



Clear Ballot

ClearVote 1.5

Glossary

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Preface

This section defines the purpose of this document. It contains the following subsections.

- About this document
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About this document

This document provides information about the terminology used by Clear Ballot, makers of the ClearVote system.



A ClearVote™ system can comprise the ClearAccess™, ClearAudit™, ClearCast™, ClearCount™, and ClearDesign™ products. Jurisdictions are not required to purchase all products. You can ignore references to any ClearVote components that are not part of your voting system. Also ignore implementation options that are not relevant to your policies and procedures.

Scope of this document

This document provides information about the terms used throughout the ClearVote documentation.

Intended audience

This document is intended for election officials and election staff who are responsible for operations and maintenance before, during, and after an election. This document is also used by Clear Ballot personnel who support election officials and election staff.

Contact us

Clear Ballot Group welcomes your feedback on our documentation. Please send comments to Documentation@ClearBallot.com.

If you have questions about using your ClearVote product, contact your Clear Ballot representative.

ClearVote terminology

absentee voters (AB)

An example of a counter group and a counter group ID; voters who will not be present at the polls and who instead fill out and submit their ballots by some remote voting channel.

acceptance test

An examination of a voting system by a jurisdiction to validate that system is as expected.

access control list (ACL)

A list that specifies which users or system processes are granted access to objects, and which operations are allowed on given objects. For example, in ClearDesign, when users are created, they are assigned a user name, password, and access level. The ClearDesign client/server interface is protected by role-based access control lists (ACLs) stored on the DesignServer. These ACLs protect both the web and MySQL database transactions.

accessible definition file (ADF)

A file package created in ClearDesign that is used to program the ClearAccess ballot-marking devices.

accessible voting system

A voting system equipped for individuals with disabilities that permits voters to vote privately and independently.

adjudication

See *digital adjudication*.

alias

In ClearDesign ballot macros, an alias is an alternative, simpler term that can be used. For example, *split.ballotGroup.ballotGroupStyle* can be aliased *{ballotGroupStyle}*.

Anywhere Ballot

The Anywhere Ballot was developed under a grant from the US Election Assistance Commission. It provides the highest level of usable/accessible ballot presentation across a range of display devices. When used in reference to ClearAccess, the Anywhere Ballot is a single HTML file, created by ClearDesign, that contains all of the data needed by a browser to display a single ballot style, allow voters (disabled or not) to select and verify their choices, and mark and print one or more ballot cards on a low-cost laser printer.

audio ballot

A ballot presented to the voter in spoken, rather than written, form.

auditing system

A system used for validating the results of an election. It can also be used for recounts and election contests.

audit log

A set of system- and election-related transactions posted in chronological order and stored in an inviolable file. See *election log* and *system log*.

ballot

The official presentation of all of the contests to be decided in a particular election.

ballot box

A container used to hold ballots. ClearCast includes a lightweight collapsible ballot box.

ballot definition file (BDF)

A file package unique to each election that enables the ClearCount and ClearCast software to successfully register and analyze a ballot. Clear Ballot creates and tests these files prior to an election based on the jurisdiction's ballot style PDFs.

ballot definition file tables (BDF tables)

Tables generated by ClearVote software after analyzing PDF files used to describe an unvoted ballot, submitted by the jurisdiction.

ballot generation

In ClearDesign, the calculation of all ballot styles (based on the districts included in the current election, which contests go on which ballot style). After the ballot styles are generated, the actual ballot text can be dynamically laid out and the ballots can be examined for their aesthetics. Small manual adjustments can be made to reposition contests.

ballot-handling station

A space consisting of a flat surface used to unseal ballot boxes (if required), stage ballots for the preparation/jogging station, and reseal ballot boxes. All required ballot box recordkeeping occurs at the ballot-handling station.

ballot jogger

A machine used to align ballots prior to central-count scanning, helping to eliminate misfeeds and ensuring consistent ballot speed throughput.

ballot-marking device

A ballot-marking device (BMD), used for vote capture, is a laptop or tablet computer running the ClearAccess software as a browser application in "kiosk mode" with an associated printer. The BMD can be optionally enclosed in a protective bezel that does not affect its operation.

ballot-marking station

In ClearAccess, a collection of the following physical components: a ballot-marking device, a sip-and-puff headset, headphones, an accessible keypad, a privacy screen, a laser printer, and USB drive for ballot style transfers.

ballot production

In ClearDesign, the process of creating the PDF files and ballot definition files to send to a printer and to program the Tabulator, as well as the HTML files to allow a voter to vote and then print a ballot that can be tabulated.

ballot-proofing report

In ClearDesign, reports that help ensure that the geographic relationships are correct, all contests have been placed, candidate names are spelled correctly, and so on.

ballot report

A ClearAccess report that can be reviewed and printed at the conclusion of equipment readiness testing and after an election.

ballotSet

In ClearDesign, the ballotSet is used to further filter contests, such as for “federal only” ballots, and to define whether separate ballots are to be generated for each voterGroup (party), as in a “closed primary.”

ballot set template

In ClearDesign, refers to which ballot sets will be produced (such as, federal-only contests, sample ballots, or different sized ballots for accessible marking).

ballot specifications

The specifications for ballot stock to be used for ClearVote ballots.

ballot style ID

A number that represents a particular ballot layout. A ballot style ID is unique to each election and identifies the front and back of each card.

ballot style PDFs

The files a jurisdiction provides for Clear Ballot to use to create a zipped BDF file.

ballot style transfer drive

A COTS USB 2.0/3.0 drive with at least 1 GB of memory that is used to transfer the ballot styles from ClearDesign to the ClearAccess BMD.

batch ID

An ID that appears on the target card and the box label for each batch of ballots. For example, if the target card indicates a batch ID of ED-11, a label marked ED-11 is affixed to the box where the ballots are to be placed. This helps identify the location of the ballots during the ballot verification process. Related to *box ID*.

blank vote

A contest where no votes have been recorded. In a vote-for-one contest, an undervote is the same as a blank vote.

blank-voted ballot

A ballot that has been entirely blank-voted.

block style ballot

Ballots that have the votes arranged in columns. See *grid style ballot*.

box ID

A unique string that identifies a particular box of ballots and its corresponding card image files. It appears on the box label affixed to a box.

box label

A label that physically identifies each box of ballots. Like target cards, box labels use the box ID as a unique identifier. The box label is affixed to a uniform spot on the outside of the ballot box after the cards are scanned.

calibration card

A card printed from the Clear Ballot website used to test the scanning equipment.

candidate

A person contending in a contest for office. A candidate can be presented as one of the choices on the ballot or can be a write-in candidate. Each candidate is associated with a single contest and one or more parties. Each candidate has a name that is used for reporting purposes, and “ballot text” that is placed on the ballot.

canvass

The compilation of election returns and validation of the outcome that forms the basis of the official results by political subdivision.

canvassing board

The election officials who rule on permissible ballots and adjudicate marginal marks in close elections. The canvassing board may also certify the election results at the end of the election cycle, depending upon local statute.

card

A unique set of rotated contests for a given ballot set in an election that fit onto a card template. When used in describing paper ballots, refers to a single piece of paper that may, by itself or along with other cards, form a voter's (complete) ballot.

card ID

A unique string that identifies a single particular voted ballot card.

card image file

One of two files—one for each side of a card—created during scanning as industry-standard JPEG files, and stored in a folder on the ClearCount ScanServer.

Card Images report

A report that allows election officials to review card image files.

Card Inventory report

A report that details the contents of each box of cards.

Card Resolutions tool

An application that aids adjudication of a card by providing an image of the card and a way to set its vote status. The Card Resolutions tool is part of the Election Administration pages in ClearCount.

card style

A unique set of nonrotated contests for a given ballot set in an election that fit onto a card template.

card template

In ClearDesign, refers to the card height (5"–22"), number of columns, front and back orientation (portrait or landscape), and the oval position (to the left or right of the candidate name).

casting

Act of placing a voted paper ballot into a ballot box or precinct-count tabulator scanner.

Cast Vote Record (CVR)

A report that shows one record per ballot where columns are one per oval.

central count

A voting system that scans and tabulates ballots from multiple precincts at a central location. ClearCount is a central-count system. Compare *precinct count*.

central-count facility

The location where the ClearCount central-scan operation takes place.

certification

A procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a product, process, or service conforms to specified requirements.

certified results

The results from an election that are considered the final result.

challenged ballot

A ballot provided to an individual who claims to be registered and eligible to vote, but whose eligibility or registration status cannot be confirmed at the time of voting.

choice

- The target location of a particular vote. This could be Yes or No for a bond issue, or one candidate from a field of candidates.
- A selection presented to a voter for a single contest.

choice election identity

This identity states that for each choice within a contest on a ballot, that choice must be classified as a vote, a nonvote, or participating in an undervote or an overvote. As with the contest election identity, this means that the total of votes, overvotes, undervotes, and nonvotes for a given choice must equal the total number of times that the choice appeared on a scanned card.

choice zone

The area on a ballot that displays all the information about a specific contest choice, including the choice's target zone.

choice zone density

The calculation of the relative darkness of a vote target, used to interpret voter intent.

ClearAccess

Clear Ballot's accessible and universally usable voting solution.

ClearAudit

Clear Ballot's optical-scan election audit system.

ClearCast

Clear Ballot's in-person (precinct) voting solution.

ClearCount

Clear Ballot's optical-scan central-count system.

ClearDesign

Clear Ballot's election management system.

ClearVote

Clear Ballot's family of election products.

closed primary

A primary election in which voters receive a ballot listing only the contests affiliated with the voter's political party of registration/choice, in addition to any valid nonpartisan contests.

close election

When all reporting and administrative tasks pertaining to an election have been completed on an in-person voting device (ClearCast), the election can be closed, which effectively deletes the election and all stored tallies from the system.

close polls

The act of terminating the voting process in ClearAccess and terminating ballot casting in ClearCast, and in both cases setting the voting system to postelection mode. ClearCast automatically generates the Election Totals report containing tallies of ballots cast when the polls are closed.

code channel

The encoded unique bar code data imprinted on a ballot. Unlike the traditional bar code used on retail items, a ballot's bar code consists of heavy dark blocks. Its interpretation is defined by the vendor of the ballot layout system.

comma-separated values (CSV)

A file that stores tabular data in plain text form separated by commas.

commercial off-the-shelf (COTS)

Commercial, readily available products, not modified by Clear Ballot, for use in the ClearVote system.

comparison results file (CRF)

A zipped file containing a number of text files in CSV format that collectively describe a set of tabulation totals to which Clear Ballot tabulation totals should be compared. Creating a CRF is optional, and doing so allows the user to see the differences between Clear Ballot tabulation totals and the comparison results file (CRF) totals.

consumable

Components, such as scanner rollers and pads, that need to be replaced periodically. The documentation included in the ClearVote Technical Data Package (TDP) specifies the schedule for consumables replacement, as well as the method for obtaining and installing them.

contest

A single decision within an election, such as a presidential race or a bond issue. A contest has a list of candidates or choices for the voter to select from, and may include a write-in choice. Each contest is associated with a single district and a single party. Each contest has a name that is used for reporting purposes, and “ballot text” that is placed on the ballot.

contest election identity

This identity states that for each contest on a ballot, that contest must be classified as either being properly voted, blank-voted, or overvoted. The number of ballots in each of these classifications must equal the total number of ballots on which that contest is present.

contest template

In ClearDesign, a template that includes the “Vote for” descriptor, contest type (candidate, measure, and so forth), cross-endorsement, assignment to a header, district assignment, and rotation.

contest zone

The area on a ballot that displays all the text associated with that contest, including its choice zones.

controlled contest

Also known as *partisan contest*. A contest that has choices that would be “marked” by the system based on the voter selection in a controller contest.

controller

A contest with choices that causes downballot choices to be “marked” by the system. Generally, party names are the choices shown for this type of contest. The contest may have a title such as *Straight Party* and choices such as *Democratic Party* and *Republican Party*.

counter group

A group of voters identified by code so their votes can be reported separately from other groups. The names and IDs of counter groups can vary by jurisdiction. Examples are Election Day (ED), provisional (PR), and absentee (AB).

cross-endorsement

The endorsement of a single candidate or slate of candidates by more than one political party. The candidate could appear on the ballot once only, with no visible endorsement printed on the ballot, or once for each endorsing party. If the cross-endorsed candidate appears once on the ballot only, and if the candidate is selected directly in the race, a single nonpartisan instance of the candidate is counted. If the candidate appears on the ballot once only and is endorsed by a party selected in a straight-party race, the endorsement of the candidate made by the straight-party selection is counted. If the candidate appears on the ballot once for each endorsing party, the voter can select an individual endorsement of the candidate. If the race allows a number to vote for greater than one, the voter can select the candidate as many times

as he or she desires as long as that number of votes does not exceed the specified number to vote for.

crossover voting

Crossing party lines on an open primary ballot.

DeleteBox utility

The utility in ClearCount that allows election officials with modify access or above to delete boxes of ballots from an election database.

DesignServer

In ClearDesign, a computer that runs the ClearDesign software and hosts its election database and the web server that serves its election reports.

DesignStation

In ClearDesign, the computer connected to the DesignServer, where ballot layout and design is performed.

digital adjudication

The method for election officials to identify, analyze, and resolve ballot issues using ClearVote.

digital outstacking

ClearVote's method of flagging unreadable card images so they can be electronically reviewed and adjudicated.

digital signature

An asymmetric key operation where the private key is used to digitally sign an electronic document and the public key is used to verify the signature. Digital signatures provide data authentication and integrity protection.

direct recording electronic (DRE)

An electronic voting system that uses electronic components for the functions of ballot presentation, vote capture, vote recording, and tabulation that are logically and physically integrated into a single unit. A DRE records voting data and card images in memory components.

Discriminant Function (DF)

A Tabulator software module that analyzes and classifies voter marks read from those card images that pass registration. The Discriminant Function uses progressive rounds of grouping and comparison to classify voter marks.

district

In ClearDesign, districts are used to define the geographical division of voters. Each district belongs to one district category and has one or more splits associated with it. Districts also have contests associated with them.

district category

In ClearDesign, district categories are used to group districts so that each split can only belong to one district of a district category.

early voters (EV)

An example of a counter group and a counter group ID; voting conducted before Election Day.

edge marks

The markings between the ballot text and voting targets and the outside edge of the paper. These edge marks include timing marks and code channel marks. Typically, these are not human-readable. The Tabulator uses edge marks as landmarks to rotate and then align the ballot for vote recognition.

election activity log

A set of election-specific transactions posted in chronological order by the ClearCount application, and stored in an inviolable file.

Election Administration pages

The tools in ClearCount that an election official uses to create and administer an election.

election administration station

A computer in a ClearCount system used to set up and administer an active election, and to review relevant reports. It is connected to the ScanServer.

election database

In ClearCount, the database that stores all the information about a given election.

Election Day (ED)

An example of a counter group and a counter group ID; voters casting ballots at a polling place on Election Day.

election definition

In ClearDesign, refers to template selection, selection of contests to be included, entry of candidate names, and measure text.

election district

Synonymous with precinct (varies by state).

election identity

See *contest election identity* and *choice election identity*.

election management system (EMS)

A system that handles the election definition, ballot preparation, precinct-count operations, and vote consolidation in an election, such as ClearDesign.

election mode

The mode to which a voting system is set after all election testing has been completed. Used by in-person voting systems (ClearCast, ClearAccess).

election officials

The people associated with administering and conducting elections, including government personnel and poll workers.

election phase

In ClearCount, an election can be in one of three phases—Scanning, Reviewing, or Closed.

Election Totals report

A ClearCast report of ballot tallies.

encryption

The process of obscuring information by changing plain text into ciphertext for the purpose of security or privacy.

Ethernet

The wired network that connects computers in the ClearVote system components.

FIPS

Federal Information Processing Standard, a government computer security standard used to approve cryptographic modules.

Functional Configuration Audit (FCA)

An exhaustive verification of every system function and combination of functions performed as part of voting system certification. See also *Physical Configuration Audit*.

general election

An election in which voters, regardless of party affiliation, are permitted to vote on ballot issues and select candidates to fill public office.

geographic data entry

In ClearDesign, data entry that includes district listing, precinct and split listings, and their relationships.

grid style ballot

Ballots that have columns for contests and rows for parties. See *block style ballot*.

hash

An algorithm that maps a bit string of arbitrary length to a fixed-length bit string. A cryptographic hash function allows one to easily verify that some input data maps to a given hash value, but if the input data is unknown, it is deliberately difficult to reconstruct it (or equivalent alternatives) by knowing the stored hash value. This is used as a basis for ensuring integrity of the ballot images and other files across the ClearVote system.

header

The instructional information that is placed on the ballots. Headers can be “card” headers that are associated with ballots independent of any contest, or “contest” headers that are associated with a ballot only if their associated contest is on the ballot. Each header has a name that is used for reporting purposes, and “ballot text” that is placed on the ballot.

HMAC

hash message authentication code

hopper

The input tray on a scanner.

human review and adjudication

The human-driven process to manually select a ballot for counting in a recount. Accounting records are kept for each vote altered.

image registration

The process of determining the logical front side of the ballot and its readable orientation, and then locating all important landmarks on the image.

Image-to-Ballot Traceability

The procedures and recordkeeping necessary to allow an election official to find the specific ballot that corresponds to a given card image at any point following the initial scan.

implied oval

A selection “marked” by the voting system based on the voter selection in a controlled contest.

jurisdictional data entry

In ClearDesign, the data that includes localization of terminology (such as, precincts vs. election districts vs. wards), enumeration of national languages, political parties, district categories, headers, commonly used graphical elements (such as, county seal), and ballot layout styles (including party placement).

localization

In ClearDesign, the ability for jurisdictions to set their own preferred vocabulary for terms that appear in the user interface and on ballots. For example, *precinct* could be localized to *election district*.

logic and accuracy testing (L&A testing)

A voting system test in which a test deck of specially marked ballots is scanned to see if the voting system is processing correctly.

macro

In ClearDesign, ballot macros are used to allow variable data to be added to ballots during viewing and printing. You can add macros to device messages and any entity that uses the ballot text editor.

marginal votes

The votes that convey voter intent with the least certainty.

marksense

A voting system involving the optical scanning of marks made in designated vote response fields on paper ballots.

MatchPoint

In Clear Ballot's MatchPoint system, MatchPoints are identically defined, independently computed points of comparison between the voting system and ClearAudit. There are two kinds of MatchPoints: A Ballot MatchPoint is created for each counter group for each precinct, and a Vote MatchPoint is created for each choice available on a Ballot MatchPoint.

Together, Ballot MatchPoints and Vote MatchPoints provide a scalable measure to compare the general accuracy of the results of an election.

misfeed

Misfeeds (also called paper jams) occur when a ballot card gets stuck moving through a scanner.

mobile voting

Mobile voting involves visiting designated locations on Election Day and, optionally, during the early voting period, allowing local, potentially mobility-impaired voters to vote and cast ballots in-person without having to visit a voting location. Mobile ballots are typically collected and secured, transported to election central, and processed on a ClearCast or ClearCount tabulator designated for mobile voting.

multifeed

A scanner error in which more than one ballot card is pulled in and scanned, or attempted to be scanned, at the same time.

multigrab

Ballot cards reported as more than .25 inch longer than expected, the result of a multifeed.

network switch

The device that connects computers in ClearVote system components (such as the ClearCount ScanStations and the ScanServer, or the ClearDesign DesignStations and the DesignServer).

No Election Loaded

The election state prior to any election being loaded. Used by in-person voting systems (ClearCast, ClearAccess).

nonvote

A ballot position for which the target has not been marked, but the vote rule has been satisfied for other choices.

open primary

A primary election in which the voter receives a ballot listing all partisan and nonpartisan contests valid in the voter's registered precinct.

other voters (OV)

An example of a counter group and a counter group ID.

oval

The location a voter marks to indicate his or her choice in a given contest, used synonymously with vote target by Clear Ballot. In some voting systems, the vote target consists of a different shape, such as a rectangle or a broken arrow.

oval density

The calculated darkness or density of a voted oval. Higher densities represent a stronger indication of voter intent. After calculating oval density, ClearCount sorts the ovals by density.

oval visualization report

See *Vote Visualization*.

overvote

A ballot position for which the target has been marked, but more targets in its contest have been marked than the contest's vote rule allows. The vote rule is the maximum number of choices that can be selected for a contest.

PDF analysis

A process in which ClearVote software uses information to describe an unvoted ballot and generate BDF tables. The information provided is in PDF files and is either text or the virtual coordinates of a region on the ballot.

personal assistive technology (PAT) devices

PAT devices used in ClearAccess accessible voting. See *accessible keypad* and *sip-and-puff*.

Physical Configuration Audit (PCA)

A comparison of system components to system documentation, performed as part of voting system certification. See also *Functional Configuration Audit*.

polling place

A location for in-person voting.

polls open

The election mode in which official voting/ballot casting occurs. Used by in-person voting systems (ClearCast, ClearAccess).

postelection mode

The election mode in which postelection administrative activities take place. Used by in-person voting systems (ClearCast, ClearAccess).

precinct

The geographical division of voters for the purpose of organizing them for an election. In ClearDesign, precincts have one or more splits associated with them.

precinct count

A voting system that scans and tabulates ballots at the voting locations. ClearCast is Clear Ballot's precinct-count solution. Precinct counts still must be certified at a later step. Compare *central count*.

pre-election mode

The election mode used for election preparation and logic and accuracy testing. Used by in-person voting systems (ClearCast, ClearAccess).

primary election

An election held to determine which candidate will represent a political party for a given office in the general election.

primary party preference

In an open primary election, all partisan and nonpartisan races are on the same ballot. Despite the offices representing all parties in the election being on the same ballot, voters are required to adhere to a party line. The primary party preference race presented at the top of the open primary ballot provides a means for voters to adhere to a party line. Selecting one of the parties in the primary party preference race causes only the selections in races endorsed by the chosen party to be counted. Any candidate selections in races endorsed by other parties are ignored. Selections in nonpartisan races are not affected by the party selected in the primary party preference race.

Two possibilities exist for making selections in the primary party preference race. The voter can select the desired party in the race, or the poll worker can select the party in the primary party

preference race based on the voter's registered party prior to issuing the ballot to the voter. The manner in which the selection is made depends upon jurisdiction requirements.

prime name

When multiple languages appear on a ballot, the name in a contest might appear in a number of languages (for example, when a ballot serves a population that uses a distinct alphabet). In the US, the prime name is in English.

privacy screen

A portable cardboard screen used to ensure privacy for voters using ClearAccess.

programmable ballot return conditions

A ballot-marking condition that can be configured in the ClearDesign software and downloaded to ClearCast by means of the ballot definition file (BDF). Any ballot encountering the condition will be automatically returned to the voter. Programmable ballot return conditions include undervoting, blank voting, blank-voted cards, crossover voting and straight-party overvoting.

ClearCast may cause the resolution of the ballot return condition to be decided by the voter (a choice of Submit or Return displays on-screen), or the return condition may be unrecoverable and the ballot cannot be cast until the condition is resolved (for example, lack of election official's initials on a ballot where that is required to demonstrate that the ballot is valid).

provisional (PR)

An example of a counter group and a counter group ID.

provisional ballot

A ballot provided to a voter who claims to be registered and eligible to vote, but whose status cannot be confirmed at the voting location. The voter can mark the ballot, but the provisional ballot should be filed in an envelope for later adjudication, rather than being cast on the ClearCast tabulator.

question

A contest involving the approval of an issue of some sort (such as a bond measure), requiring a positive or negative response.

registration

The process of determining the logical front of the ballot, its readable orientation and locating all important landmarks on the image, such as timing marks and the marks in the code channel.

return ballot

The act of returning a ballot cast in ClearCast through the input side of the scanner as a result of encountering a calibration, overvote, or preprogrammed ballot return condition.

rotation

The process of varying the order of the candidate names within a given contest. Candidate selections are counted and tallied in the same manner, regardless of the order. Candidates in a rotating race are listed on the Zero Totals and Election Results reports in the same (nonrotating) order.

runoff election

An election to select a winner following a primary or a general election, in which no candidate in the contest received the required minimum percentage of the votes cast.

ScandAll PRO

Fujitsu scanner software installed on a ScanStation computer.

scanner

A device used to optically scan paper ballots.

ScanServer

In ClearCount, the ScanServer consists of a computer and associated cables. As the hub of the ClearCount system, it runs the ClearCount software, hosts the election database, and generates the election reports.

ScanStation

In ClearCount, a ScanStation is a computer with a scanner connected to it. It is located on a surface (typically a portable table) large enough to hold the equipment and to provide space for inbound and outbound ballots.

secrecy sleeve

A cardboard sleeve that holds and conceals a voted ballot when being carried to and inserted in the scanner. Used with ClearCast.

sensitivity test

Testing to ensure the system is reading marginal marks properly.

sip-and-puff

A personal assistive device used with the ClearAccess system.

software restriction policy (SRP)

A feature of Microsoft Windows operating systems that enables administrators to control which applications are allowed to run on a computer. Administrators can configure an SRP to prevent all applications in their domain from running except for applications they explicitly allow.

split

Splits are the geographical area within a precinct that is not split by any district. In ClearDesign, each split is associated with a single precinct and only one district of each district category.

spoiled ballot

A ballot that has been voted, but will not be cast.

straight-party overvoting

Overvoting of a straight-party contest.

straight-party voting

A method that allows a voter to cast a single vote to select all candidates on the ballot from a single political party.

system log

A set of system-specific transactions posted in chronological order by the ClearDesign application, and stored in an inviolable file.

Tabulator

The program that runs on each ScanStation computer (in ClearCount). It allows the computer to analyze the documents on the ScanStation and transfer them to the ScanServer. It processes card images to count the votes for every candidate or choice.

target card

A printed card that indicates that a new box is being scanned. Its bar code is used to assign the value as the box ID prefix for all subsequent ballots. There is one target card per box label.

target zone

The area in which a voter marks the ballot to indicate voter intent.

Technical Data Package (TDP)

The documentation relating to a voting system that the vendor of the voting system is required to submit as a precondition of certification testing.

test deck

A set of specially marked ballots used to test a voting system.

test plan

A document created prior to testing that outlines the scope and nature of testing, items to be tested, test approach, resources needed to perform testing, test tasks, risks and schedule.

timing marks

The outermost marking on many ballots used to align the scanner to the voting target area.

touchscreen

A computer screen that displays the ballot and allows the voter to indicate his or her selections by touching designated locations on the screen.

transition zone

In Clear Ballot's Vote Visualization, the region containing the relatively small numbers of ovals for a candidate or issue that, under human inspection, might be reclassified (such as, a marginal vote to an undervote, an overvote to a vote, and so on).

uncontrolled contest

Also known as *nonpartisan contest*. A contest that has no choices that are “marked” based on any controlled contest.

undervote

A ballot position for which the target has not been marked, and the number of marks in the contest are less than the vote rule.

uninterruptible power supply (UPS)

A backup power supply unit used during elections.

virtual coordinates

The coordinates in database tables that describe the ballot layout.

vote

A ballot position for which the target has been marked and no other targets in its contest have been classified as overvoted.

voted ballot

A ballot that contains all of a voter's selections and has been cast.

voter-marked oval

An oval selection in which a voter made a mark conforming to a jurisdiction's definitions of a vote.

vote rule

The maximum number of choices that can be selected for a contest.

vote target

The location a voter marks to indicate his or her choice in a given contest. Also known as *oval*.

Vote Visualization

Clear Ballot's Vote Visualization is the tool that ClearCount uses to resolve voter intent. Vote Visualization examines every oval for each candidate. It groups marginal votes, overvotes, and undervotes in a narrow field of view so the canvassing board can quickly determine the degree to which the software algorithm for adjudicating a vote agrees with human interpretation.

voting tabulation system

The primary counting system for an election. See *auditing systems*.

voting target area

The oval or rectangular area to fill in on a ballot. (Other shapes, such as an arrow with a gap that must be bridged, are sometimes used.)

whitelist

A list that allows you to designate which software programs are allowed to run on a computer.

write-in

A selection of an individual not listed on the ballot. The voter can select a candidate not included in the candidates listed for the race by writing the name of the desired selection in the write-in space, providing write-in spaces are included on the ballot. Write-in selections count toward the number to vote for. The combination of candidate and write-in selections in a race cannot exceed the number to vote for.

zero totals report

The report printed at a precinct-polling location at the beginning of Election Day or prior to beginning central-count scanning. Election officials must review the report to ensure that all candidate totals are zero, sign the report, and file the report.