

# Rank Your Vote

## Ranked Ballots The City of London Experience

AMCTO 2019 Municipal Clerks Forum  
Mississauga, Ontario

April 12, 2019

**Cathy Saunders, City Clerk**  
**Sarah Corman, Manager of Licensing and Elections**

# How it Happened?

- The Province of Ontario amended the *Municipal Elections Act* to provide municipalities with the option of use Ranked Ballots for Municipal Elections
- The City Clerk did not recommend moving to a Ranked Ballot election as there was concern that the technology may not be ready.

# Public Consultation

- Open House(s) and Public Meeting

Other Consultation included:

- Presentation to our Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Various Councillor-led Open Houses, Community Meetings, Drop-in Information Centres, etc.
- Web presence

# Ranked Ballot By-law

- On May 1, 2017 City of London Council passed a by-law to move to Ranked Ballots after undertaking public consultation
- **Contents of by-law O.Reg 310/16**
  - (1) A by-law with respect to ranked ballot elections may specify the maximum number of rankings for each office on council.
  - (2) The by-law may specify a different number of rankings for each office.
  - Elector's right to vote
  - (1) An elector is entitled to rank as many candidates for an office as the by-law with respect to ranked ballot elections specifies or, if the by-law does not specify the number of rankings, three candidates.
- City of London by-law: An elector is entitled to rank a maximum of three (3) candidates for the office of Mayor and three (3) candidates for the office of Ward Councillor.

# How does Ranked Choice Voting work?

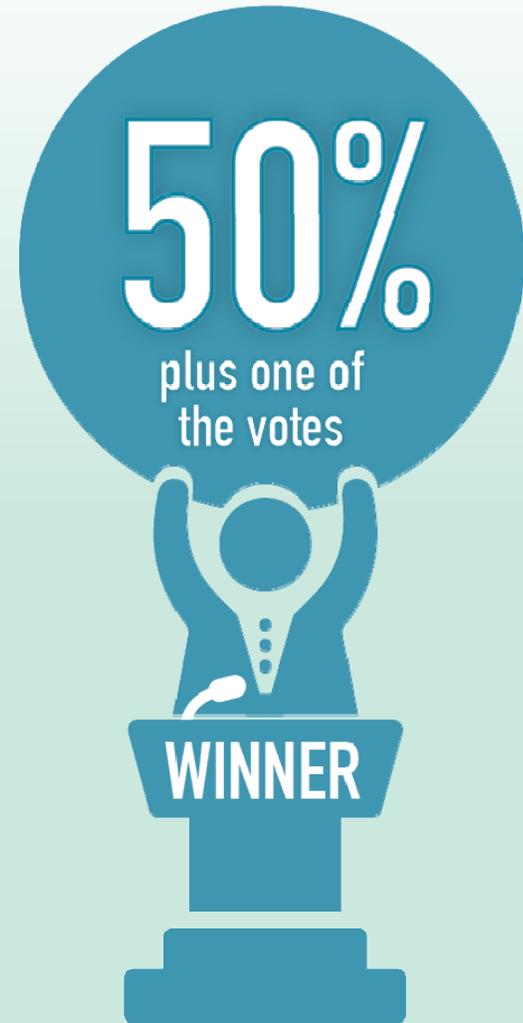
Voters rank the candidates in order of preference on the ballot –

- **1<sup>st</sup> choice,**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> choice, and**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> choice.**

<b>Candidates</b>	<b>1st Choice</b>	<b>2nd Choice</b>	<b>3rd Choice</b>
DUPONT, Jean	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
LIU, Zhao	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SMITH, Joe	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Determining a winner

- To win, it's not enough to get the most votes:
  - **The candidate who receives 50% plus one of the votes wins.**
- This is achieved through a process of elimination.



# Claims made in support of Ranked Choice Voting

- Reduces strategic voting
- Reduces negative campaigning
- The winning candidate may better reflect the desires of the majority of the voters
- Encourages more candidates to remain in the race until voting day without the threat of “vote splitting” between like-minded candidates

# Claims made against Ranked Choice Voting

- There is no proven and tested method of tabulating Ranked Choice ballots in an Ontario election
- Results could take longer to determine
- Developing new technology and creating new ballots will raise the cost of the election

# What were our challenges?

- Technology
- Retaining a vendor to provide tabulators with the appropriate algorithm to conduct a Ranked Ballot count in accordance with Ontario legislation
- Our initial Request for Proposal resulted in no submissions being received

# How did respond to the challenges? Technology

- After our RFP received no response, we reached out to vendors and eventually entered into a contract with Dominion Voting Systems
- They supplied vote tabulators, election management software, ballots, and supplies
- Additional Ranked Ballot Software Licence
- No results display software was available for Election Night

# What were our challenges?

- Software / Hardware Certification
- Lack of support from the Province with respect to certification of the algorithmic to conduct a ranked ballot vote
- Certification would have given the municipality some reassurance being the first to run a ranked ballot election within an Ontario legislative environment

# How did respond to the challenges? Certification

- We retained auditors who had audited ranked ballot elections in the United States.
- Their role was:
  - to review our processes and procedures
  - evaluate Dominion Voting Systems RCV tabulation in accordance with Ontario legislation
  - assist with both acceptance and logic and accuracy testing of tabulators and software
  - tabulation observation and post-election evaluation

# What were our challenges?

- How best to educate the community on a Ranked Ballot Election?
  - Voters
  - Candidates
  - Media
  - Community Organizations

# What were our challenges?

## Composite Ballot



**Ranked Choice Ballot**  
City of London  
2018 Municipal Demonstration

To vote, fill in the oval next to your choice(s), like this:  
Pour voter, remplissez l'ovale à côté de votre choix, comme ceci:

Ward A 080

English-Language  
Public School

Use only the marking pen provided.  
Utilisez uniquement le stylo fourni.

**Special Instructions for Ranked Choice Voting**

- Pick your first choice and completely fill in the oval next to that candidate under **1st Choice**.
- If you have a second choice candidate, completely fill in the oval next to that candidate under **2nd choice**.
- Your third choice candidate, if you have one, works the same way.

Fill in no more than 1 oval per candidate.

**Instructions spéciales pour le vote préférentiel**

- Choisissez votre premier choix et remplissez complètement dans l'ovale à côté de ce candidat au titre **1er choix**.
- Si vous avez un deuxième candidat de choix, remplissez complètement dans l'ovale à côté de ce candidat en vertu de **2e choix**.
- Votre troisième candidat de choix, si vous en avez un, fonctionne de la même façon.

Remplissez pas plus de 1 ovale par candidat.

Office of / Poste de  
**Mayor / Maire**

1 to be elected / 1 pour être élu

	1	2	3
	1st Choice 1er choix	2nd Choice 2e choix	3rd Choice 3e choix
Mac Apple	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cavendish Banana	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clementine Orange	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bartlett Pear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Office of / Poste de  
**Councillor Ward A / Conseiller(ère) Quartier A**

1 to be elected / 1 pour être élu

	1	2	3
	1st Choice 1er choix	2nd Choice 2e choix	3rd Choice 3e choix
Tweety Bird	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bugs Bunny	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Daffy Duck	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lois Griffin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
George Jetson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jessica Rabbit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fiona Shrek	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Office of / Poste de  
**English Public School Trustee**

Vote for 2 candidates  
Votez pour 2 candidat(e)s

Donald Duck

Fred Flintstone

Jane Jetson

Mickey Mouse

Penelope Pitstop

# How did we respond to the challenges? Education

- A dedicated Communications Specialist from our Communications Division was seconded to assist with communication and education beginning January 2017
- An enhanced advertisement and media campaign

# Education

- Together with City Clerk's staff, over 160 presentations and demonstrations in the community
- Radio advertisements

**RankedChoiceVoting**

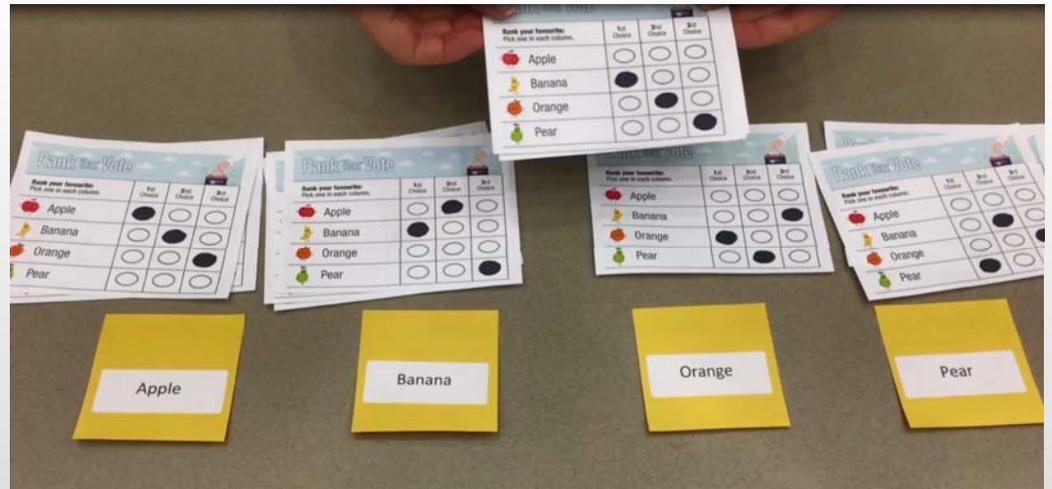
## Join us for a Demonstration

Come and experience Ranked Choice Voting in a friendly, fun atmosphere.

- See what the new ballot looks like
- Rank your choice in a demonstration election
- Take part in an interactive explanation of how the votes are counted

**VOTES**  
London

**Everyone Welcome!**

# What were our challenges?

- Training our Election Workers on Ranked Ballots
- In order to assist workers at the poll, our Election Day workers needed to be able to explain Ranked Ballots
- We hired additional workers, in anticipation that the elector may take longer to mark ballot, ensuring that the Polls were adequately staffed

# How did we respond to the challenges?

- Increased the number of workers at the Polls
- Poll Supervisors were for the greatest extent possible city staff
- Provided separate call centres on Election Day for workers and the public
- Placed election office staff at Advance Polls

# What we learned at the Advance Polls to assist on Voting Day?

- Advised all Poll Supervisors to clearly explain to the elector all offices on the ballot
- provide clear instructions on the school board contest on the ballot

## Do you have questions about Ranked Choice Voting?

Contact the  
Elections Office:

T. 519-661-4535

TTY 519-661-4889

elections@london.ca

1 1st Choice 1st choice	2 2nd Choice 2nd choice	3 3rd Choice 3rd choice
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NEW BALLOT



[london.ca/elections](https://london.ca/elections)

Mayor • City Council • School Board Trustees

# What were our challenges?

- Results Reporting
- Reporting results in a timely and meaningful way
- Detailed reporting for in depth analysis following the election

# How did we respond to the challenges? Results

- Results in timely and meaningful way
  - All memory cards from 212 tabulators were uploaded by 11:30 p.m.
  - Transcribed to our website manually
  - Completed first round results and school boards by 1:30 a.m.
  - The next day subsequent rounds completed by 2:00 p.m.
- Detailed Analysis (poll by poll results)
  - Very different from first past the post

# Surprises

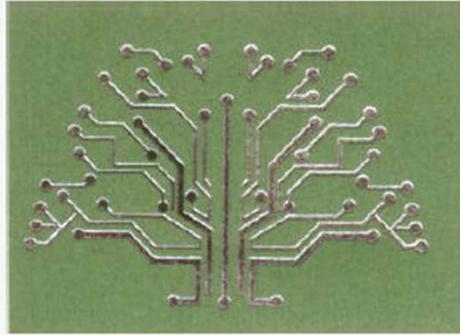
- We did not hear much in the way of negative comments regarding ranked ballots at the Polls
- Pleasantly surprised that most of the electors attending the Polls were aware that they had the option of ranking candidates for the Mayor and Councillors races
- Positive media reaction
- Approximately 2/3 of voters ranked their ballots

# Results

- Out of 12 races using the ranked ballot (3 wards had only 2 candidates) the winning candidate in 10 of the races achieved the threshold
- From the ranked ballot perspective the process ran smoothly
- Costs:
  - Initial Ranked Ballot Election Cost estimate: \$322,500
  - Actual Ranked Ballot Election costs: \$515,446

# 2022

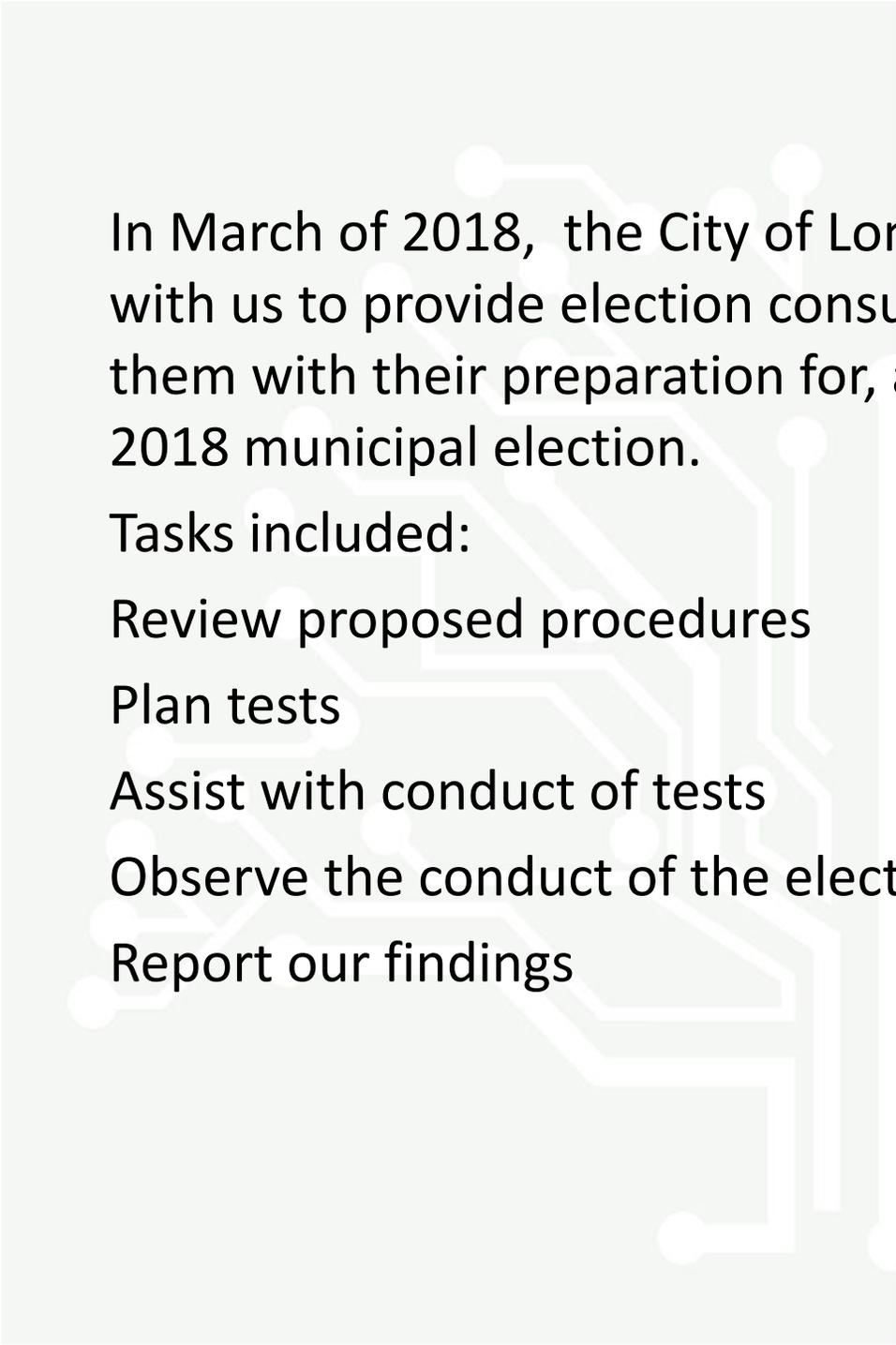
- Contract with vendor already in place for 2022
- All by-elections will use RCV
- If no other direction received, 2022 will be conducted using RCV



**FREEMAN, CRAFT, MCGREGOR GROUP**

**City of London  
October 22, 2018 Municipal Election**

**AMCTO 2019 Municipal Clerks Forum  
Mississauga, Ontario  
April 12, 2019**



In March of 2018, the City of London entered into a contract with us to provide election consultant and audit services to assist them with their preparation for, and conduct of, the October 22, 2018 municipal election.

Tasks included:

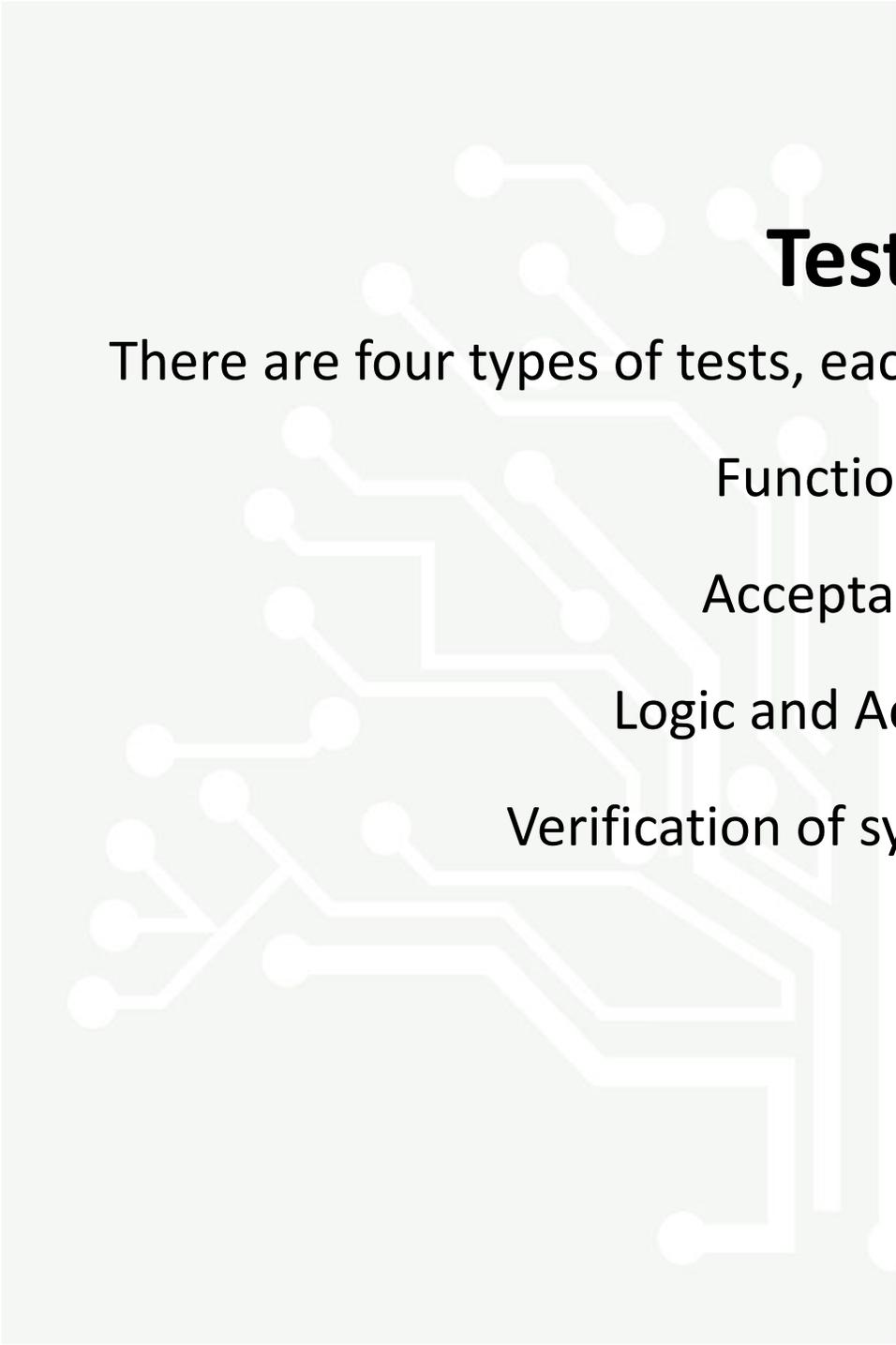
Review proposed procedures

Plan tests

Assist with conduct of tests

Observe the conduct of the election

Report our findings



# Testing

There are four types of tests, each with different goals:

Functional Test

Acceptance Test

Logic and Accuracy Test

Verification of system readiness.

# Functional Test

Verify that the equipment, firmware and software are identical to those in your purchase contract or lease.

Verify that system operation, feed rates and error handling is consistent with expectations.

Verify that the ranked ballot tabulation method tabulates according to the requirements in your controlling law and rules.

Verify that the system produces reports that meet your needs.

Verify that proposed procedures are consistent with the system's operation.

Create records of the test including forensic benchmarks that will be used verify whether system installations encountered in future tests are identical to the system installation tested during the mock election.

# Acceptance Test

Verify that **ALL** of the equipment, firmware and software installed is identical to that tested in Functional Testing.

These tests include:

Physically inspect each unit to ensure the machines have no damage.

Operate the units on both battery and AC power

Verify the firmware on each device.

Tabulate the test ballots.

Confirm that the system has the ability to read ballots fed to them in any orientation.

Produce all results reports and system logs that will be used in the election to show that the system met expectations.

Create detailed records of the test.

# Logic and Accuracy Test

Verify that **ALL** of the equipment, firmware and software installed is identical to that tested in Functional and Acceptance Tests.

Test objectives are to verify that **ALL** of the equipment is operating properly, programmed with the correct election definition and can process the ballots that will be used in the election.

Polling place equipment must be assigned to, and programmed for, use in specific polling places. The L&A test must demonstrate that each piece of polling place equipment is correctly programmed and can process the ballots that will be used in its assigned polling place.

Testing the election management and reporting systems must demonstrate that they can consolidate and process the data from all polling place devices accurately, perform the tabulation and correctly report results.

When these verifications are complete, the test data is zeroed on all system components. Polling place equipment should be sealed, packed for transport to polling places and stored in a secure, sealed room.

Create detailed records of the test.

# Verification of System Readiness.

Conducted the day before the election and on election day before advance ballots and mail in ballots are tabulated and before precinct results come in.

Verify that the election management and reporting system is identical to that tested in Functional, Acceptance and Logic and Accuracy Tests.

Verify that the election definition is identical to that tested in Logic and Accuracy Test.

Verify that test data has been removed from the system and that the system produces a zero report.

Verify that printers are properly connected to workstations and operational.

Conduct a final walk through of procedures with system operators.



# Contact Information

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