

New Voting Machines On The Way For 2022 Election In Hunterdon County

Hunterdon County voters will be using new Elections Systems and Software (ESS) ballot verification voting machines during the 2022 elections, following the County Board of Commissioners' approval of the purchase of 136 new machines at a cost of \$1,303,900, at the December 7th Board meeting.

Board of Commissioners Deputy Director John E. Lanza, the Board's liaison with the County Clerk's Office and Board of Elections, stated, "After the funding was adopted at the last meeting, the county is now able to purchase a new fleet of ESS voting machines to replace the Dominion machines that are at the end of their useful life.

The timing now allows for the equipment to be ready, and the poll workers trained for the primary election next June."

Lanza noted, "The test period for these new machines was their use in the early voting that took place in the county during the final days in October, in the run up to the November 2nd election."

"I am pleased to see the Commissioners move forward with the purchase of the new voting equipment. I personally thank Commissioner Lanza for his efforts in shepherding this purchase through the budget process. Using the same voting equipment on Election Day that is used for Early Voting will streamline the reporting process in 2022" said County Clerk Mary Melfi.

Beth Thompson, the Hunterdon County Board of Elections Administrator, added "Voters that took the opportunity to try the new equipment during Early Voting were pleased with its ease of use, the ability to see their ballot before it was cast, thereby restoring their confidence in the process by knowing there was a Voter verified paper trail for every ballot cast."

Lanza also reported to the Commissioners, "The County's Board of Elections, comprised of two Democratic and two Republican members, appointed by the Governor, have also unanimously endorsed the purchase of the ESS machines."