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County Clerk**



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**Voting System Security Talking Points  
October 4, 2016**

- In congressional testimony, the FBI Director and the head of Cybersecurity for the Department of Homeland Security this week expressed confidence in the security of our nation's voting systems and their resilience against attacks.
- Recent attempts to attack state voter registration systems are different from any potential hack of voting terminals or the election management systems.
- Ensuring that voting terminals and election management systems are never connected to the internet is a fundamental safeguard in use throughout the U.S. that prevents any attack from a remote location. For that reason, an attempted hack of voting terminals would require a person to individually access and modify each and every terminal, one-by-one, without being caught. Tampering with a voting terminal used in a federal election is a federal crime and is a felony under U.S. law.
- The diversity of voting systems across some 10,000 U.S. jurisdictions, procedural safeguards and physical security protocols, and the fact that these systems cannot be reached via the internet, all serve to benefit the safeguarding of the U.S. election system.
- Robust procedural security, including public and transparent Logic and Accuracy testing, as well as strong chain-of-custody and physical security protocols, are complementary elements that work together to protect the integrity of our voting systems. These elements also include the secure design of hardware and election management software, data encryption, a chain of custody for ballots, memory cards and tabulation devices, comprehensive and transparent pre-election testing of ballots and tabulation equipment, and appropriate legal standards for auditing tabulated results.
- A purported hack of any voting terminal that is not conducted in a real-world election environment – with its physical security, pre-election testing, and audit processes in place, is simply not a credible test of the system.

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