials from one location or person to another. These procedures ensure accountability and protect election materials throughout the election process.

Election activities may also be observed by authorized representatives of candidates, political parties, and the public as permitted by Texas law.



Q: Why do election results change after Election Night? When are results final?

Election Night results are **unofficial results** and are not considered final until the election process has been completed and results are officially certified.

After Election Day:

- Additional eligible ballots may still need to be processed according to Texas law.
- Mail ballots, provisional ballots, and military and overseas ballots are counted according to state deadlines and procedures.
- Election officials conduct required reviews and canvassing procedures.
- Vote totals are reviewed to ensure accuracy and identify any discrepancies.

Once all required procedures are completed, election results are officially certified.

A recount, when legally requested and approved, is different from an audit. A recount involves counting ballots again under specific legal requirements, while audits are conducted to verify the accuracy and integrity of election processes.

Election Security Is Everyone's Responsibility

The Hopkins County Elections Office is committed to protecting the integrity of every election through:

- Secure procedures
- Trained election workers
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Compliance with Texas election laws



Our goal is to provide Hopkins County voters with confidence that every properly cast ballot is securely handled and accurately counted.

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