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Using the electronic and absentee voting system for the midterm elections has left Gwinnett county voters frustrated with the lack of reliability of the electronic voting system that has made them want to return to paper ballots.

The voting process has drastically changed in the Gwinnett county, Georgia, where traditional paper ballots are being replaced by electronic votes that have caused major delays in midterm elections due to technical issues. It is not wise to allow computers to accept votes that can be electronically altered and rejected. This isn’t the first time that electronic ballots have caused issues. The presidential election between Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton in 2016 came from electronic ballots that generated votes were casted for citizens who were not physically present and even changed some of their votes. The electronic voting system is not reliable or acceptable. The system can be altered and hacked to ensure that the favored candidate between democrats and republicans is chosen.

Participants in the city of Norcross in Gwinnett county, have argued that it is easier to vote using electronic ballots ahead of time to avoid long lines and extended waiting time. Gwinnett county agreed to it in hope that it would lessen the wait time to complete the person’s ballot and help speed up the process. The volunteers took the time to setup offices in gyms and other locations to ensure that the large mass of early voters that came into their allotted facilities were easily accommodated. To their dismay the electronic voting machines rejected their voters' card. The voting centers were ordered by a judge to stay open until six or later in the evening to accommodate the voters because of errors (Barker, John & Patch Staff).

 Older Democratic and Republican supporters between the age of forty five to sixty, in the inner cities of Norcross, Lawrenceville, and Snellville have expressed dismay in the way that the voting system has changed. While both groups agree that the electronic voting extends time to help those who are running late because it gives an extra vote to their political candidate, it has also created longer wait times and has even rejected the ballots received through mail. ‘Gwinnett County rejected 390 absentee ballots through Sunday, which represents 8.5 percent of all mailed ballots received due to insufficient oaths’ (Estep & Niesse). And what is an insufficient oath? An error made by the registered voter, like a missing or incorrect birthdate. Electronic voting that caused a massive delay in the mid-term election.

The same rejected voters care about who governs and agrees with their ideas. They have at one point in their life been civil servants, community leaders, and volunteers who assisted in changing rules to better the lifestyles of people in their community (Gwinnett County). These people want to see better service, but how can they make sure that they get those services if the polling site won’t let them in? Minorities were turned away due to registration issues and confusion (Estep & Niesse). Had the rejected ballot been accepted the election may have favored a female governor over the male governor. To add salt to the wound they did not give the people who had their ballots rejected, were not notified or given the opportunity to vote again. They instead offered electronic voting cards to go into an electronic express voting machine that malfunctioned immediately, and some machines didn’t even have power cords (Snellville Patch). To be at the mercy of unsupervised and unassisted machines that malfunction regularly is just wrong.

The paper ballot system leaves a paper trail that can be traced and recorded properly. The hand marked and counted papers are invulnerable to hacking. There’s no need to for backup ballots to perform audits, and it’s almost as cheap as paper. Even with the possibility of small errors, one can go back and physically recount the papers. For accuracy require that voting machines produce backup ballots to allow voters to double-check that the machines recorded their votes correctly, and they can perform systematic post election audits. It requires voting machines to produce backup ballots. Allowing them to make sure that the machines have recorded their votes correctly, and to conduct systematic postelection audits (Iovenko). States that use post election audits to verify and identify voter paper records can identify errors made by the machine that has often changed the outcome of elections. Even if the paper ballot process is long and demanding, the voter has the right to know that their decisions have been accounted for.

Waiting in long lines for hours at time isn’t so bad when the paper ballot process is beneficial for the community and the nominees receive accurate results. The idea that the electronic votes in 2016 were hacked by the Russian intelligence leaves citizens questioning their reliability across the world. The election was later recounted to find that the victor had affiliations with the Russians and used sordid ways to illegally get into the presidential position. It is unfair to Americans who feel as if the electoral system has failed their communities and country. Even the citizens of Gwinnett county are surely unsure of the results of the mid term elections and that leaves the question of whether paper voting should replace electronic voting. That way at least the paper voting can be accounted for and make a full comeback in the year of 2019.

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