

Remote voting is becoming an increasingly used method to cast a ballot. Instead of voting in precincts there has been a rise in what is known as the 'vote center'. Citing 'convenience', a voter is allowed to cast a ballot anywhere in the county. They no longer need to appear at their local precinct. Over ten years ago Cleta Mitchell, founder of the Election Integrity Network, discovered an alarming move by left wing organizations to reduce in person, in precinct voting any way that they could. They knew, as Cleta says, that controlling the process could impact outcomes.

"Convenience" marketed Vote Centers, but elections are not only about access but, accuracy and security. Are vote centers more convenient and how do they impact accuracy and security? It's time to take a closer look at the vulnerabilities of this form of 'remote' voting. If 'convenience' overrides the standard of accuracy and security, many states will turn to the ultimate vulnerability: internet voting. This could potentially allow more ballot harvesting and ineligible ballots to be cast and counted. Policies in just a few states could affect the outcome for the entire country. (TN passed Public Chapter 371 last year that prohibited ballot tabulation if returned by the internet.)





Vote Centers: Convenience or too many Trade-Offs?

- **Ballot Generation:**
 - On-demand printing introduces risk of misconfiguration or software errors.
 - Ballot Marking devices use barcodes that are not voter verifiable.
 - DRE (Direct Recording Electronic): There is no voter verifiable access to ensure that the vote tabulated is 'as seen' on the screen
 - Requires accurate voter data and functioning tech at every location. \$\$
- **Audit Challenges:**
 - Ballots must be sorted post-election by precinct for meaningful audits.
 - Increases complexity and potential for error.
- **Cybersecurity Risks:**
 - Networked check-in systems are vulnerable to hacking and data breaches.
 - Centralized systems create single points of failure.





Tennessee Example 2024 (source: Election Assistance Commission)

- **Early Voting Locations:**
 - Only 228 vote centers for early voting across the state.
 - Compared to 1,996 precincts, this reduces geographic access.
 - Subjective placement of vote centers could impact the outcome of an election.
- **Myth of Convenience:**
 - Fewer locations mean longer travel times and potential crowding.
 - Voters may be discouraged from participating

Precinct-Based Voting

-  **Hand-marked ballots:** Voters can directly verify their choices.
-  **No barcodes or machine interpretation:** What you see is what gets counted.
-  Easier audits and recounts.
-  Objective placement: 1,996 precincts = better access:

Vote Centers

-  **Machine-generated ballots:** May include barcodes or QR codes not readable by voters.
-  **DRE systems (Direct Recording Electronic):** Often lack a voter-verifiable paper trail. Voter cannot 'see' what the machine counted.
-  Complex audits due to ballot sorting, electronic tabulators, DRE tapes.
-  Only 228 early voting polling locations in 2024 (Source: Election Assistance Commission report)