



# Election Judge News

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**“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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**January 12, 2023**

Happy New Year! We hope this newsletter finds you well and rested from the election and holiday season!

In this issue, we start a new segment called “Ask the Election Experts.”

We receive many calls and emails asking about various topics related to elections, and it occurred to us that you get the same questions from voters at the polling places.

What we’ve observed is if someone doesn’t know the facts, they make their own up and post it on social media.

This results in misinformation and distrust in the election process.

So we thought we would address those questions in the newsletter to give you information that you can pass on to those who ask.

If you have a question you would like addressed in a future newsletter, send it to the editor, Barry Jackson.

But in the meantime, we’ll start off this issue with a question we’ve received often.

## Ask the Election Experts

### “Can the scanning units be hacked in order to change voting results?”

As you know, the scanning unit is where voted ballots are scanned to tabulate the results

from that ballot. This includes a paper ballot marked by hand and the Ballot Activation Card marked and printed off at the Ballot Marking Device.

What you may not know is there is an external storage device (or thumb drive) where the tabulated voting results are stored.

The chief judges bring those thumb drives back to the Election Center after the polls close to be uploaded to the State Board of Elections (SBE) through a secure virtual private network (VPN).

The thumb drive is located in the front access compartment to the left of the scanning tray and in front of the screen.

The rear access compartment is located behind the screen. Both access compartments are locked and protected by a tamper proof seal.

The chief judges have to get into the front access compartment to remove the thumb drive, but they never get into the rear access compartment.

Did you ever wonder what’s in the rear access compartment? Well, we’ll tell you!

The rear access compartment houses the battery that allows the scanning unit to continue to function without electrical power. It also has a data port and a slot for a wireless modem to be installed.

That is so that, if we wanted to, we could transmit election results straight from the scanning

unit, either via a wired connection or through a wireless network.

However, in Maryland, that is not how we transmit election results. So, the scanning units do not have a wireless modem installed, and the data port is empty, because there is no network adapter installed.

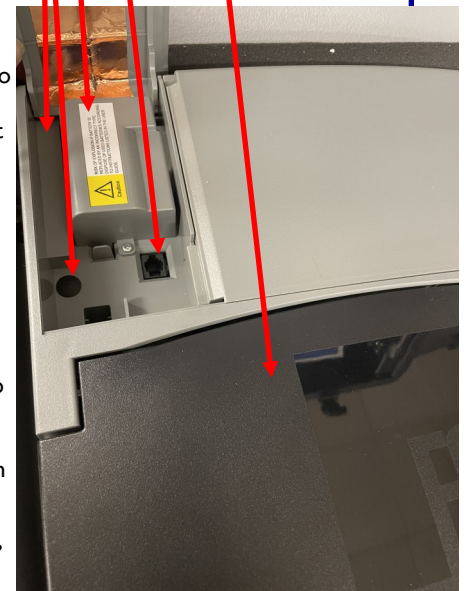
This is the long explanation for the answer that no, the scanning units cannot be hacked!

**Blocked slot for wireless network adapter and hole for wireless antenna.**

**Battery for continued use in the event of loss of electrical power.**

**Empty data port (no network adapter installed)**

**Back of Scanning Unit Screen (lowered into closed position)**



**DS200 Scanning Unit  
Rear Access Compartment**



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## Election Judge News

### Lost and Found

Still looking for the owners of the items below. Please take a look and let us know if any of these items look familiar to you.



If you recognize anything in the picture and want to claim it, please contact us at the information to the left, and we'll make sure you get it back.

### Manual Audit

We are required by the State to perform a manual audit of a sampling size of the General Election.

This includes ballots from one Scanning Unit during Day 1 of Early Voting; all ballots scanned at one of our Election Day polling places; a small amount of ballots from the Mail In Ballot canvass; and a small amount of ballots from the Provisional canvass.

SBE randomly selects the polling place to be audited for each county. In Washington County, it was a consolidated polling place, precincts 18-2 and 18-4 at Maranatha Brethren Church.

The manual audit consists of a hand recount of the selected ballots, done by bipartisan teams. The purpose of the audit is to verify the accuracy of the Scanning Units in tabulating the paper ballots.

The manual audit must be conducted within 120 days of the General Election, so we will perform the audit on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

In case of inclement weather, the makeup date will be Thursday, February 9, 2023.

### Training Center

Excerpts from Chapter 2—Security Rules and Awareness from the Election Judge Training Manual.

### 2.2 Equipment and Facility Security

- Always follow security rules related to the equipment and facility. These rules include:
- Maintain physical security control over the voting equipment and electronic pollbooks. Follow procedures for securing the polling place.
- Protect and maintain control of the memory sticks, compact flash cards and ballots during the election process at all times.
- Make sure that the access compartments on the scanning units are secured before opening the polls and throughout the day.
- Look for any potential tampering or defacement of the voting equipment or electronic pollbooks. Report any problems to the chief judges right away. The chief judges must report problems to the Washington County Board of Elections.
- Make sure that all voting equipment and electronic pollbooks are secured at the end of election night.

### January Facts

January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and is also the first of seven months to have a length of 31 days.

January is historically the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the warmest month

in the Southern Hemisphere. January's flower is the Carnation, and its birthstone is the Garnet.

The two zodiac signs for January are Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) and Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18).

Some famous January birthdays are: Paul Revere and Betsy Ross (both born on New Year's Day!), Isaac Newton, Joan of Arc, Millard Filmore, Elvis Presley, Richard Nixon, Barry Jackson, Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin Franklin, Edgar Allen Poe, John Hancock, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, William McKinley, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Jackie Robinson. Happy Birthday to all of our election judges celebrating in January!

### A Little Election Humor

Question: Where do poll workers get trained?  
Answer: Electoral College! Ba-dump, bump!

### Trivia Question

The Maryland General Assembly convened its 445th General Session on Wednesday, January 11th, which seems like a lot for a state that's only 246 years old. What year did the General Assembly hold its first General Session?

Answer below:

