Section 21 – System Data, Security, and Access

File 21-11 Chain

21.11 Describe the chain of custody best practices that you recommend for handing completed ballots during collection, in transit, and in storage to ensure the security of the ballots.

Dominion will work with the State to develop a customize methodology for handling completed ballots during collection, in transit, and in storage. Based on the unique jurisdictional needs within the State, Dominion will work collaboratively with the State to ensure the methodology meets all of its ballot security needs and requirements.

To ease the transition to the new SVS, Dominion recommends that the State retain any current and proven processes that are already in place. For instance, the secure and sealable bags the State uses for the legacy SVS portable memory devices, can be used to securely seal and transport the flash drives and USB thumb drives that are used with the proposed Democracy Suite and its ImageCast X and ImageCast Precinct components.

Completed paper ballots that have been scanned, can be transported and stored in sealed ballot transfer boxes or cases. Again, the exact details of this process can be developed collaboratively based on the State’s requirements, with consultation provided by Dominion based on experience and industry best practices.

In terms of storage, the Democracy’s Suite’s AuditMark functionality will provide the State great advantages in terms of cataloging and finding casted vote batches. For example, ballots scanned centrally on the ImageCast Central are identified by the order in which they were scanned, and are also stored by tabulator, and by batch. Each image is labeled with the tabulator, batch, and sequence number within the batch, which corresponds to the physical ballot in the stack.

The AuditMark is appended directly to the image showing how the vote was interpreted at scan time. This AuditMark will also include any adjudications applied to the ballot for voter intent. Even if ballots for a given batch are mixed after scanning, these multiple records provide a way of correlating the digital Cast Vote Record data to the image scanned and finally to the physical paper ballot. While the AuditMark allows ballot-level auditing, it is never tied to the voter.

Dominion would recommend that when sealing completed ballots for storage, that the transfer boxes/cases are labeled and referenced according to the scanning sequence number contained in the AuditMark. Ballot images are each identified by a distinct number. This number consists of the tabulator on which the ballot was scanned, the batch number, and the index of that ballot within the batch. As an example, for the second ballot scanned in batch 245 on Tabulator 4, the scanned image filename would be 0004 0245 0002.tif).

In the event ballot ever needs to be located in the storage racks, the official must find the transfer case for Tabulator 4, Batch 245, open the box, and locate the second form in the box, which will be the desired ballot.