

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_76
Tab Number: 91
Document Title: Tennessee goes "Votomatic"
Document Date: 1974
Document Country: United States --
Tennessee
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02504



* 9 B F 2 9 A 4 E - E E 4 E - 4 6 4 E - 8 3 7 0 - 3 4 2 7 C F F B 5 7 5 E *

TENNESSEE

GOES

“VOTOMATIC”

PREPARED BY



COMPUTER ELECTION SYSTEMS INC.



COMPUTER ELECTION SYSTEMS 1001 EASTSHORE HIGHWAY, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94710 (415) 527-5150

TO: Tennessee County Election Commissioners
and Registrars-at-Large

SUBJECT: The Tennessee "Votomatic" Election Report

Since the CES Votomatic Voting System was approved for use in Tennessee in April, 1974, nine counties have adopted and used it. Through April, 1975, it has been used in 25 very successful elections.

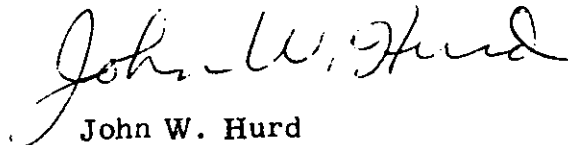
The Votomatic was enthusiastically received by voters and election officials, because of its simplicity, accuracy and integrity. These facts were borne out by written surveys, interviews and an official recount, in which the count was confirmed to be 100% correct.

In response to many requests, this report was prepared for your information. It covers the statistics of the November elections, news articles from the elections and the recount, and an extremely important report from the Registrar-at-Large of Hamilton County.

We are at your disposal to demonstrate, in your office, the CES voting system, and to explain its many advantages and benefits.

Sincerely yours,

COMPUTER ELECTION SYSTEMS



John W. Hurd

JWH:s

THE COMPARISON

GENERAL ELECTION
November 5, 1974

<u>County</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Computer Used</u>	<u>+ Completion Time</u>
Bledsoe	5,500	CES Ballot-Tab	8:15 P.M.
Crockett	7,000	IBM 360/30	8:20 P.M.
Fayette	10,200	CES Ballot-Tab	8:54 P.M.
Hamilton	115,400	IBM 370/145	10:55 P.M.
Haywood	9,600	NCR Century 101	8:23 P.M.
Lauderdale	12,000	CES Ballot-Tab	8:10 P.M.
Tipton	13,000	CES Ballot-Tab	++ 9:00 P.M.
Weakley	14,000	CES Ballot-Tab	8:15 P.M.
White	7,200	CES Ballot-Tab	9:15 P.M.

+ Since all counties in the state closed the polls at the same time (7:00 P.M. CST, 8:00 P.M. EST), completion times are shown as CST, for uniformity.

++ Tipton County was completed except for one precinct, which is 100 miles away by car.

THE SYSTEM

HOW THE VOTOMATIC SYSTEM WORKS

IN THE POLLING PLACE

As the voter enters the polling place, he is given a demonstration on the Votomatic Vote Recorder. This demonstration will instruct him in the operation of the unit in order that he may fully understand the Recorder when in the voting booth. Following the demonstration, the voter fills out his application for ballot, is verified as a voter in that precinct, signs the poll list, and is issued a punch card ballot and directed to a voting booth.

When in the booth he inserts his ballot card into the Votomatic Vote Recorder and commences voting. This is done by depressing the stylus in a hole opposite the name of his candidate. Upon completion of voting, he removes his ballot card from the Recorder and leaves the voting booth.

The ballot box clerk will instruct the voter to detach the stub from the ballot card, and deposit his own ballot card in the ballot box. This procedure continues for each voter throughout the day.

At the end of the day when voting is completed and the polls are closed, the ballot box, which is locked and sealed, is delivered by two precinct officials to the Counting Center.

COUNTING CENTER

The Counting Center is divided into four major functions:

Receiving, Inspecting, Processing, and Storage.

As ballots arrive from the polling places they are checked in at the Receiving Station. The precinct officials are given a receipt. The time of arrival and the condition of the sealed ballot box are noted by the Receiving Board, and the seal is broken.

The ballot box is then sent to the Inspection Station. The Inspecting Team removes the ballots, arranges them in a uniform stack, and places them in a metal transport case. If a damaged ballot is found, a certified duplicate copy is made. Both the damaged original and duplicate are given an identification number so that they may be matched again if necessary. When the Inspection Team has completed the precinct, the ballots are sent to the Processing Team.

The Processing Team is responsible for the computer operation. They process the ballots through the computer. They produce periodic reports throughout the evening. They also have the ability to produce individual precinct results upon completion of the count. After the ballots have been processed they are sent to storage.

The Storage Team places the ballots in a secure storage area where they will remain for the period prescribed by law. The ballots are available in storage should they ever be required for a recount.

ACCURACY CHECKS

There are many checks made upon the accuracy of the entire election. The first begins in the polling place at the end of the day.

The precinct officials determine the number of ballots issued during the day by examining the serially numbered stubs remaining. This ballot count is then reconciled with the number of voters having signed the poll list. These counts will later be matched with the actual

number of ballots counted by the computer for that precinct.

Prior to election day, a test is run on the computer with a simulated group of ballots. The results of these simulated ballots have been predetermined and are a known fact before the test. The computer-produced results are compared to the known results. Comparison of the two is assurance that the computer is operating properly. The simulated ballots and the computer program are placed in security following this test.

On election day, the simulated ballots and the computer program are removed from security. A similar test is then run with a second set of simulated ballots to assure that both the computer and program are still operating properly. Completing the test, the computer is ready to process ballots. Following the processing of all ballots, a third test is made using the same program and one of the simulated groups of ballots.

A COMPARISON
OF
VOTING SYSTEMS

By: Tom Moore, Jr.
Registrar-at-Large
Hamilton County, Tenn.

Adopting a new voting system raises at least four important questions at the polls:

- A. Will voter turnout be affected?
- B. How will the voters accept the system?
- C. How will poll workers accept the system?
- D. How many valid votes will be cast and counted, compared to the previous system?

These questions were answered dramatically in the Hamilton County, Tennessee general election August 1, 1974. In that election the old system, lever-type voting machines, were used in 55 precincts, involving 77,402 registered voters. In the other 23 precincts, involving 37,792 registered voters, the CES Votomatic system of punch card voting was introduced. In those 23 precincts the voters and precinct workers were asked to complete survey questionnaires, indicating their preference between the two methods of voting. (Hamilton County had used the lever machines for several years.)

The following statistics give answers to the above questions:

- A. Voter Turnout -- In the 55 precincts using the old method of voting by lever machines, 46.8% of the registered voters voted. In the CES Votomatic precincts, the turnout was 49.1%.
- B. Voter Acceptance -- The voter survey showed that 87.3% of the voters preferred the CES Votomatic system to the one previously used.
- C. Poll Workers Acceptance -- The poll workers surveyed preferred the CES Votomatic by 90.7%.
- D. Valid Votes Cast -- The most valid test of any voting system is the percentage of votes cast and counted, not only for the leading offices, but also for other offices and propositions on the ballot. The most effective means of making such a test is to compare two systems in the same election in the same county, as Hamilton County did.

In the voting machine precincts, the average voter cast votes in 34.5% of the offices and propositions, while in the Votomatic precincts, the figure was 51.9%. In other words, the Votomatic system recorded 50.4% more votes than the old system.

The results of this analysis offer conclusive proof of the superior effectiveness of the CES Votomatic voting system.

STATISTICS OF THE VOTE CAST AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VOTES CAST
FOR EACH OFFICE AND PROPOSITION
GENERAL ELECTION, AUGUST 1, 1974

HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

	<u>Precincts Using CES Votomatic</u>		<u>Precincts Using Shoup Machines</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Total Votes	18,539	100.00	36,211	100.00	
Supreme Court Judge - Eastern	13,390	72.2	17,862	49.3	22.9
Supreme Court Judge - Western	8,263	44.6	10,168	28.1	16.5
Supreme Court Judge - Middle	10,995	59.3	15,830	43.7	15.6
Supreme Court Judge At Large (2)	23,528	63.5	36,428	50.3	13.2
Judges' Retention Houston M. Goddard	7,972	43.0	8,536	23.6	19.4
James W. Parrott	7,566	40.8	8,108	22.4	18.4
Clifford E. Sanders	7,646	41.2	8,177	22.6	18.6
Frank F. Drowota	7,120	38.4	7,859	21.7	16.7
Thomas A. Shriver	7,350	39.6	7,986	22.1	17.5
Henry F. Todd	7,242	39.1	7,811	21.6	17.5
C. S. Carney	7,085	38.2	7,827	21.6	16.6
Kirby Matherne	7,074	38.2	7,716	21.3	16.9
Charles E. Nearn	7,158	38.6	7,782	21.5	17.1
Charles H. O'Brien	7,518	40.6	8,720	24.1	16.5
W. Wayne Oliver	7,174	38.7	7,450	20.6	18.1
Charles Galbreath	7,401	39.9	7,543	20.8	19.1
William S. Russell	7,183	38.7	7,272	20.1	18.6

	<u>Precincts Using CES Votomatic</u>		<u>Precincts Using Shoup Machines</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Judges' Retention (Continued)					
Robert K. Dwyer	6,989	37.7	7,148	19.7	18.0
Mark A. Walker	7,008	37.8	7,255	20.0	17.8
John A. Mitchell	7,477	40.3	7,325	20.2	20.1
Dist. Atty. Gen.	17,030	91.9	29,869	82.5	9.4
County Judge	17,025	91.8	27,641	76.3	15.5
County Council(4)	56,507	76.2	90,099	62.2	14.0
Trustee	15,195	82.0	24,730	68.3	13.7
General Sessions Judge (3)	38,956	70.0	59,443	54.7	15.3
Sheriff	17,637	95.1	31,904	88.1	7.0
Circuit Judge Div. 1	9,650	52.1	10,843	29.9	22.2
Circuit Judge Div. 2	7,958	42.9	9,173	25.3	17.6
Circuit Judge Div. 3	7,497	40.4	8,681	24.0	16.4
Circuit Judge Div. 4	8,286	44.7	9,322	25.7	19.0
Chancellor Part 1	9,015	48.6	10,246	28.3	20.3
Chancellor Part 2	7,950	42.9	9,113	25.2	17.7
Criminal Court Judge Div. 1	9,301	50.2	10,048	27.7	22.5
Criminal Court Judge Div. 2	8,467	45.7	9,186	25.4	20.3
Criminal Court Judge Div. 3	9,681	52.2	9,879	27.3	24.9
Juvenile Judge	10,355	55.9	10,655	29.4	26.5
Circuit Clerk	9,650	52.1	11,099	30.7	21.4

	<u>Precincts Using CES Votomatic</u>		<u>Precincts Using Shoup Machines</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Criminal Court Clerk	8,451	45.6	9,199	25.4	20.2
County Clerk	10,748	58.0	12,036	33.2	24.8
Register	10,679	57.6	11,490	31.7	25.9
House Bill 179	<u>11,609</u>	<u>62.6</u>	<u>20,342</u>	<u>56.2</u>	<u>6.4</u>
Average	9,626	51.9	12,491	34.5	17.4
Average for Contested Races	14,176	76.4	22,873	63.2	13.2
Average for Un- contested Races	8,159	44.0	9,142	25.2	18.8

STATISTICS OF THE VOTE CAST AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VOTES CAST FOR EACH OFFICE AND PROPOSITION, GENERAL ELECTION, AUGUST 1, 1974

HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Following are results from 12 selected precincts, 5 of which used the CES Votomatic, the other 7 using the Shoup voting machines. These precincts were selected for this comparison by the County Judge, based on their lower mean level of education.

	<u>Precincts Using CES Votomatic</u>		<u>Precincts Using Shoup Machines</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Total Votes	3,446	100.0	4,350	100.0	
Supreme Court Judge - Eastern	2,222	64.5	1,862	42.8	21.7
Supreme Court Judge - Western	1,350	39.2	964	22.2	17.0
Supreme Court Judge - Middle	1,774	51.5	1,678	38.6	12.9
Supreme Court Judge at Large (2)	1,891	54.9	1,853	42.6	12.3
Judges' Retention:					
Houston M. Goddard	1,206	35.0	777	17.9	17.1
James W. Parrott	1,131	32.8	716	16.5	16.3
Clifford Sanders	1,155	33.5	732	16.8	16.7
Frank F. Drowota	1,067	31.0	692	15.9	15.1
Thomas A. Shriver	1,118	32.4	707	16.3	16.1
Henry F. Todd	1,083	31.4	709	16.3	15.1
C. S. Carney	1,046	30.4	702	16.1	14.3
Kirby Matherne	1,068	31.0	683	15.7	15.3
Charles E. Nearn	1,067	31.0	697	16.0	15.0
Charles O'Brien	1,139	33.1	749	17.2	15.9
W. Wayne Oliver	1,080	31.3	679	15.6	15.7

	<u>Precincts Using CES Votomatic</u>		<u>Precincts Using Shoup Machines</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Charles Calbreath	1,094	31.7	674	15.5	16.2
William Russell	1,077	31.3	666	15.3	16.0
Robert K. Dwyer	1,024	29.7	644	14.8	14.9
Mark A. Walker	1,051	30.5	704	16.2	14.3
John A. Mitchell	1,149	33.3	671	15.4	17.9
Dist. Atty. Gen.	2,890	83.9	3,137	72.1	11.8
County Judge	2,854	82.9	2,875	66.1	16.8
County Council (4)	8,812	63.9	8,908	51.2	12.7
Trustee	2,462	71.4	2,501	57.5	13.9
General Sessions Judge (3)	6,159	59.6	5,778	44.3	15.3
Sheriff	3,036	88.1	3,365	77.4	10.7
Circuit Judge Div. 1	1,559	45.2	1,021	23.5	21.7
Circuit Judge Div. 2	1,242	36.0	868	20.0	16.0
Circuit Judge Div. 3	1,053	30.6	787	18.1	12.5
Circuit Judge Div. 4	1,286	37.3	856	19.7	17.6
Chancellor Part 1	1,473	42.7	958	22.0	20.7
Chancellor Part 2	1,254	36.4	855	19.7	16.7
Criminal Court Judge Div. 1	1,541	44.7	999	23.0	21.7
Criminal Court Judge Div. 2	1,406	40.8	918	21.1	19.7
Criminal Court Judge Div. 3	1,628	47.2	962	22.1	25.1

	<u>Precincts Using CES Votomatic</u>		<u>Precincts Using Shoup Machines</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Juvenile Judge	1,701	49.4	1,017	23.4	26.0
Circuit Clerk	1,553	45.1	1,017	23.4	21.7
Criminal Court Clerk	1,326	38.5	856	19.7	18.8
County Clerk	1,822	52.9	1,215	27.9	25.0
Register	1,782	51.7	1,115	25.6	26.1
House Bill 179	<u>1,473</u>	<u>42.7</u>	<u>1,571</u>	<u>36.1</u>	<u>6.6</u>
Average	1,522	44.2	1,185	27.2	17.0
Average for Contested Races	2,286	66.3	2,300	52.9	13.4
Average for Un- contested Races	1,275	37.0	826	19.0	18.0
Voter Turnout		45.2		42.7	2.5

THE ELECTIONS

Punch-Card Voting on the Way For Shelby County Elections?

By NULL ADAMS
Press-Scimitar Politics Editor

ONE OF THESE days you may be voting on a punch-card instead of a voting machine. The change could come as early as the 1974 elections, but not likely.

Serious study of the Votomatic System is being conducted by Shelby County's election commissioners.



Null Adams

Vast improvements have been made in this vote recording system by Computer Election Systems, Inc. since it was first used officially in 1964.

Each vote recorder weighs 17 pounds. The present voting machines weigh 840 pounds. The vote recorders cost \$200 each. The voting machines cost \$2,500 each.

Hauling the heavy voting machines to and from voting precincts is an expensive item. The vote recorders can be taken there by hand by voting officials.

★ ★ ★

RENT ON WAREHOUSES to store the bulky voting machines from one election to another is another expensive item. The vote recorders fold up into a package 22 inches long, 19 inches wide and four inches deep. They can be stacked 25 high without fear of tipping or crushing. They stand on aluminum tubular legs, which fold up when the recorder is not in use.

Operation of the vote recorder for the citizen is simple. (1) The voter slides the ballot card into the recorder. (2) He checks the top of the card to see that the holes fit over two red pins. (3) With a specially-provided punch, he punches a hole through his card for candidates in each race as they are listed on flip-cards. He flips the cards for each race, voting all pages. (4) After voting, he removes his punched ballot and places it under the flap in the write-in envelope.

★ ★ ★

WORK OF THE OFFICIAL is simple. He lets the voter sign the poll list as now required by law. He gives him a ballot. If the voter wants to vote by write-in, he writes the name and office on the space provided on the envelope.

As the punch-cards are handed in the ballot number is detached and placed in a box or on a spike. In this way there is no way to check later to see how a person voted. The ballot card has no number.

Jack Morris, election commissioner, said the national trend is toward using the Votomatic. "Memphis moves slowly but surely," he said. "I believe the changeover would enable us to have many, many more voting places — even one in every block." Morris and G. B. (Pat) Joyner, holdover commissioners, have studied it.

Demonstrations for the three new election commissioners, William V. Lawson Jr., chairman; Mrs. A. Carl Abbott Jr., and Mrs. W. K. (Tag) Weldon are being arranged.

Morris said after the commissioners have all seen the recorder, he will bring the matter before the body by putting it on the agenda.

★ ★ ★

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS to some questions about the Votomatic:

- If a voter punches two candidates in the same race—where he is supposed to punch only one—the computer doesn't record a vote for either.

- If a voter gets mixed up and votes wrong, he reports it to the election official and is given another ballot. The poll list number assigned to his first ballot is marked "void" and the new ballot number is assigned to him.

- There's always a complete set of punch-card ballots available in case there is a contest or recount.

★ ★ ★

ONE QUESTION being studied by the commissioners is whether switching to punch-card voting would save taxpayer money. The county owns 1,200 voting machines that cost around \$2,500 each. The computer salesmen would buy them for resale, reducing the initial investment.

The cost of storing the machines and the cost of hauling them to and from the warehouse each election day would have to be figured as a savings.

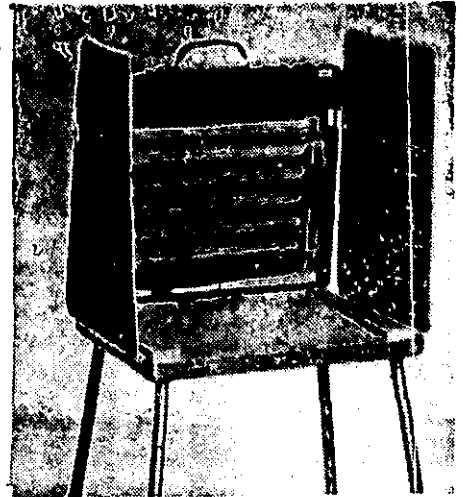
The computer men contend voting would be faster, easier, long lines of citizens waiting would disappear and the taxpayers would save money over the long haul.

★ ★ ★

THEY HAVE SURVEYED Shelby and recommend 3,600 punch-card units to replace the 1,200 machines which most certainly would reduce the waiting-in-line to vote problem.

Votomatics are now in use in 20 states and 12,667,034 registered voters live in the areas where they were used in 1972. The largest is Los Angeles County where there are 3,613,450 registered voters.

It is really a big question and the commissioners will explore it fully before making a recommendation. The Votomatics are now legal in Tennessee, which permits their use with permission of the State Election Commission.



The vote recorder. When folded, it's no larger than a suitcase.



Act of voting. Candidates and races are listed on flip-card pages

Memphis Press-Scimitar

A Scripps-Howard Newspaper

CHARLES H. SCHNEIDER
Editor

W. FRANK AYCOCK JR.
Business Manager

Telephone 626-2141; Want Ads, 626-8892; Circulation, 625-7801
Address: 495 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. 38101

NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

2/5/74

Punch Card Vote Gains Approval In Two Counties

By TOM GILLEM

White and Lauderdale counties became the first in Tennessee yesterday to be granted permission from the State Election Commission to use computer punch card voting machines.

Shirley Hassler, state coordinator of elections, concurred with the commission's action, which will allow both counties to secure equipment from Computer Election Systems of Berkeley, Calif., the nation's largest punch card machine manufacturer.

STATE Commissioner James E. Harpster of Memphis told representatives from the counties that the machines can be used in August and November elections this year under strict guidelines to be written by the commission.

"If the ballots are not handled strictly within the guidelines, I will move that certification be removed following the first election that the machine is used," Harpster warned.

White and Lauderdale are among 11 counties in Tennessee where paper ballots are still used, despite a state election law which requires voting machines in precincts of 300 or more voters. That law was passed by the General Assembly in 1967 and became effective Jan. 15, 1973.

"But if you're not, I'm going to ride with the waves."

The commission instructed Hassler to write election commissions in Bledsoe, Haywood, Tipton, Lewis, Benton, Chester, Crockett, Fayette and Weakley counties to find out when they plan to comply with the law. All of them still vote on paper ballots.

THE STATE commission has authority to remove county election commissioners if they fail to comply with election laws.

Knowles said White County plans to use a computer owned by Thomas Industries, an electrical appliance manufacturer, to count its ballots.

Tucker said Lauderdale County is considering the purchase of a punch card counter sold by CES which will count the ballots at the rates of 300 or 600 per minute.

Guidelines for using the punch card machines are being completed now by the state commission, and probably will be approved at the group's March meeting.

W. C. KNOWLES of Sparta, White County Election Commission chairman, officially asked the state to legalize punch card equipment. State statutes already set standards for the more expensive lever voting machines.

Knowles said his commission voted unanimously to buy the CES equipment 13 months ago, and the White County Quarterly Court appropriated \$12,500 to buy 50 machines last July.

However, Bill Tucker, chairman of the Lauderdale Election Commission, said he and other commissioners plan to observe a punch card election in Valdosta, Ga., Monday to determine if they want the equipment. He said his commission is very interested in the punch card method and the Lauderdale County Quarterly Court tentatively has approved appropriations for the system.

"IN OUR COUNTY, I just don't think people would vote if they had to use one of those (lever) machines," Tucker told State Election Commission members.

Tucker asked the commissioners if they plan to enforce the law requiring voting machines.

"If you are, then I'm going to do something about getting some machines," he said.

Ripley Will Use Punch Cards For First Time In City Voting

From The Commercial Appeal 2/26/74
Dyersburg, Tenn., Bureau

RIPLEY, Tenn., Feb. 25.—The Lauderdale County Election Commission has received state permission to use a punch card election system in the April 4 city election.

"We received approval from the state election commission today," Commission Chairman William Tucker said Monday. "We have placed the order for about 75 voting units at a cost of about \$41,700."

Lauderdale County is one of the last seven Tennessee counties to use paper ballots instead of voting machines.

The proposed punch card system utilizes computer cards which are placed in programmed "votomatic books" by each voter. The voter punches a hole in the computer card opposite the name of the candidate for whom he wishes to vote. The votes are

counted by a computer at a rate of about 600 cards per minute.

"We will have 29 demonstrator units for the Ripley election and will require every voter to use the demonstrator before he votes," Tucker said. "The demonstrator units will be available at every election from now on."

The county election commissioners felt the system would be economical, save storage space, require less security and cut down on maintenance problems.

"The voting units fold into small compact cases, similar to a suitcase," Tucker said. "Although this is a new voting system for Tennessee, it is estimated that about one out of nine voters in the United States votes the punch card system."

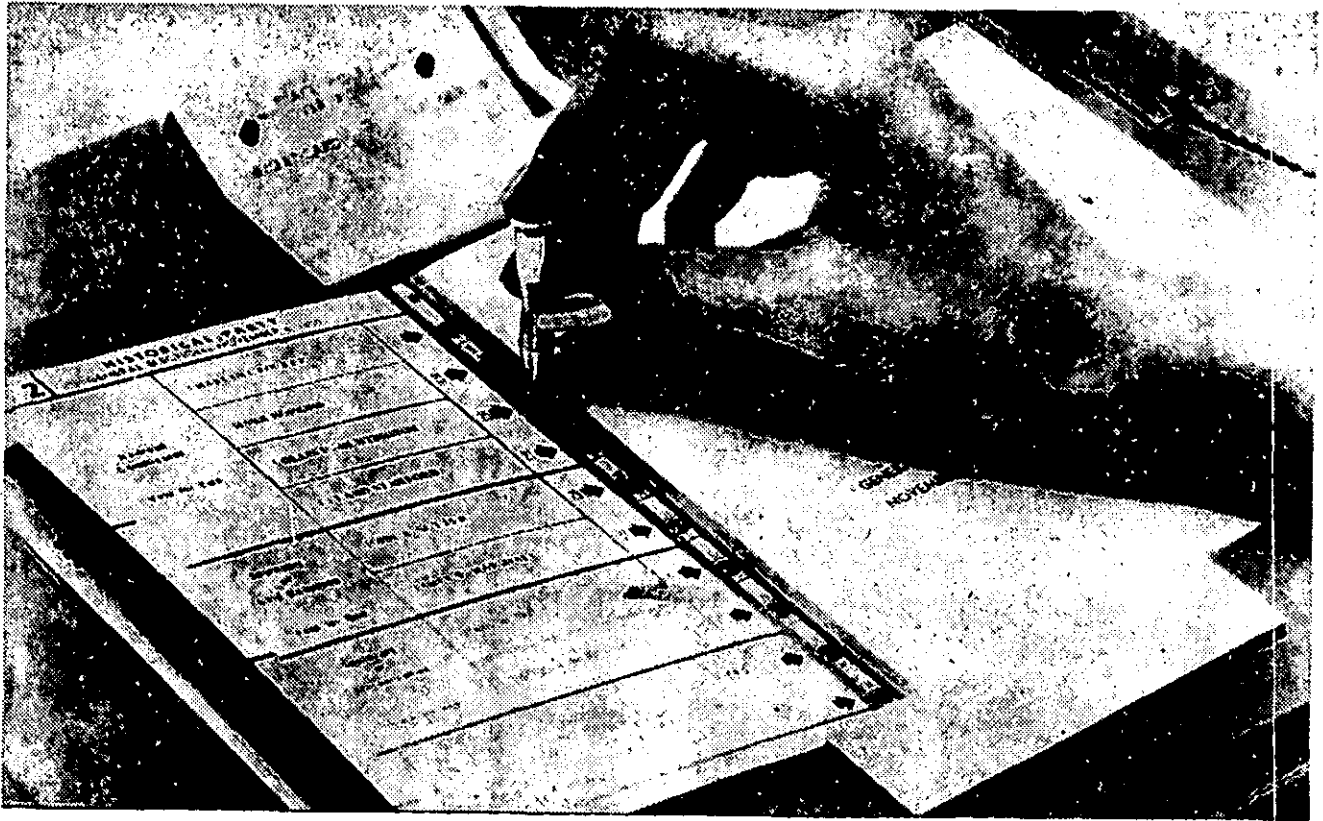
The demonstrator is on display in the Farmers Union Bank in Ripley and will be demonstrated to Lauderdale County Court magistrates March 11.



Voting Precinct Judge Harold Murphy And William Tucker
Examine New Voting Equipment —Photo by Jan Taylor

COMMERCIAL • APPEAL

Memphis, Tenn., Thursday Morning, April 4, 1974



Ripley Voters Will Become First Tennessee Voters To Use Punch Card System Thursday
Vote Is Registered By Punching A Hole Next To The Name Of The Candidate

Ripley Voters Test Punch Cards Today

From The Commercial Appeal
Dyersburg, Tenn., Bureau

RIPLEY, Tenn., April 3. — The punch card computer voting system will be used for the first time in Tennessee Thursday by Ripley voters.

"We're expecting 1,400 Ripley voters and a number of visitors to turn out for the city election," said William Tucker, chairman of the Lauderdale County Election Commission.

"Every election official has been given special training so they know

how to operate the punch card system. Ten demonstrator Votomatic books will be in use and every voter will be required to have a demonstration before going into a voting booth."

Lauderdale County is one of the last seven Tennessee counties using paper ballots.

The state now requires that voting machines be used, and Lauderdale County election officials asked permission from the state to try the punch card system.

They believe the system to be more economical and easier to store than the lever machines used throughout Tennessee.

"The election will be held in the courthouse lobby and all courthouse offices will be closed for regular business," Tucker said. "We have demonstrated the use of the new voting system many places, in civic clubs, on the square and in business establishments. The people seem to have accepted it very well."

Voters will be handed a computer card instead of a paper ballot. Each voter inserts the card in a Votomatic book and pushes a metal punch into a hole beside the name of the person he wishes to vote for.

"We estimate that it will take us about 35 minutes to get the cards ready for the computer when the polls close and about five minutes for the computer to count the votes," Tucker said.

"The computer has been checked out and will be given a final check one hour before the polls close."

Election commissioners estimate the system will cost \$41,000, which they say is less than half the cost of lever machines.

"Visitors from other Tennessee counties that still use paper ballots and the chairman of the state Election Commission, Jim Harpster of Memphis, will be present to observe the punch card system in action," Tucker said.

Officials believe the new voting system has increased interest in the election, which will name a mayor and six aldermen.

Mayor Rozelle Criner will be unopposed for a fourth term. All six incumbent aldermen—Richard Douglas, Scott Dunavant, Leon Hargett, James E. Seeley, Dr. J. S. Scott and Bobby Walker — are seeking reelection. They are opposed by Frank Duvall, Ben Emerson, Joe Green, Saul E. Moore and Russell Reviere.

Punch-Card Voting Speeds Ripley Returns

THE TENNESSEAN, Friday, April 5, 1974

35

By TOM GILLEM

Tennessee Staff Correspondent

RIPLY, Tenn. — Ten minutes after Lauderdale county Election Commissioner Bill Tucker started pushing buttons on a minicomputer here last night, voters in Ripley now whom they had elected as mayor and aldermen.

Two years ago — before the county became the first in Tennessee to vote on computer punchcard ballots — it took election workers about seven hours to tally the results.

"I THOUGHT the election went great today," said Tucker, chairman of the county Election Commission. "The state election commissioner said it went great, and the computer election people said it was the best show they've seen.

With 1,392 ballots cast, Ripley Mayor Rozella Criner, who was unopposed, was re-elected with 618 votes. Saul E. Moore, a retired schoolteacher, and Joe Green, a social worker, became the first two black aldermen in the city's history. Moore out-pollled a field of 11 candidates with 603 votes and Green had 541 votes.

OTHER ALDERMEN are:

Richard Douglas 575.

Leon Hargett, 502.

Dr. J. S. Scott, 491.

Bobby Walker, 578.

A crowd of about 50 persons pushed into a roped-off area in the county courthouse to watch the new procedure. The entire election was witnessed by James Harpster of Memphis, chairman of the State Election Commission.

"There will probably be some recommendations for changes in our guidelines after we watch the White County primary on May 2," Harpster said. "But overall, I'm satisfied with what I saw here today."

The special minicomputer, called the "Ballot Tab," is made by Computer Electrion Systems (CES) of Berkeley, Calif., the only company certified to sell the equipment in Tennessee.

TUCKER SAID the county chose punch-card machines because they cost about half as much as lever machines. Total cost for 83 punch-card machines, the minicomputer and adequate support services, is about \$41,000.

Voter reaction to the switch from paper ballots was mixed, but Tucker said state law requires the county to have voting machines of some type in all precincts with more than 300 voters. Only 10 of Lauderdale County's 28 precincts have more than 300 registered voters.

"I don't like it. It's too much trouble," said one woman as she exited the Lauderdale County Courthouse where the election was held. "I guess I'm too old."

However, not all the older voter shared that opinion, and most of the younger voters — both black and white — seemed to have little difficulty with the machines.

Mrs. Betty Smith of Ripley, was satisfied with the new system.

"THEY HAD one up at the dry cleaners last week, and I went up and practiced, because I was scared of it," she said. "But there's nothing to it."

At 9 a.m. voters began streaming to the courthouse polling place, where Ripley's only precinct is located. All voters were required to insert a demonstration ballot into the Votomatic machine and practice punching holes with a small metal stylus.

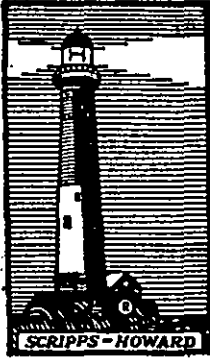
After the demonstration, the voting process was similar to the standard procedure, with the exception of a new state law which requires the voter himself to sign a poll book.

ONCE THE voter received a ballot, he entered the voting machine area where 22 Votomatics lined a corridor. To vote, the ballot, twice as long as a normal computer punch card, is inserted and the voter flips through a book containing the candidates' names. Beside each person's name he supports, the voter pushes out a hole in the card with a stylus.

When he finishes voting, the guidelines established by the State Election Commission call for the voter to tear his ballot in half, then place the marked section in a locked ballot box.

The guidelines then direct the voter to sign the remaining portions and give it to a clerk.

Several Ripley voters balked at signing the unmarked section of the ballot, claiming that the signature spoiled the purity of their vote.



Memphis Press-Scimitar

A Scripps-Howard Newspaper

CHARLES H. SCHNEIDER
Editor

W. FRANK AYCOCK JR.
Business Manager

Telephone 526-2141; Want Ads, 526-8892; Circulation, 525-7801
Address: 495 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. 38101

Page 6

Tuesday, April 9, 1974

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Ripley Is First

It was the end of an era last week for Ripley, Tenn., citizens as they voted for the first time in an election without using paper ballots.

At the same time, the Lauderdale County city became the first in Tennessee to use the computer punch-card voting system.

As most county election commissions across the state turned to voting machines in recent years, Lauderdale and nine other counties stuck with the old-fashioned paper ballots and the long, laborious counting that followed closing of the polls. But state law now calls for all voting to be done by mechanical means.

Rozelle Criner, who was re-elected Mayor of Ripley for a fourth term, said he

was well satisfied with the new system. Election officials had a test booth to show voters how it was done.

A pleasant aspect for Mayor Criner was the cost. He estimated the expense would have been \$65,000 higher if voting machines had been used.

State Election Commission Chairman James Harpster of Memphis — on hand to observe the Ripley operation — reported the punch-card system worked “very successfully.”

Maybe Ripley will set a trend for other Tennessee elections. White County in Middle Tennessee is scheduled to use the computer system in a primary election May 2, said Harpster.

Shelby County officials have seen demonstrations of punch-card voting but have taken no steps to adopt that system.

EDITORIAL

New Voting Procedure Proves Popular at Ripley

The two Tipton County Election Commission members who observed the punch card computer voting system in Ripley's city election last week were impressed.

Commission Chairman Allen Wooten and Frank McBride were on hand last Thursday when the computer ballots were used for the first time in Tennessee. This method

has received favorable publicity in several Mississippi elections.

Both of the men were in agreement that the system would be an improvement over Tipton County's present voting procedure.

"The system was impressive and worked very well in the Ripley election," said McBride, a Republican

member of the commission. "The computer was in the same building with the ballot boxes and there were very few problems. Every voter received a thorough demonstration of the procedure prior to voting. The vote counting was completed within 30 minutes after the polls closed.

"Of course all the voting took place in one general location. The system will be tried on a county-wide basis during the August Democratic Primary in White County."

According to the reports of Wooten, a Democrat, and McBride, the officers at the individual precincts would gain much of the benefits of the punch card system. "The precinct workers would be relieved of counting the votes and could have their duties completed 30 minutes after the polls are closed," said Wooten. "All of the boxes would be transported to a central location for tabulation."

Wooten said that it may be

possible for Tipton County to use the punch card system in the November election, provided money for purchase of the equipment is appropriated. The cost of the computer system has been estimated at approximately \$40,000. Wooten noted that one machine is required for every 150 voters.

The local election commission has discussed both the punch system and the lever voting machines. McBride stated that the machines would be quicker and provide the voter with more privacy.

However, both Wooten and McBride echoed the thought that the voting machines would create handling and storage problems. Their cost estimates on the voting machines differed as Wooten estimated the cost at \$100,000 and McBride came up with a \$60,000 figure.

"Although the punch card system would be a big improvement over our present situation, there are still many questions that need to be answered," said McBride. "I personally feel that this county would be benefitted if we consolidated the precincts in each magisterial district, but the majority of the commission doesn't feel this way."

Turner, Cooley, Wallace, Snodgrass, Cummings - Wins Election

ELECTION NIGHT-8:35 p.m. Ray Turner upset Trustee, Joe England and won the Democratic Primary tonight by a total of 143 votes. Ray Turner-got 1250 and England tallied 1107, Charles Hennessee453; John Hall 350; Wilford Hickey 284 and Charles Johnson 135.

Virginia Wallace, County Court Clerk seeking her 2nd term of office won by a big majority over Madge Foster. Wallace got 1933 votes, Foster-967, Ralph Sims-675.

Beecher Cooley defeated William (Bill) Slatten former

Supt. of Schools by a margin of 775 votes. Cooley was seeking a 2nd term as Supt. of Schools and their votes was Cooley-2141 - Slatten 1371.

It was a runaway for Former Sheriff Joe Cummings he tallied 3130 votes to Ray Anderson's 382.

County Judge David Snodgrass received 1182 votes for the newly created office of County Administrator, closely behind was Lyle (Tom) Frasier with 930 votes. Rascoe Cooper was right behind him with 763 votes.

David H. Snodgrass was seeking a second term of office.

Joe H. Mills received a nice complimentary vote of 3115, even though he was unopposed for reelection to the office of Circuit Court Clerk.

Dexter Haston, also unopposed, Register of Deeds, tallied complimentary votes of 3021.

State Election Commission, Chm. James Harpster was here for the White County Election today as we were the first county in Tennessee ever to use the votomatic punch type voting cards in today election.

The White County Election Commission had asked spec-

ial permission to try the system.

All the comments were good. Harpster said, "The Election Commission of White County has done a good job in teaching people how to vote by the votomatic system. We don't find anything wrong, even though we do note some mistakes."

Voting closed at all precincts today at 7:00 p.m. The Sparta TENNESSEAN got the official results at 8:35 after the polls closed.

-YOU READ IT FIRST IN THE SPARTA TENNESSEAN

The Times

★ ★ ★

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1974.

C 1

Electors Like Punch-Card Voting



Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Holliday listen as L. L. McClain, a poll worker, explains how to vote on the new Votomatic punch card system. Instructors like McClain were on hand at all 23 precincts testing the Votomatic system to explain its use.

—Times Staff Photo by W. C. King.

The computer age reached 23 Hamilton County precincts Thursday and voters apparently found punch-card voting to their liking.

Workers at punch-card precincts surveyed indicated that voters found the new system faster and less complicated than the traditional voting machine.

Lines were almost nonexistent at most precincts, thanks to the new system and the additional one hour of voting time.

Voters turned out in moderate to heavy numbers to select a slate of county officers and to pick Democratic and Republican nominees for the November general election.

Apparently the unusually high number of candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor was a lure for the Democratic primary. In some normally predominantly Republican precincts, Democrats were outnumbering the GOP voters.

One of these Democratic hopefuls, Oak Ridge banker Jake Butcher seemed to have out-organized his 11 opponents. Workers of all age brackets were handing out Butcher literature, asking voters to consider their man and providing transportation when needed.

Polling areas were masses of posters and other campaign material.

A veteran poll worker at the 45th Street Gym precinct said she has worked that precinct for 28 years "and this is the worst I've ever seen."

She was referring to the way the black community has split over gubernatorial candidates. "It's a dog-eat-dog situation," she said. "There are too many candidates and some of the people trying to support more than one."

Sample ballots were at a minimum this election day.

Surprising perhaps was the lack of anti-liquor campaigning in East Ridge. A few women and children were passing out pamphlets with drawings of children and the words "Their future is in your hands. Please vote against liquor."

Sample ballots picked up in some of the so-called "controlled" precincts showed a split between gubernatorial candidates Butcher and Franklin Haney. But most, if not all, sample ballots urged support of veteran Demo-

crats Frank Newell for sheriff, Harold Brown for attorney general and Bill Nobles for trustee.

Election Commissioner John Curtis, commenting after a tour of the precincts, said the voter turnout appeared to be from "heavy to real heavy."

Generally, Curtis said, there was less voter confusion over which precinct to visit than in the May 2 primary, the first election to follow the reorganization of precincts.

He admitted, however, there were some problems.

Curtis said the crowds gathered at the polls when they opened at 9 a.m. were "way too heavy . . . and it led to some confusion and chaos."

There also was some trouble with voting machines, and some precincts ran out of supplies; the commissioner said, adding that new precinct officials in many locations led to some confusion.

The Votomatic punch card machines seem to be a hit with the voting public, Curtis said, although some elderly persons had trouble adapting to the new system.

There was a "lot of real mean trouble," Curtis continued, with persons wanting to vote in both the Republican and Democratic primaries.

Asked about the possibility of encountering a "chain ballot" situation with the punch cards similar to that experienced under the old paper ballot system, Curtis said it was unlikely.

He noted that each voter signs the flap on the computer punch card, and also signs a booklet beside the number corresponding to the number on that flap card. The voter must tear the flap from the punch card in the presence of a voting official, hand the flap to the official and put the punch card into the slot in the ballot box, which is locked and sealed.

Computer Voting Successful; Speeded Usual Crowded Polls



CHECKING NEW MACHINES — Jack Seaton, of the state election commission, toured Hamilton County precincts using the new votamatic units Thursday during the election.

Shown at the commission office are, from left, Mr. Seaton, Registrar-at-large Tom Moore, and State Rep. W.C. (Bill) Carter. (Staff photo by George Moody.)

By **TOM GRISCOM**
Staff Writer

Jack Seaton, of the state election commission, Thursday night termed the use of computer voting machines in 23 Hamilton County precincts a "success which speeded up the voting in usually crowded areas."

Touring the 30th and 31st legislative districts, Mr. Seaton said, "The operators and officials at the polls adapted to the new machines and they appeared to be a real plus for Hamilton County voters."

He said about 90 per cent of the people using the machines had favorable reactions.

State Representative W.C. (Bill) Carter escorted the commissioner throughout the two legislative districts.

Mr. Carter said the machines seemed to be "well received"

in the 23 precincts.

A poll conducted by election commission officials gave the same results.

During absentee voting, a survey of voters using the computer machines showed 95 per cent were "pleased with the machines, felt they reduced the voting time and preferred them over the lever machines."

This election was the first time the machines have been used here. They were placed on a trial basis in the two legislative districts.

The full commission is expected to evaluate the machines and vote later as to whether a complete votamatic system should be implemented for the November 5 election.

Registrar-at-large Tom Moore said Thursday there was some confusion as voters went to the polls to use the votamatic machines but "this could be expected for a first run."

Voters in East Ridge's five precincts generally preferred the system over the Shoup ma-

chines although some said "it was hard to get used to using a stylus instead of pulling a lever."

WAITING PERIOD

Several voters commented the votamatics were "okay... but there was still a waiting period prior to voting."

The delay was not with the computer machines but with the registrars checking the names of voters prior to issuing them a ballot application.

One official in Wauhatchie said, "We needed twice as many registrars to check names, to remove this bottleneck and the voting would have moved twice as fast."

Mr. Moore said there were some early problems with voters congregating around the computer machines but "this was remedied quickly by having election officials allow only voters in the area."

Mr. Seaton said his biggest concern with the machines was "in the area of security."

"With the Shoup machines,

once the ballot is cast, the votes are locked in the machine and cannot be changed," he noted.

"But there is a chance with these computer machines that the votes could be removed from the boxes prior to taking the punch cards to the counting center."

Mr. Seaton added that he had never seen this problem occur in other Tennessee counties which used the machine but "there is still a chance it could happen."

The former state election commission chairman from Johnson City said, "It has to be the best voting system available and more counties in the state will be going to it as soon as the machines are available."

By and large, voters appeared pleased with the election commission's decision to use the computer machines.

LESS EXPENSIVE

The machines not only alleviated lines at voting places but also were less expensive.

During this election there were computer machines for each 100 voters in the 23 precincts, freeing Shoup machines for each 400 voters in the other 55 precincts.

The cost factor, Mr. Seaton said, is greatly in favor of the votamatic. He said the votamatics cost approximately \$250 each while the Shoup machines run around \$2,500 each.

After observing several precincts, Mr. Seaton commented, "I was noticing whether the ballot collectors touched the ballots or allowed the voters to place them in the boxes themselves."

"The voter was the only person to touch the ballots, which is better for security. The instructional session on the use of the machines was done in a professional manner."

Mr. Seaton noted Mrs. Irma Parms work in Alton Park was "well done."

The commissioner praised the local election commission's decision to bring the computer voting machines back to the commission office on the night of the election. "If this were not done, there is no telling how the machines would end up," he said.

Mr. Seaton said he would also look into the reason the ballots for the Republican primary were different colors on the Shoup machines than on the computer machines.

Successful Experiment

The experiment in using punched-card voting in 23 of Hamilton County's 78 precincts in Thursday's election appears to have been an unqualified success.

Voters in those precincts generally agreed that the new system was far superior to the voting machines that have been used here for several years since it took less time, was more convenient and was much less confusing.

The favorable reaction of the voters who used the system, plus the generally lower cost, will be key factors to consider in acquiring additional components for use in the county's other 55 precincts in future elections.

We congratulate the county election commission for its foresight in scheduling the experiment in the new system. Hopefully, it will soon be used throughout the county.

PUNCH-BALLOTING BY VOTERS HERE CALLED SUCCESS

Register Moore Says 87%
In Survey Last Week
Liked Method

By WILLIAM K. WARREN

Calling the test of computer punch-card voting last Thursday an "overwhelming success," Registrar Tom Moore said Monday a survey of 1,594 voters showed 87 per cent liked the new system.

His report came amid rumors that a chancery court suit will be filed contesting the county general election because of some unspecified problem relating to the punch card voting and computer tabulation.

Moore had heard the rumor, but he had no details.

Voters in the 23 precincts (30th and 31st legislative districts) using the new Votomatic system were asked to give their evaluation of it last Thursday on forms provided by the county election commission.

Of 1,954 responses, Moore said, 1,391 were favorable. Many of the unfavorable responses, he said, came from two precincts where the voting went slowly because of a combination of factors, including new poll workers and an inequitable allocation of voting machines.

Moore said he thought the chance of using Votomatics in all precincts in November is "reasonably good."

The test showed, the registrar said, that more education on Votomatics is needed both for the public and poll workers to prevent such occurrences as poll officials refusing to give a voter another ballot after he made a mistake on his first one.

The computer tabulation had few problems and went quickly, he continued, with the final count coming about 30 minutes past midnight. If the old method of manual tabulation had been used for the large election, the tabulation may have taken all night, Moore said.

Moore also noted that ballots from 20 of the 23 Votomatic precincts were delivered to the tabulation center before the first results came in from precincts using lever machines.

PANELS APPROVE VOTING BY CARD

By PAT WILCOX

The Hamilton County Election Commission voted 3 to 2 Wednesday to adopt Votomatic, or punch-card, voting on a county-wide basis.

Later in the day the state election commission voted to sustain the county panel's action.

The decision will now go to the county council for affirmation and funding, or denial.

In voting against the motion, made by Commissioner John Curtis, that the Votomatic system be adopted, commission Chairman Charles Hinson said that while he is in favor of punch-card voting, he was "forced to vote no" because of the "seriousness of the question" and his belief that the commission has not had sufficient time to study the proposal.

Hinson added that he hoped the commission won't "have to feel sorry for an action taken in haste." He was joined in his negative vote by Commissioner Tommie Carter.

Curtis, Claudie Clark and

Jim Penley voted affirmatively.

Votomatic machines were leased at a cost of \$18,500 from Computer Election Systems for trial use in absentee voting and at several polling places for the Aug. 1 election.

The cost would be credited toward purchase of the entire CES Votomatic system which would include 1,150 voting machines, 216 demonstrators and supplemental equipment with a gross value of \$253,752.50.

Also deducted from the gross cost would be the value of 240 of the county's 245 lever-type voting machines which will be accepted by CES on a trade-in basis.

Curtis included in his motion that the county retain five of the best of these machines for use in elections in small cities, such as Ridgeside or Lakesite.

This would make required funding be about \$100,500, plus transportation charges.

The council is expected to act on this issue at its meeting Wednesday.

Both Penley and Clark said they believe the Votomatic system will save the county money in the long run. Clark said that because of the smallness of the new machines, they would require only 10 per cent of the storage space of the lever-type machines and would be much less expensive to transport.

John Hurd, who is with CES out of Memphis, said the Votomatic has a minimal number of moving parts and requires very little maintenance compared to the old machines. He said that Shelby County spends an average of \$100 a machine each year on maintenance.

Hurd informed the commission that CES will update the programming, supply complete election support in the first two countywide elections in which the Votomatics would be used and would thereafter be available to review ballot designs or provide other desired support for a daily consultant's fee.

Hurd also said that of the users of the Votomatics who stopped to fill out a survey card on Aug. 1, 87 per cent preferred using the Votomatics and 91 per cent of the poll workers preferred the Votomatics.

Hurd also said that 62 per cent of the voters using the punch-card machines got through the entire ballot, voting in the referendum on annexation procedures, while only 56 per cent of those using the old machines did so.

Registrar Tom Moore said of the Votomatic system: "There'll be no waiting in line to vote this time."

There will be one Votomatic machine for every 100 registered voters.

Voters, Poll Workers Like Punch Cards

Voters and election workers in a sampling of Hamilton County's precincts Tuesday were almost unanimous in their praise of the new punch card voting.

The new Votomatic equipment and a short ballot produced brisk voting and virtually no lines at the polls.

Computer tabulation of the punch cards, however, did not go as well as expected. The computer printed precinct-by-precinct results almost routinely in the early evening, and a majority of the precinct totals had been reported shortly after 10 p.m.

Then some problems with the complex machinery developed and it was 11:30 p.m. before the next batch of precinct totals was available. An election commission spokesman said a jammed

By WILLIAM K. WARREN
card caused the delay. At 11:45 p.m. four precincts remained to be tabulated.

Computer experts representing the Democratic and Republican parties served as observers in the Hamilton National Bank's computer room.

In the May Democratic primary, when the lever machines were used, final results weren't available until the early morning hours the next day. The vote count in the Aug. 1 county general election, which featured a mixture of lever and Votomatic machines, went faster but did not match Tuesday night's pace.

One problem newsmen encountered with the new system is that while final official results are more quickly available, early trends in the voting are more difficult to establish. In the past, for example, news organizations often received their information directly from the precincts shortly after closing time. In Tuesday's election, the precinct totals weren't available until they had been processed through the computer.

There were a few complaints about the new system, which was tested successfully Aug. 1 in 23 of the county's 78

precincts, but poll workers said most of the critical comments came before the voter stepped up to the voting station to punch his ballot:

Even some of the older voters, who objected to the change from the Shoup lever

See Page Two, Col. Four

VOTERS PLEASED BY PUNCH CARDS

From Page One

machines, were impressed after they found out how simple it was to use the Votomatic, election officials said.

"I think they're expecting a lot more than is there," one poll worker said of the suspected difficulty involved in using the Votomatic. After voting on the punch-card, "They say, 'well, there's nothing to this,'" the worker said.

In many precincts workers said they had more Votomatics than were needed. One Votomatic station was provided for each 100 registered voters as compared to one lever machine for each 400 voters in the past.

It was estimated that the average person took about one and a half to two minutes to cast his ballot. The only delay Tuesday, many poll workers said, was the paperwork involved before the voter punched his ballot on the Votomatic.

A veteran poll official in East Lake, who said he never wants to return to the lever machines, said there were fewer calls for assistance on the Votomatic. He also said he favors the Votomatic because it has no moving parts and is not subject to the mechanical failures experienced by the lever machines.

"They just love it," an East Ridge poll official said of the voters' reaction to the Votomatic. She also said the voting goes so fast on the punch card system, producing no lines, that it makes the voter turnout look small in comparison to voting on the lever machines.

There were a few minor problems.

In at least two voting places, overzealous voters punched their choices so hard they broke the metal stylus. And almost every precinct had to void some ballots for a variety of reasons.

Produced Brisk Balloting. . .

Voters, Election Heads Heap Praise On Votomatic System

By ROY MORRIS JR.
Staff Writer

The new Votomatic punch card equipment used in Tuesday's election in Hamilton County drew near unanimous praise from local voters and election officials.

A short ballot produced brisk voting at the county's 78 precincts and eliminated the bothersome voting lines of past elections.

The new system was tested successfully in the Aug. 1 primary election, with 23 precincts serving as test sites for the punch card procedure.

Poll workers said Tuesday that most critical comments about the new way of voting came before voters actually employed the system, and even older voters were impressed by

the simplicity of the punch card ballots, which replaced the Shoup lever machines.

Precinct workers said there was an excess of machines in several precincts, with one Votomatic station being provided for each 100 registered voters, as compared to one lever machine for each 400 voters in the past.

Estimated voting time for the average person was one and a half to two minutes a ballot, workers said, with the only delay coming through the paperwork involved before the voter punched his ballot to record his vote.

A veteran official in East Lake said there were fewer calls for assistance on the Votomatic system, adding that he favored the new system be-

cause it had no moving parts subject to mechanical failures.

A few minor problems were reported with the new system, as overzealous voters in two precincts punching their choices so forcibly they broke the metal stylus. Officials said some ballots also had to be voided for other reasons.

Instructions tables at every polling place instructed voters on the proper procedure, with test ballots featuring 18th century statesmen and famous athletes as sample choices.

At last report, Joe DeMaggio was leading Babe Ruth in the race for recreation commissioner, with Sitting Bull leading Geronimo and Cochise as secretary of Indian affairs. Joe Louis surpassed Jack Demsey as director of self-preservation.

PIKEVILLE — GATEWAY TO FALL CREEK FALLS

Bledsonian-Banner

• Only Newspaper in the World that Gives a Hoot about Bledsoe County

— AGRICULTURE — INDUSTRY — COAL — HEALTHFUL CLIMATE — UNSURPASSED SCENERY

Pikeville, Tennessee 37367, Thursday, November 7, 1974

Votomatic System Works Beautifully

Bledsoe County Voters for the first time in election history tried the new Votomatic punch card system this Tuesday . . . The results may not have pleased everyone but the new voting system did. The punch card voting was simplicity itself and projected difficulties failed to arise. Not only was voting time cut to about one-third with t h e resulting shortening of lines of voters, but by 8:20 election night, a complete count was ready. A consultant from the Votomatic Company was present all day and ready to assist if any portion of the system failed. Thanks to the time and efforts of the election commission in educating and instructing the public before the date of the election in the use of the system, there were no mistakes made. The consultant for Votomatic complimented Bledsoe county officials highly when it became known that not one faulty or uncountable ballot was cast. Also, Votomatic advised Bledsoe County that we were the first entire county in the nation to complete the election count.

Spectators crowded the Courtroom during the count and only favorable comments were heard as the computer took the ballots through its system, counted hundreds of ballots in seconds and gave a complete print out not only on votes of candidates but gave their percentages of total votes and total votes cast in each precinct.

The Bledsoe County Court, County Judge Ed Sapp, the Bledsoe County Election Commission and other interested citizens are to be complimented for their judgement and foresight in the purchase and use of this new voting system.

THE RECOUNT

McConnell Satisfied With Vote Recount Favoring Bill Carter



(Staff photo by George Moody)

ELECTION OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES INSPECT THE BALLOT PRIOR TO THE RE-COUNT

After a recount of the votes in the 27th Legislative District, State Rep. Bill Carter maintained his 39 vote margin over Democrat Sam McConnell, 5,645 to 5,606.

The recount was requested by Mr. McDonnell and directed by Chancellor Wilkes Thrasher after a suit was filed in court.

Registrar-at-large Tom

Moore said he would take the recount totals to Judge Thrasher for his approval.

Mr. McConnell said he was "satisfied" with the results and would not pursue the matter further.

"It will end here" he said in the computer room of the Hamilton National Bank.

He also expressed his satis-

faction with the computer voting process.

The vote showed Rep. Carter with a 36 vote margin in absentee votes, 154 to 118.

A three vote margin came from the 13 precincts in the 27th district for Rep. Carter.

The results will now be certified by the election commission and sent to Nashville.

The Times

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1974.

Count Upholds Carter's Margin Over McConnell

A computer recount Friday of votes cast Nov. 5 in the 27th legislative district confirmed state Rep. W. L. (Bill) Carter's 39-vote margin over challenger Sam McConnell.

Democrat McConnell, who filed a chancery court petition to obtain the recount, conceded the victory of his Republican opponent and said he will pursue the matter no further.

The recount was supervised by election commission members, both candidates and representatives of Computer Election Systems, the California firm which produces the Votomatic machines used in the recent election. The tabulation involved simply running the computer cards from 27th district precincts through the computer counter again, and it produced the same results.

An interesting note, however, was that the major portion of Carter's victory margin came in absentee ballots, accounting for 36 of the 39 votes. The final tabulation gave Carter 5,645 votes to 5,606 for McConnell.

Registrar Tom Moore said he would report the results to Chancellor Wilkes T. Thrasher Jr. in accordance with his chancery court order.

Smooth Tabulation Of City Voting



WIDE OPEN COUNT — Although "everybody" was invited, only a few persons showed up Tuesday night at the Memorial Auditorium to observe the computer tabulation of punch card ballots in the city's runoff election.

By J.B. COLLINS
Urban Affairs Editor

Tabulation of the 30,248 total ballots cast in 48 precincts in Chattanooga's runoff election Tuesday was "quick and smooth." Registrar-at-Large Tom Moore Jr. said at the close of the tabulation, held in the center of the main floor of the Memorial Auditorium.

"No problems," he commented with obvious pleasure.

Because there had been criticism of the tabulation for the March 11 primary, Mr. Moore, with support of the Hamilton County Election Commission, announced the tabulation for Tuesday's election would be held at the auditorium and that the public was invited to come and look.

There were 5,000 available seats, he said, and all free.

He even sent a personal invitation to Gov. Ray Blanton, a critic of the punch card system, but Gov. Blanton didn't show. In fact he didn't even answer the invitation, Mr. Moore said.

Only a handful of spectators did show, in fact. They watched from just outside a roped-off area surrounding the computer counters, duplicator machine and complementary equipment.

Among the observers was Harry Mansfield, an unsuccessful candidate for fire and police commissioner in the primary. He has filed a suit in chancery court contesting his election, claiming safeguards required

The Election Commission directed the count be held in the center of the main floor of the Auditorium after there was criticism of counting procedures in the March 11 primary.

for computer (punch card) voting were not taken.

That suit is still pending.

But Mr. Mansfield said he felt the counting was conducted properly last night and saw "nothing wrong" with the handling of the ballots or the tabulation of them.

James E. Harpster of Memphis, chairman of the Tennessee State Election Commission, was also on hand to observe the computer count of the punch card system. He said he was pleased with the way things went and he was highly complimentary of the system.

Actually, critics were few at last night's counting. All the observers willing to comment were complimentary. News

media people seemed especially pleased. The total count was wrapped up and the final "tab sheet" was circulated to the members of the media before 9:30 p.m.

The computer quickly counted all 48 stacks of punch cards ballots and the duplicator spat out copies passing among the media. The last of the ballot boxes came into the auditorium by 7:45 p.m. and the count was completed in less than two hours.

In accordance with regulations, five precincts were selected at random for "hand counts" today as a check on the computer count. The precincts selected: Concord, Avondale, Brainerd Hills, Dupont and Howard.

