



Solution Brief

Digital electoral processing solutions ensure greater efficiency, accuracy, and security.

With digital transformation being a top priority for Government agencies around the world, it is clear that digital technology is the way forward for electoral processing.

The Need for Digitized Ballot Processing

The world has seen an increase in the adoption of digital technologies in elections over the last two decades.¹ Digitizing the process, including paper ballots is important because it offers governments the ability to show transparency and accuracy in the democratic process, while also being able to provide results quickly.

In many countries today in the election process, paper ballots are still counted by hand or by using Optical Mark Recognition (OMR). With OMR, the marks need to be made in very specific places. Legacy approaches like counting by hand or using scanners that just “take a picture” can be prone to errors, can make the overall process slower, less secure, and require more labor resulting in higher costs.

Trials Today, Transform Tomorrow

On top of these challenges, global health events have forced governments to need to protect public health. This has fueled a call for U.S. states to relax restrictions around

Nearly 1/4 of the 136 million presidential ballots cast in the US in 2016 were mailed in.²

That number could grow to well over 1/2 in 2020.

voting by mail and offer all voters the option to vote from home.

Most states have moved to some mix of in-person and mail-in balloting which has the potential to increase the number of paper ballots required to be handled, as well as the addition of each associated envelope. It is feasible that these adaptations may result

in permanent changes to the voting process into the future.³

Digital Technology is the Way Forward

The future of elections processing is trending toward the use of digital technology and most electoral management bodies need to adopt new solutions. Implementing digital transformation in the process means removing manual steps and errors.

Speed and accuracy go up considerably by working with digital technology. Adopting a digital strategy has benefits of improving efficiency and thereby cutting costs. Besides the security, compliance, time savings, and reduction of errors, one of the main benefits is that the solution results in transparency and reassures the public that the process is legitimate.

However, it is not enough to just scan. Digitizing ballot papers and envelopes, and processing the information requires a reliable, secure scanning and software solution to help save time and reduce errors when tallying the votes.

“Equipped with Alaris Smart Touch and Alaris Perfect Page technology, scanners from Kodak Alaris can convert paper documents into crystal clear digital files, extract specific information from each page, and route files to where they’re needed next, all with the single press of a button. And thanks to impeccable image quality, scanners from Kodak Alaris are among the best performers during Buyers Lab’s OCR accuracy testing.”

Lee Davis, Buyers Lab, Senior Editor of Scanner Analysis & Software Evaluation

Kodak Alaris offers solutions that are the right fit and offer the right experience

Kodak Alaris, together with our partners provide a diverse offering of capture solutions to manage compliance and improve performance and efficiency of the overall ballot process. Our scanners and software integrate seamlessly with election counting software to deliver a highly successful solution. Add to that our services and the result is significant savings in time and money, and a reduction in downtime, errors, and rescans.

The Kodak Alaris solution is extremely versatile. The ballots can be presented in any orientation and our scanners can handle varying sizes of ballot papers and envelopes all in one batch. This way all of the scanning of ballots and envelopes take place within one scanner and does not require a lot of document preparation work.

The election counting process takes place in multiple locations so Kodak Alaris offers the right solution for each one. This includes low- volume scanners and mobile capture software that can be placed at polling stations to process the ballots in real-time. For counting centers, production scanners with integrated sorters offer high-volume, double-sided ballot paper processing. Add this to flexible capture software for exception handling to look for missing signatures, barcode reading for security, and secured FTP transmission for direct routing to the election software, and hundreds of thousands of ballots can be scanned in a day.

Kodak Alaris improves election processing by providing scalability, security, and assured quality

- The high volume capacity of Kodak Scanners give departments the ability to handle increasingly large paper voting volumes
- For ease of auditing and assured quality, Kodak Scanners assure highly accurate and legible ballot scans that can be used for resolution of auditing and quality control
- Cleaning requirements and dust accumulation are mitigated, thanks to the short, straight paper path

Security and Accuracy are Vital

Security and accuracy is vitally important in the digitization of ballots and Kodak Alaris and our technology providers offer a comprehensive solution. Our technology is a vital security component in the process so our scanners have volatile memory processing and excellent Perfect Page accuracy to read any type of document- even those with streaks, barcodes, and security marks.

Highly Recommended Service

Kodak Alaris offers a robust offering of Professional Services that can make sure the entire process is designed in the most optimal way and functions at top efficiently. All solutions are backed by our highly rated Kodak Alaris service technicians that use only 100% OEM parts, are trained on hundreds of vendors equipment and are ISO 9001 certified to guarantee top quality.

1. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13510347.2018.1470165>

2. <https://www.eac.gov/documents/2017/10/17/eavs-deep-dive-early-absentee-and-mail-voting-data-statutory-overview>

3. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/03/23/states-begin-prep-for-mail-in-voting-in-presidential-election>

Want to learn more?

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