



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Yesterday, over 1,700 voters turned out for no-excuse in-person absentee voting in Laurel County. One voter created a video of her experience that has gone viral on social and broadcast media.

That voter, like thousands of other Kentuckians have done, went to an ES&S ExpressVote machine in order to vote. The ExpressVote is a touchscreen ballot marking device that presents voters with their options for each race and then records them on a paper ballot. The voter then reviews the paper ballot that is printed and deposits it into a scanner. A vote is not cast until the paper ballot is deposited into the scanner.

The video created by the Laurel County voter showed her interaction with the touchscreen and purported to show that her attempts to select Donald Trump for President were being switched to a selection for Kamala Harris.

The video shows one hand attempting to jab the small box in the field available for Donald Trump and unsuccessfully registering a selection.

A second hand then attempts to select the larger Trump field, not with the same jab at the small box, but with a pressing of the pad of the finger in the area slightly below the small box.

At this point, the touchscreen highlights the large Harris field, after which, the second hand then attempts to simultaneously click the large Trump field with an index finger and the large Robert F. Kennedy field with a thumb, leaving the Harris box highlighted.

According to statements made by the voter to the County Clerk, the voter was able to ultimately use the touchscreen correctly to highlight the field for Donald Trump and every other one of her preferred candidates.

Once the voter's preferred selections were highlighted, the ExpressVote printed out a paper ballot that recorded all of her preferred selections. This paper ballot was then available for the voter to review and then deposit into the ES&S DS200 ballot scanner.

According to statements made by the voter to the County Clerk, she was able to deposit her ballot, containing selections for Donald Trump and her other preferred selections into the DS200 ballot scanner successfully, registering her vote.

According to the County Clerk, only after successfully printing her ballot with her chosen selections did the voter then contact election officials at the polling location to show them the video she had recorded at the ExpressVote.

The voter then met with the County Clerk to show him the video she had captured on her smartphone. The County Clerk attempted to replicate an instance of directly pressing a finger inside of the large Trump box leading to a highlighting of the Harris box and was unsuccessful.

The County Clerk was able to press the touchscreen in an area not directly inside of either the Trump or Harris boxes, but rather somewhere in between the two fields and get a highlighted Harris box.

Despite not being able to directly replicate what was alleged by the voter, the County Clerk took the ExpressVote machine out of service at the polling location and contacted the Attorney General's office. The Attorney General's office then sent an investigator to the polling location to look into the allegations.

Once the voter left the polling location, she uploaded the media she had captured to her social media accounts, tagging other accounts belonging to influencers known to push claims of election fraud, stating that her video needed to get "out there."

In the hours after the initial posting of her video, the voter spent time on social media reposting those accounts that had promoted her original video.

Eventually, co-chair of the Republican National Committee, Lara Trump even responded to the voter's posts saying "The legal team at @GOP immediately investigated a voter's report of a machine malfunction that wouldn't select President Trump in Kentucky. We called election officials directly. They separated the machine, conducted proper testing, didn't find any errors, and confirmed that voters could cast their ballots properly."

In fact, over 1,700 voters in Laurel County cast their ballots properly on October 31, 2024, and neither the State Board of Elections nor the Laurel County Clerk were made aware of any other reports of issues with the county's ExpressVote touchscreens or DS200 ballot scanners on that day.

The State Board of Elections encourages voters in counties using ExpressVote touchscreens to use their finger or a stylus to firmly make their chosen selections within the middle of the field allocated for that candidate or response.

Further, the State Board of Elections recommends that all voters in the Commonwealth who believe they are experiencing an issue preventing them from casting their ballot as desired first report their concerns to the election officials at their voting location and then call the Attorney General's election hotline at 1-800-328-VOTE.