



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Testimony Focusing on: Missoula County Elections Office, Ballot Tabulators

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on tabulation practices and proposed equipment purchases in Missoula County. As members of the Missoula County Election Advisory Committee, we take seriously our role as a public liaison between County residents and elected officials, and as advocates for fair, robust, trustworthy, and inclusive elections. Advisory committees like ours are unique in the world of elections administration – a demonstration of the County’s commitment to civic participation and democratic equity. It is in our advisory capacity, therefore, that we offer advice and the following recommendations:

1. It is our recommendation that **Missoula County transition from precinct-based ballot tabulation to a central count process**
2. The budget that could be applied to the purchase of new DS200 precinct level tabulators should instead be directed towards **election outreach and inclusion practices** as well as other election office priorities.