

**CHAPTER 8230**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**ELECTION JUDGES AND COUNTING CENTERS**

8230 4350 OPTICAL SCAN VOTING SYSTEMS

**8230.4350 OPTICAL SCAN VOTING SYSTEMS***[For text of subps 1 to 4, see M.R. 1987]*

**Subp. 5. Precinct counting equipment.** Precinct counting systems that read ballots as they are inserted into the ballot box may not be used for a central counting center, except that one ballot counter may be supplied for up to ten precincts with a combined total of fewer than 1,500 registered voters. Separate prom packs must be used for each of the precincts. Except as provided in this subpart, at least one ballot counter must be supplied to each precinct.

If the ballot counter will be used to count ballots of only one precinct, machine readable ballot configuration identification may be printed on each ballot card in place of the precinct name and identification required by subpart 2. A ballot configuration means a unique ballot format prepared for use in one or more precincts in which all ballot information, including offices and questions to be voted on, candidate names, and rotation sequence, is identical.

If the locked ballot box cannot be detached from the ballot counter, the number of ballot counters supplied to the precinct must be sufficient so that the number of ballots expected to be counted on any counter will be at least ten percent less than the maximum capacity of the ballot box. The maximum capacity must be determined on the basis of the size of the ballot to be voted at the election.

The auditor or clerk must test each prom pack individually and, after testing, seal it with a numbered seal. Each ballot counter must be tested to ensure that the components are operating properly. The election judges shall verify that the ballot counter at the precinct has the correct seal number and certify the seal number on the summary statement.

Before opening the polls, the election judges shall initialize the ballot counter in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The judges shall verify that the initial counts for the voting positions are zero, that the public counter is set at zero, and that the ballot positions and other ballot information for each candidate and proposal printed on the initial tape agree with those on the ballot cards.

If the ballot counter is programmed to return to the voter a ballot having defects, the rejected ballot must be treated as a spoiled ballot and a new ballot must be issued to the voter after the spoiled ballot has been deposited in the spoiled ballot container. The election judges shall read the error message to the voter and may explain the conditions that cause a ballot to be rejected, but the judges shall not examine the voted ballot unless the voter requests assistance as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204C.15.

If the ballot counter is programmed to return to the voter a ballot having defects, no means of overriding the rejection may be used that do not meet the conditions in items A to C.

A. The override must be protected against being inadvertently activated.

B. The override must not allow more than one ballot to be processed each time it is operated.

C. A message, to be initialed by the election judges who activated the override, must be printed on the results tape each time the override is operated.

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As soon as voting has ended, the election judges shall process any ballots in the auxiliary ballot box and then secure the ballot counter against receiving any more ballots. The election judges shall produce a printed record of results and sign the certificate that is part of the printed record.

At a general election, after the ballot counter has been secured against receiving additional ballots, the election judges shall open the write in compartment and count and record on the summary statement the valid write in votes.

One unbroken tape that includes the initial zero report at the opening of the polls, messages printed during the hours of voting, and the first printout of results must be certified to the county canvassing board. In the event of equipment failure, the election judges and any technicians working on the equipment shall make entries on the tape of initials and time of occurrence to indicate the points at which the equipment failed and was returned to service. If the tape has been broken, the election judges shall seal the parts together and sign over the seal so that it cannot be broken without disturbing the continuity of the signatures. Additional copies of the record of results must be certified as required by the election jurisdiction.

*[For text of subps 6 and 7, see M.R. 1987]*

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 203B.09; 206.57*

**History:** *13 SR 259*