



COUNTY OF CHISAGO

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PRESS RELEASE

June 7, 2018

Chisago County Announces Use of New Election Equipment

Beginning in 2018 all Chisago County residents will be casting ballots into new ballot counters on Election Day.

The Hart Varity system will replace the voting system used by Chisago County since 2006. Voters will notice little difference in the voting experience as they will still vote using paper ballots and casting them into a ballot counter. With the new equipment there are a few minor differences that voters should be aware of. Instead of ovals there will be boxes next to the candidate names. Voters should always fully fill in the box. For best results, voters should use a blue or black ballpoint pen to ensure the vote is counted properly. We suggest not using other colors or felt tip pens.

On the Verity Scan ballot counter, green flashing lights will alert the voter that the ballot counter is ready to accept their ballot and direct them where to insert their ballot. Red lights indicate that the ballot counter is scanning the ballot. It takes approximately 5 seconds for the ballot counter to scan and accept the ballot. Voters should wait at the ballot counter until the screen indicates that their ballot has been accepted. If there is an error on the ballot, the ballot counter will alert the voter of the error and which affords the voter the opportunity to get a new ballot and correct the errors.

The Verity Touch Writer ballot marking devices will be available at all polling places to assist elder and disabled voters mark their ballots privately and independently. The ballot marking device provides headphones for voters with visual impairments, has a tactile input switch and touch screen for making vote selections, supports sip and puff devices and provides large print and contact options. After the ballot is marked the voter then inserts their ballot in to the ballot counter to be scanned and accepted.

The other change that voters will encounter on Election Day will be the use of electronic rosters. Poll Pads will replace paper rosters for voter sign-in and for Election Day Registrations. This will help to streamline the sign-in process and will ensure that voters are in the correct polling location.

The new voting system will be on public display at the Chisago County Government Center from July 2-August 13 and North Branch City Hall from July 5-27. For more information about the new voting system you may contact the Chisago County Auditor-Treasurer's Office by phone (651)213-8500 or email at elections@chisagocounty.us

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