



HOW THE WORLD VOTES

A COMPENDIUM OF VOTING METHODS IN DEMOCRACIES



INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA





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India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management

Election Commission of India

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FOREWORD



Voting Method is a fundamental aspect of election administration and management. The fashion in which a voter exercises her right to vote, keeping in mind the quotients of secrecy, verifiability and transparency, is a crucial component of elections. With the advancement of technology in our contemporary times, voting methods have also escalated new heights with newer innovations entering the world of electoral processes. Selection of an appropriate voting method which is trustworthy for all stakeholders in a participatory electoral democracy, however, constitutes a permanent debate among experts and policy makers of election administration across the globe.

Different democracies have adopted different voting methods over time depending on their specific historical conditions and legal-constitutional provisions. The Centre for Innovation, Research and Documentation (CIRD) of the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) has taken the initiative to document and bring together the different voting methods adopted and currently practised in democracies across the world.

Established in 2011, IIIDEM has been an advance training and resource wing of the Election Commission of India. The Institute is dedicated to the program of capacity development of election officials and various other stakeholders of electoral democracy, both in India and abroad, along with the intensive research on electoral issues and documentation of election data.

I am privileged to present this document before the readers. This compendium, I hope, shall benefit experts, researchers, students, and other curious minds interested in the election histories and processes.

Sudeep Jain
Deputy Election Commissioner

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We are happy to record our appreciation towards all the academic and administrative staff of the institute for their occasional inputs on this project. The Research Team of CIRD which includes Praskanva Sinharay, Yogesh Rajput, Sunny Kumar, and Bhavya Chandna needs a special mention since it is their contributions which have led to the final shaping of this volume.

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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

A

ABRIS	Atvykusių Balsuoti Rinkeju Informacinė Sistema (System for Registering Voter Arrival)
ADV	Apygardos/Apylinkės Darbo Vieta (Constituency/Polling District Work Station)
ASB	Australian Secret Ballot

B

BVR	Bio-metric Voter Registration
BVVS	Bio-metric Voter Verification System
BUET	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

C

CENA	Commission Electorale Nationale Autonome (Autonomous National Electoral Commission)
CENI	Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante
CNE	Comissão Nacional de Eleições (National Election Commission)
COMLEC	Commission on Elections
CRS	Candidate Registration System

D

DRE	Direct Recording Electronic
-----	-----------------------------

E

EAV	Electronically Assisted Voting
ECI	Election Commission of India
EVIBIS	Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System
EVID	Electronic Voter Identification Device
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine

F

FCs	Functional Constituencies
-----	---------------------------

G

GCs Geographical Constituencies

I

IBZ Service Public Federal Interieur (Federal Public Service Interior)

ID Identity

IIIDEM India International Institute of Democracy & Election
Management

INEC Independent National Electoral Commission

L

LCD Liquid Crystal Display

N

NRC National Registration Card

O

ONPE Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales (National Office of
Electoral Processes)

P

PCOS Precinct Count Optical Scan

PVC Permanent Voter's Card

R

RFID Radio Frequency Identification chip

RTS Result Transmission System

S

SAI Integral Authentication System

SATIS Smartmatic Auditable Elections Systems

SSL Secure Sockets Layer

STAE Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral
(Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration)

STV

Single Transferable Vote

U

USB

Universal Serial Bus

V

VCM

Vote counting Machine

VPIC

Voter Photo Identity Card

INTRODUCTION

Election: “A formal and organized choice by vote of a person for a political office or other position”;

Vote: “A formal indication of a choice between two or more candidates or courses of action, expressed typically through a ballot or a show of hands” (*Oxford English Dictionary*).

Voting methods are as old as the practice of election. The idea of 'election' goes back to approximately 508 B.C in Ancient Greece. The term election has evolved from the Greek word *eklektos* meaning 'picked out/ chosen/ selected'¹. And the formal act of this 'picking out/ choosing/ selecting' out of 'two or more candidates or courses of action' done through a definite method is therefore called 'voting'. In ancient Athenian polity, there used to be different methods of voting. The most common method was 'show of hands' by men as mark of support in favor of a decision in the assembly (Greek: *ekklesia*) which used to meet once in a month. Another method was that the voters had to drop a clay or metal token issued to them in a clay pot which served as a ballot box². Interestingly, there was also a practice of holding 'negative election' in ancient Greece where the male landowners used to vote for political leader(s)/ candidate(s) whom they wanted to be exiled. In negative election, the voters used to write their choice on broken pieces of pots (*ostraka* in Greek)³.

Similar examples can be traced in the annals of ancient Indian history. In between 8th and 16th century, there used to be electoral systems, functional at the level of 'Saba' in the kingdoms of the southern part of Indian sub-continent under the Cheras, Cholas, Pallavas, Pandyas and Vijaynagar dynasties⁴. The members of the Saba were elected by the entire village community through a system

¹See links: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/eklektos.html>;

<http://helpmewithbiblestudy.org/9Salvation/ElectionEklektos.aspx>(accessed on May 19, 2017)

²Jones, W. Douglas. 'A Brief Illustrated History of Voting'(2001). See link: <http://homepage.divms.uiowa.edu/~jones/voting/pictures/>(accessed on May 19, 2017)

³See link: <http://www.duvalelections.com/General-Information/Learn-About-Elections/History-Of-Elections>(accessed on May 19, 2017). The word 'ostracize' has its roots in the Greek term 'ostraka'.

⁴BrijKhandelwal quotes historian S Chandni Bi on democratic systems in ancient India from an interview with her. BrijKhandelwal, 'How ancient India upheld democracy, kept corruption at bay', DNA India (10 Nov 2011).

called Kudu Olai (Kudu meaning 'Pot' and Olai meaning 'Palm Leaf'). A village was divided into kudumbus or wards and each ward had to write the name of the eligible person on a palm leaf (olai) and then drop it in a pot (kudu). Popular democratic electoral systems also existed under the Chola dynasty in 920 A.D. which we know from the Uttaramerur inscription found in present day Tamil Nadu⁵. There are also examples of democratic political organizations and associations which emerged under the influence of Buddhism like the gana and the sangha⁶.

Since the classical times, the phenomenon of election, its management, and methods of voting have evolved politically, administratively, and technologically in the contemporary world. This compendium is a documentation of the existing voting methods adopted for the conduct of elections in various democracies in the world. Voting methods, as currently practiced across the globe, can be broadly categorized into two heads:

- Manual Marking of Ballots
- Electronic Voting

We shall go into the details of these two broad categorizations in the following pages. But in order to understand the current practices adopted by democracies for the act of voting, it is first necessary to note the evolution of voting method into its present forms, the numerous experiments done in this area at different points in the history of elections, and the ongoing debates in global voting practices.

The Early Years

In the world of voting, the key term is 'ballot'. The word 'ballot' has its roots in the Italian word ballota which means 'ball'. The early ballots in fact used to be small balls of distinct colours. The practice of using small balls as ballots was in vogue for a long period in the history of elections. The European renaissance witnessed the coming up of fraternal organizations or Freemasonry in which elections were held in case of entry of a new member or to the offices of the lodges in these societies. The voting

See link: <http://www.dnaindia.com/scitech/report-how-ancient-india-upheld-democracy-kept-corruption-at-bay-1610437> (accessed on June 9, 2017)

⁵T.S. Subramanian, 'Uttaramerur model of democracy', The Hindu, March 13, 2010

⁶Steve Muhlberger, 'Democracy in Ancient India', See link: <https://faculty.nipissingu.ca/muhlberger/HISTDEM/INDIADEM.HTM> (accessed on June 9, 2017)

method in these polls was the use of small identical balls as ballots, black and white in colour, to choose the candidate. The early voting machines which came up in the late 19th century also operated through the mechanism of collecting small balls in different containers in accordance to the votes polled by voters, where the total number of balls used for each election was fixed.

Another early voting method was voice vote. In the famous painting – *The County Election* (1852)⁷, George Caleb Bingham portrays a detailed illustration of an election in Saline County, Missouri, held in 1846, where the voting method was voice vote. Bingham himself was a candidate in that election and contested against another candidate named E.D. Sappington. The painting depicts a voter taking oath in presence of a judge with his hand placed on the Bible so that he is entitled to vote. The candidates and supporters are seen busy in their last minute campaign around the voting station. The election officers and clerks are shown sitting in one corner manually recording the votes in the poll-books against the names of the candidates. The voter in order to cast his preference calls out the name of the candidate of his choice. We see only white men as voters in the painting since women and blacks were denied suffrage at that point of time. The state of Missouri continued to use voice voting until 1863. Voice voting clearly didn't have the element of secrecy and such a method makes the common voter vulnerable to the social and political pressure of the powerful ruling elite, thereby leading to electoral malpractices like bribery, intimidation and similar forms of influencing.

The third voting method which continued since the early phase of history of elections is the use of paper ballots. However, the current method of manual marking of paper ballots is quite different from the use of paper ballots earlier. The current use of paper ballots is a product of long and sustained experiments. Paper ballots were used as early as 139 BC in Rome⁸. In our modern times, paper ballots were used for the first time in 1629 to select a pastor in Salem Church in the U.S.A⁹.

⁷For the painting, please see the book *Picturing America: Teachers Resource Book*, National Endowment for the Humanities.

See link: https://picturingamerica.neh.gov/downloads/pdfs/Resource_Guide/English/English_PA_TeachersGuide.pdf (accessed on June 8, 2017)

⁸Douglas (2001), op.cit.

⁹Ibid

Paper Ballots

One of the early definitions of paper ballot was provided in the Tennessee Acts of 1796 (U.S.A) which says:

“[A ballot is] a ticket or scroll of paper, purporting to express the voter’s choice, given by the voter to the officer or person holding an election, to be put in the ballot box”¹⁰.

In U.S.A., the early ballot papers were paper slips provided by the voters themselves on which they used to write their choices before dropping them in the ballot boxes. This practice was soon replaced by pre-printed paper ballots which were distributed by political parties and candidates. Such a use of ballot papers had its own set of disadvantages. Firstly, the element of voter privacy could be compromised. It was possible that the voter could write his name/ signature on the ballot to disclose his identity or the paper ballots may be printed of a particular colour for easy identification. The use of such ballot papers came with higher chances of electoral malpractices like stuffing of ballot boxes with unlawful votes. Moreover, there were also possibilities that the polling officers, to whom the voters used to handover the ballots, could manipulate with the ballots. However, in spite of multiple disadvantages, this type of voting method was followed till the late 19th century. In the United Kingdom, the traditional voting method was open voting where there was no secrecy quotient. It was only after the Ballot Act, 1872 that secret ballots were introduced¹¹. The demand for secret ballot was a longstanding one of the London Working Men’s Association which published The People’s Charter in 1838. We shall return to the Chartist demands in the following section on Voting Machines. The Ballot Act was passed to curb electoral malpractices like influencing of voters by landlords and employers, bribery and so forth. In the initial days, the Act was periodically renewed by the British Parliament before it was made permanent in 1918.

¹⁰Ibid

¹¹**See link:** http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/struggle_democracy/docs/ballot_act.htm
(accessed on May 29, 2017)

Paper ballots entered a new phase in U.S.A in the 1880s as 'party tickets'. Party Tickets were pre-printed paper slips which listed all the offices in the election alongside party-wise candidate names and were distributed by the political parties to the voters before the poll. The voter simply used to drop the party ticket in the ballot box if he wanted to vote for all the candidates mentioned in the slip. In case, a voter wanted to split a ticket and choose some other candidate for a particular office, he could simply strike off the pre-printed name and write the name of the candidate of his own choice against the office. The printing format of party tickets however were soon modified by the political parties who printed them by reducing spaces in between lines so that there is no space to write a new name, hence no chance of splitting the ticket. These ballots also indicated that parties wanted voters to be supporters of the party irrespective of the candidate's name. In many cases, the name of the party was printed in legible fonts while those of the candidates or offices "arbitrarily difficult to read"¹². Political parties used to print these tickets in a particular colour so that voters could be easily identified as supporters by an observer by noting the colour of the ballot he used. This method too evidently could not overcome electoral fraud and malpractices.

The most important innovation in the world of voting methods till date is definitely a contribution of Australia in the mid-19th century. In 1858, in an election in the state of Victoria, a method of manual marking of ballots was introduced for the first time where the government printed standardized paper ballots consisting of all the names of candidates for office(s) and distributed one ballot to each voter at the polling place¹³. The voter had to indicate his choice by striking off the names of all the candidates except the preferred ones). This ballot came to be known as the Australian Secret Ballot (ASB) and the Victorian model eventually became a definitive voting method. It was promptly adopted by the U.S.A in 1888 in New York and Massachusetts. There was also a standardization of 'marking the secret ballot' by which the voters could now indicate their choice only through using an X-mark or checkmark. The X-mark was introduced in West Australia in 1877. The ASB however also comes with its own disadvantages. The first drawback of ASB is possibility of inaccurate counting of the ballots since there are both valid and invalid votes, and manual counting and recording is subjected to human error. Secondly, ASB could not completely overcome the common electoral malpractices like ballot box

¹²Douglas (2001), op.cit.

¹³Ibid

stuffing, administrative corruption and so forth. And finally, ASB is definitely not an eco-friendly method of voting, as argued by the contemporary environmentalists, as it leads to the use of tonnes of paper. For instance in India, the largest democracy of the world, use of paper ballots in one general national election approximately required 10,000 metric tonnes of paper. Therefore, there has always been a quest for innovating a paper-less, accurate, and convenient voting method which led to the production of voting machines.

Voting Machines

The alternative to paper ballots is the voting machines. The first image of voting machine, designed by Benjamin Jolly, can be traced back to 1838 in the pamphlets published by the London Working Men's Association in the People's Charter¹⁴. In Jolly's voting machine, there were a number of holes on the top corresponding to the names of the candidates. The voter had to drop a brass ball in one of the hole of his choice which after passing through the machine dropped into a tray on the front of the machine in front of judges. The voter couldn't drop more than one ball as the judges could see it after each vote cast. The voter in this system could vote behind a partition.

In the second half of the 19th century, lever voting machine was designed and developed. The Myers Automatic Booth Lever Voting Machine, designed by Jacob H. Myers, was first used in 1892 in New York. These machines became hugely popular in 1930s-1950s in the U.S.A where many states dropped the use of ASB voting method. The lever voting machines were initially manufactured by the Automatic Voting Machine Corporation. Another company called Shoup (after Ransom F. Shoup) also improved the lever voting machines in many ways during 1929-1975¹⁵.

¹⁴Ibid

¹⁵Ibid



Classical Athenian Ballots.

Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



Depiction of an ancient Roman Election, 63 A.D.

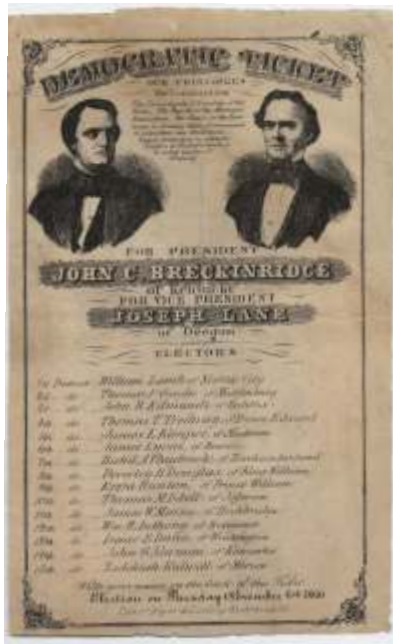
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



Kleroterions: A randomization device used in ancient Athenian polis.
Collection: Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, UK. Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



The County Election, George Caleb Bingham, 1852
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



A Party Ticket in U.S.A.

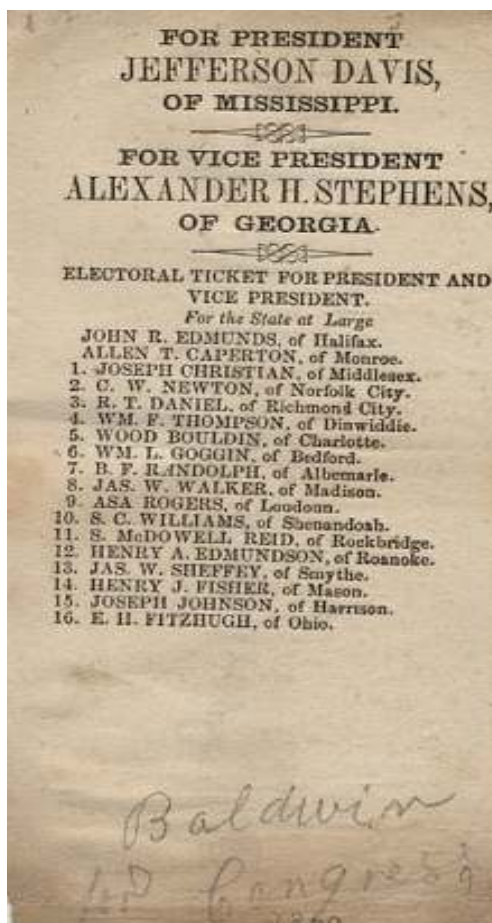
Collection: Cornell University Collection of Political Americana.

Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



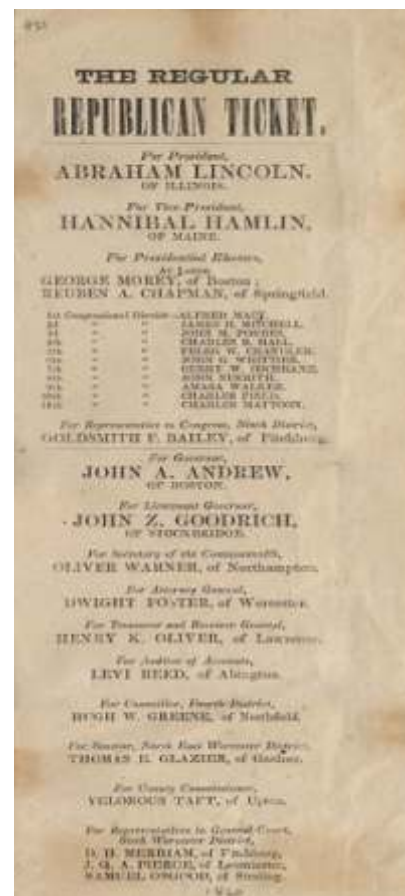
An Old Ballot from 1880 used in Cardiganshire, United Kingdom.

Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



Jefferson Davis as Presidential Candidate, Democratic Ticket, U.S.A

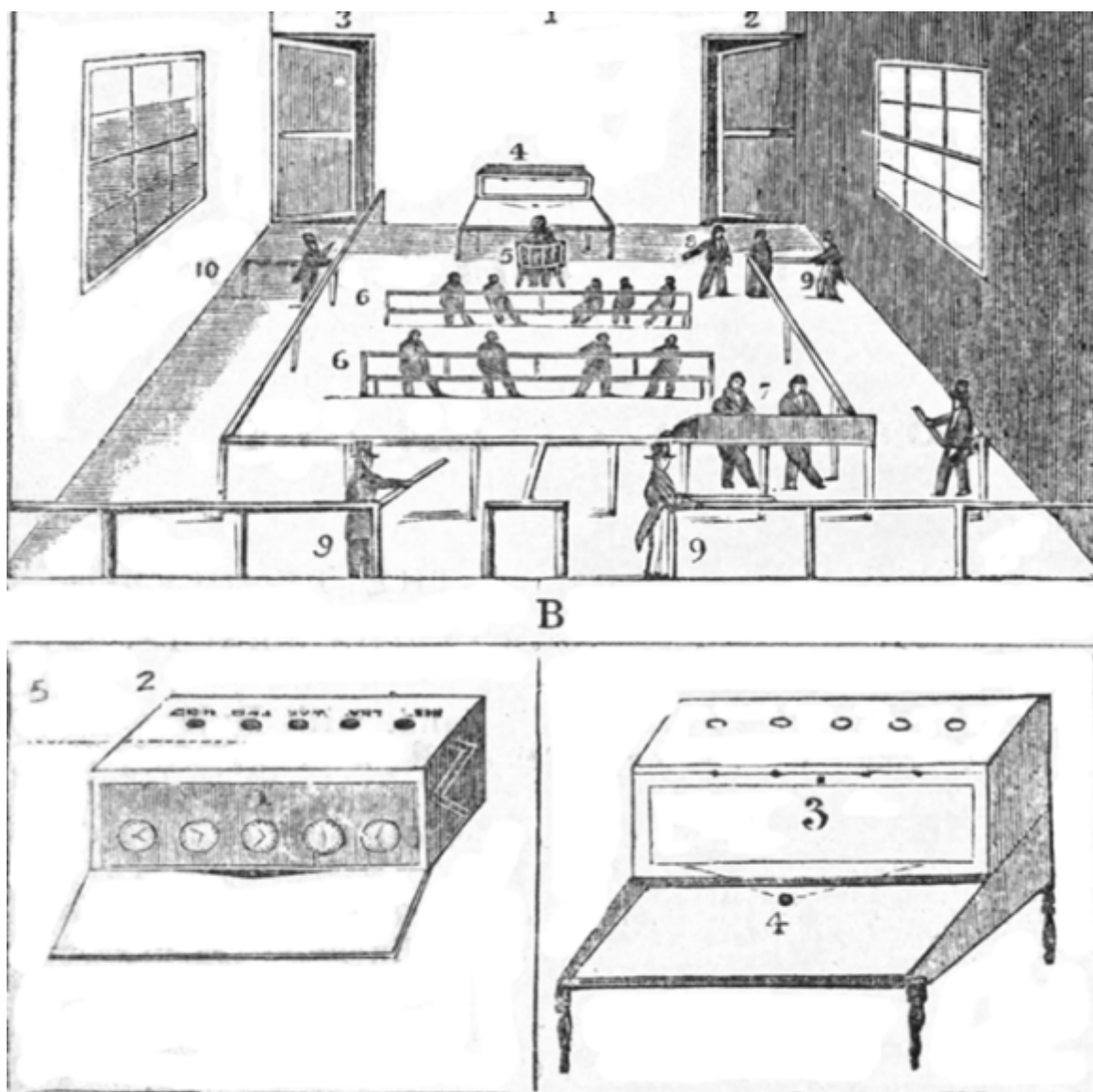
Collection: Cornell University Collection of Political Americana.Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



Abraham Lincoln as Presidential Candidate, Republican Ticket, U.S.A

Collection: Cornell University Collection of Political Americana.Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons





Polling Place Organization and Voting Machines from A Lecture on The Evils of Emigration and Transportation published as schedules A (the Balloting Place) and B (the Ballot Box).

This design featured in The People's Charter, 1839 edition.









Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



Votomatic Machine: a punch card voting machine originally developed in the 1960s.
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



AccuVote-TSx DRE Voting Machine with VVPAT
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

	NAME AND SYMBOL OF CANDIDATE उम्मीदवारों के नाम और चिह्न	CROSS चुनें व चिह्न प
Constituency—BOMRAY CITY— (Urban) Non-Mahamandak (शहरी)	ANANDMOO KADAYAN SURVE अनंमू कडयान सुरवे	
	FRANCOIS JAMSHEDJI GENVALLA फ्रान्कोइ जामशेदजी गेन्वाला	
Name or Number of Polling Sta- tion	KHINDI NATHU खिन्दी नथु	
	NANAJI RAJPUT नानाजी राजपूत	
Name of Elector or District Poll	HANDESHJI DHUSFERAJ GOLDER हान्देशजी धुस्फेराज गोल्डर	
	NAVJI GAVISHJI SHKE नावजी गवैशजी शेक	
Polling Station	MOHESHWAR CHINTAKAR JAYLE मोहेश्वर चिन्ताकर जयले	
	NAHAYAN RAMODAR BAYARKAN नाहयान रामोदार बायर्कान	
Name or Thane's Impression or Station	KHINDI NATHU खिन्दी नथु	
	HAJANAN KESHAV VAIPIA हाजानान केशव वैपिया	
	HANCHANDJI BANTORAM ASKYLE हान्चान्दजी बन्तोराम अस्क्यले	
	HEURES BOLOMON हेयुरेस बोलोमोन	



An Old Ballot Paper, India (above); Electronic Voting Machine with VVPAT (below)
Courtesy: Election Commission of India

In the 1960s, a new development came up in the world of voting machines parallel to the advent of computers. For the easy recording and counting of votes, computer-tabulated punch-cards were introduced. The standard punch-card was originally invented by Herman Hollerith which was used for tabulation by the Health Board in Baltimore. However, in the 1960s, Prof. Joseph P. Harris and Prof. William Rouverol designed the Port-A-Punch punch card¹⁶. Their company Harris Votomatic Inc. was soon acquired by IBM. Eventually the Votomatic machine was developed. Another parallel invention during this period in the realm of voting methods was the mark-sense ballots which finally took the form of optical scanners. The mark-sense ballots were first used in California. Optical scanners were further developed over the years and are currently used in some countries like Mongolia, South Korea, and also in many states of U.S.A. Another similar example is Vote Counting Machine used in elections in Philippines.

The latest development in the area of voting method which proliferated mainly in the 1990s is electronic voting. Electronic voting has also been promoted by the Election Management Bodies since it is objectively an environment friendly, portable, fast and accurate method of voting. Provided there is adequate voter education and awareness vis-à-vis the use of modern electronic voting technologies, the method is easy and smooth in terms of both recording and counting of votes. The process of electronic voting, broadly classified, can be of three types¹⁷:

- (i) Direct Recording Machines placed at designated polling station,
- (ii) Internet Voting
 - Remote Online Voting
 - At Designated Polling Stations
- (iii) Optical Scanners
 - Stand-alone
 - Networked for centralized counting of results

Under the first type of stand-alone direct recording machines, for example, comes the electronic voting machines (EVM) used in Indian elections. These stand-alone machines have no possibility of any kind of network connectivity and the voters cast their votes at an assigned polling station on the day of election under strict administrative security ensured by the Election Commission of India. The Indian

¹⁶Ibid

¹⁷See link: http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/StatusPaperonEVM_09052017.pdf (accessed on June 8, 2017)

EVMs also have a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) which helps the voter to confirm her vote. In Brazil, which claims to be the first country to deploy nationwide electronic voting, the machines used in elections are called 'Electronic Ballot Boxes' which are stand-alone direct electronic recording systems.¹⁸ Venezuela uses stand-alone voting machines (SATIS) manufactured by Smartmatic which were fully implemented across the nation in 2004. These machines are distinctively different from the other forms of Internet Voting and Optical Scanners.

The second category is Internet Voting where the voting system is networked for recording and counting of votes. This type of voting can be done either online or through a machine kept at a designated polling station. For example, in Belgium, electronic voting was introduced in 1991 and updated in 2011. The Belgian federal government, in conjunction with the Flemish region and Brussels, contracted Smartmatic to build a prototype. Currently, voting is done electronically through the use of smart cards¹⁹. Online internet voting is practiced in Switzerland for all referenda²⁰. In U.S.A, there are four types of internet usage for election management, viz. (i) online distribution of blank ballots; (ii) internet marking of ballot and return; (iii) online marking of ballots; and (iv) internet-based marking of ballots recorded as with a DRE device²¹. In 2000, after the dispute on the voting method in the USA presidential elections, the voting method was reviewed. Accordingly, Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems (like the widely used AccuVote TS developed by Premier Election Solutions, commonly called Diebold) were introduced. DRE Systems uses “one of three basic interfaces (pushbutton, touchscreen or dial)” through which “voters record their votes directly into computer memory. The voter's choices are stored in DREs via a memory cartridge, diskette or smart card...Some DREs can be equipped with Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) printers”²². The other voting methods include: Optical Scan Paper Ballot Systems, Ballot Marking Devices, and the Punch-Card Ballot. In U.S.A, 6 states completely use DREs at present among which one state (Nevada) uses DRE with VVPAT for the entire electorate, whereas 18 states still use the manual marking of ballot voting method²³. Other countries like Germany, Ireland and The Netherlands also had a brief history of electronic voting machines which were manufactured by the Dutch company called NEDAP (*Nederlandse Apparaten*

¹⁸Jordi Barrat I Esteve, Ben Goldsmith, and John Turner (eds.), *International Experience with E-Voting: Norwegian E-Vote Project*(2012), Washington: International Foundation for Electoral Systems, PP. 171-174.

¹⁹Ibid, pp. 168-170

²⁰Ibid, p. 127

²¹**See link:** https://trustthevote.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2016-03-08_eibriefing-tables.pdf (accessed on June 13, 2017)

Fabrieke NV). However, the use of NEDAP machines in these countries was discontinued due to a host of administrative, legal and security gaps²⁴.

A third voting method within electronic voting systems is the use of optical scanners used for fast and accurate recording and counting of votes. These scanners make sense of the manual marking of the ballot in order to record and produce the results of the elections.

Conclusion: How the World Votes

Let us return to our discussion on how the world votes at present. We have mentioned that there are broadly two major voting methods used currently: one, manual marking of ballots; and two, electronic voting. Paper ballots, as we have seen, have a long history which gradually took a standardized shape after the invention of ASB. However, the use of paper ballots also varied. For example, in the first two general elections to the Lok Sabha in 1952 and 1957 in India, each candidate was allotted a distinct ballot box, and the ballot papers did not have the candidate's name or party symbol. A voter had to drop an unmarked ballot paper in the ballot box allotted to her choice of candidate. The system of marking the ballot was subsequently introduced in 1960-61²⁵. However, the procedure of manual marking of paper ballots has been standardized following the coming of ASB and subsequent improvisations. Most democracies at present use this voting method where the voter marks her choice of candidate in the ballot provided to her beforehand and then drops the ballot in an unmarked ballot box. The method of marking, however, varies from country to country. For instance, in Ghana and Ethiopia, the voter is allowed to put her thumb impression as a mark in favour of her choice. In Kenya, there are ballot boxes of distinct colours for categorizing the different offices, whereas in Zambia, Nicaragua, Sweden, Portugal and Japan, a system of colour-coded ballot papers are used for elections to different offices as per the legal-constitutional provisions of the particular country. Countries like Chad and Mauritania have shifted from multiple ballot system to single ballot system. Under the former, a distinct ballot was

²²See link: <https://www.verifiedvoting.org/resources/voting-equipment/> (accessed on June 8, 2017)

²³For a detailed information on state-wise voting method practiced in U.S.A, see link: <https://www.verifiedvoting.org/verifier/#year/2017/state/32> (accessed on June 13, 2017)

²⁴For a detailed discussion on this controversy vis-à-vis electronic voting, please see the detailed discussion on the following links: http://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/SharedDocs/Entscheidungen/EN/2009/03/cs20090303_2bvc000307en.html;jsessionid=FEA721E86E2CEE030FF7AAAC90572279C.2_cid383; <http://www.unic.pt/images/stories/publicacoes1/00Index.pdf>; <http://www.unic.pt/images/stories/publicacoes1/Part%200%20Index.pdf>; https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/5_Netherlands.pdf (accessed on June 8, 2017)

allotted for each candidate whereas in case of the latter, the voter gets the list of candidates in a single ballot paper²⁶. Multiple ballot system however is used in some cases like in Senegal, Armenia and Niger. In Israel, a voter is provided party-wise slips in the polling booth which she can put in an envelope before dropping it in a ballot box.

Secondly, electronic voting, as we have already discussed, has been adopted by democracies depending on their technological innovations, administrative and legal-constitutional provisions. Although electronic voting has time and again come under severe criticism across the world primarily on the grounds of trustworthiness, it is used by many countries as we had discussed above. Most democracies are increasingly introducing audit trail to electronic voting systems in order to ensure public examinability of votes. For instance, India, the largest democracy of the world is going to introduce VVPAT across the electorate nationwide by 2019 as the new organ of the EVM so that a voter can herself verify her vote through a paper trail generated by the VVPAT. The question of public examinability has also been differently dealt with in countries like Namibia. In the Namibian voting machine, a voter presses two buttons on the machine consecutively. After pressing the first button (green), a light glows against the name of the candidate of her choice, following which she presses the second button (red) as final confirmation.

The world of voting methods as we see is not simply vast but is also prone to changes with emerging technologies and ideas as well as newer criticisms. This compendium includes the voting methods of 130 countries. The countries have been selected after studying various research and surveys on the subject that includes 'The Democracy Ranking' and 'World Audit' on the level of democracy in different countries. The countries have been grouped continent wise alphabetically and each country profile has been described in a single page. The document briefly carries information on the electoral system and the voting procedures used in the enlisted democracies. Emphasis has been given on the different voting technologies, if any, used by each country. Information on each country was collected by the Research Team of CIRD, IIIDEM from various sources available in the public domain and was thereafter sent to most of the EMBs for verification. Among the 102 EMBs with whom the Research

²⁵S.Y. Quraishi, *An Undocumented Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election* (2014), New Delhi: Rupa Publications

²⁶**See link :** <http://sahelresearch.africa.ufl.edu/tsep/themesissues/the-ballot/chad/> (accessed on June 8, 2017)

Team could communicate, 40 EMBs have responded to the queries and provided updated information on their individual countries. It is hoped that the readers will find the contents in the document useful for better understanding of voting methods and technologies, electoral systems and processes.

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Other links:

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- <http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/eklektos.html>;
- <http://helpmewithbiblestudy.org/9Salvation/ElectionEklektos.aspx> (accessed on May 19, 2017)

AFRICA

ALGERIA



Population	40,949,600 (as of May 4, 2017)
Registered Voters	22,880,678 (as of April 17, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by Ministry of Interior
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Al-MajlisEch-Chaabi Al-Watani
Electoral System	96 members of the Majlis al-Oumma (Council of the Nation) are elected indirectly by an electoral college while 48 of its members are appointed by the President. 462 members of the Al-MajlisEch-Chaabi Al-Watani (National People's Assembly) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

On Election Day, voters have to present both their national identity card as well as voter card at the polling station to cast their vote. Upon confirmation, the voter gets an envelope and a ballot, and is directed towards a polling booth. The voter makes her/his selection, inserts the ballot in the envelope and drops it into a ballot box.

To avoid duplication of vote, voters have to put their imprint of their left index finger, with an indelible ink, next to their signature on a voter register. The voter's card is then stamped indicating the voting date.

In Algeria, a person with physical disability can be provided assistance by a voter of her/his choice.

ANGOLA



Population	26,544,812 (as of May 18, 2017)
Registered Voters	9,757,671 (as of Aug 31, 2012)
Name of the EMB	Comissão Nacional Eleitoral
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assembleia Nacional
Electoral System	220 members of the Assembleia Nacional (National Assembly) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter needs to present her/his relevant identification documents to the polling officials. After verification, the voter gets a ballot paper and is directed towards a voting booth. On the ballot paper, the voter has to mark an 'X', '+', 'V', or another sign that manifests unequivocally her/his option.

The ballot paper is then inserted in a ballot box. The voter's right index finger is put in appropriate ink to note that s/he has casted the vote.

Voters who are unable to vote by themselves due certain disabilities are allowed to be accompanied by a companion (voter of their choice) for assistance in casting the ballot.

BENIN



Population	11,409,861 (as of May 5, 2017)
Registered Voters	4,702,168 (as of March 23, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Autonomous National Electoral Commission (CENA)
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	83 members of the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon entering the polling station, voters have to present relevant identification documents to the polling officials. After confirmation of identity, the voter is handed over a ballot and is directed towards a voting booth where s/he casts the ballot in secret. The voter has to mark her/his choice of candidate on the ballot and insert it in an envelope. The envelope is then dropped inside a transparent ballot box.

Voters who are physically disabled can be assisted by a person of their choice.

Proxy voting is also allowed in Benin but only for those falling in the following categories: staff of the armed forces, public security, public officials legally absent from home on election day; persons who can establish that due to professional or family reasons they were unable to be present in the country on election day; inpatients or house arrest; severely disabled and infirm.

BOTSWANA



Population	2,337,745 (as of May 8, 2017)
Registered Voters	824,073 (as of Oct 24, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Independent Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	57 members of the National Assembly are elected by plurality vote (First-Past-The-Post) under single member constituency arrangement, 4 members are appointed by the members of the National Assembly while 2 members are designated ex officio.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon entering the polling station, a voter has to present her/his relevant identity and registration cards to the polling officers. Once the identity is confirmed, the voter is given a ballot paper and is directed towards a polling booth. Inside the booth, the voter has to secretly mark the ballot paper, fold the paper and put it in a ballot box.

In case a voter is incapacitated from voting by blindness or other physical cause, s/he can be assisted by the presiding officer in the presence of the person accompanying her/him.

The amendments in Botswana's Electoral Bill, including the one seeking to introduce electronic voting machines, were approved in 2016. Currently, the Electoral Commission is sensitising citizens on the reforms and the use of electronic voting machines for the 2019 general elections. Some opposition parties, however, have opposed EVMs citing the susceptibility of the EVM to hacking if used without the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

BURKINA FASO



Population	19,086,978 (as of May 8, 2017)
Registered Voters	5,517,015 (as of Nov 29, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Commission Electorale Nationale Independante
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	39 members of the Sénat (Senate) are elected by regional governing councils, 21 members are indirectly elected by special interest groups while 39 members are filled by the President. 127 members of the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon reaching the polling station, a voter has to present her/his relevant documents for identification to polling officials. Once the identity is confirmed, the voter gets a ballot and is directed towards a voting booth to cast her/his ballot in secret. Inside the booth, the voter marks the ballot and puts it in a ballot box.

In case a voter suffers from infirmity or physical disability, s/he can be assisted by a voter of her/his choice or by a member of the polling station.

CHAD



Population	14,902,469 (as of May 18, 2017)
Registered Voters	4,830,885 (as of Feb 13, 2011)
Name of the EMB	National Independent Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	Through absolute majority vote, 70 members are elected in single-member constituencies and remaining 116 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system in the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting process

Multiple ballot system was used in Chad elections up till 2006. On August 13, 2007, all political leaders agreed to use a single ballot for all elections. Names, logos and symbols of all competing candidates are included in one ballot paper. A voter has to mark her/his choice corresponding to candidate of preference. Chad became the first central African country to use biometric system in election administration.



Poster highlighting women empowerment in elections in Benin

Courtesy: Commission Electorale Nationale Autonome, Benin



Women in voting queue in Benin

Courtesy: Commission Electorale Nationale Autonome, Benin

COTE D'IVOIRE



Population	23,728,632 (as of May 9, 2017)
Registered Voters	6,268,113 (as of Dec 18, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Commission Electorale Independante
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	225 members of the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter has to present her/his relevant identification documents for verification. Once the identity is proved, the voter receives a single ballot paper containing the list of candidates/parties running for office.

The voter then goes to a polling booth to cast her/his ballot in secret. Inside the booth, the voter marks her/his choice on the ballot and drops it in a ballot box. The box needs to be transparent on at least one side.

The voter's vote is recorded by her/his signature and by stamping her/his left index finger on a list in indelible ink.

ETHIOPIA



Population	104,018,238 (as of May 18, 2017)
Registered Voters	36,851,461 (as of May 24, 2015)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Board of Ethiopia
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Yehizb Tewokayoch Mekir Bete
Electoral System	110 members of the Yefedereshein Mekir Bete (House of Federation) are elected by indirect vote. 547 members of the Yehizb Tewokayoch Mekir Bete (House of People's Representatives) are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon reaching the polling station, a voter needs to present her/his relevant identification documents to the polling officials. After verification, the voter's thumb/finger is marked with indelible ink after which s/he is handed over a ballot paper and is directed towards the voting booth.

On the ballot paper, the voter has to put an 'X' or a thumb mark in the square corresponding to the symbol of the candidate for whom s/he wants to vote. The ballot paper is then put in a ballot box.

In case a voter needs assistance in voting, s/he can choose the concerned person for the same.

GHANA



Population	28,535,051 (as of Apr 23, 2017)
Registered Voters	15,712,499 (as of Dec 10, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Commission of Ghana
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Parliament
Electoral System	275 members in the Parliament are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

A voter goes to the voting location along with her/his voter registration card. Election officials hand over the ballot paper after processing the document identification. The ballot contains information about the list of candidates running for elections in the electoral district.

To vote for a candidate, the voter is required to make a thumb print beside the name of the preferred candidate behind a voting screen to maintain secrecy of vote. The voter then has to return to the election official and put her/his ballot in a ballot box.

In Ghana, any citizen who is eighteen years of age or above and is of sound mind has the right to vote.

GUINEA



Population	13,242,531 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	6,042,634 (as of Oct 11, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Commission Electorale National eIndépendante
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	38 members of the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) are elected by plurality vote while 76 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon entering the voting room, a voter has to present her/his voter card to the polling officials. The card is stamped with the date of the voting. The voter also has to present other relevant identification documents in front of the polling officials.

The voter then takes an envelope and a ballot, and goes to a polling booth to vote in secret. Inside the booth, the voter places the ballot or the list of her/his choice of candidate in the envelope. The envelope is then dropped in a ballot box.

In case a voter is incapacitated and is unable to put her/his ballot in the envelope, s/he can take assistance from a voter of her/his choice.

KENYA



Population	48,293,772 (as of May 14, 2017)
Registered Voters	14,388,781 (as of Mar 09, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Bunge (Senate & National Assembly)
Electoral System	Through qualified plurality vote, 67 members are elected in the Senate and 349 members in the National Assembly.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Although Kenya uses electronic technology for voter identification (EVID), candidate registration system (CRS), result transmission (RTS) and bio metric voter registration system (BVR), it follows manual system of vote marking through paper ballot system.

On poll day, a voter enters the polling station and goes through an identification process. The voter's identity is processed in EVID which is an electronic poll book. EVIDs check and confirm voter's identity electronically as registered by the bio metric voter registration. After verification, 6 stamped ballot papers are issued to the voter. The six ballot papers are (Presidential Ballot – White, Governor's Ballot – Blue, Senator's Ballot – Yellow, County Assembly Ballot – Beige, Parliamentary Ballot – Green, County Women Representative's Ballot – Purple).

The voter enters the polling booth to mark the ballot papers and drops them into the respective ballot boxes. The little finger of the voter's left hand is marked with indelible ink before leaving polling station.



Electronic Voter Identification System in Kenya
Courtesy: IEBC



A lady casting her vote in the ballot box in Malawi
Courtesy: Malawi Electoral Commission, Official Facebook page

LESOTHO



Population	2,181,565 (as of May 10, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,253,681 (as of June 3, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Independent Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	22 members of the Senate are reserved for Principal Chiefs while 11 members are appointed by the ruling party or coalition of parties forming the Government. 80 members of the National Assembly are elected by plurality vote while 40 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter's name is checked by polling officials in the electoral list and fingers are checked for any ink marks made before. On confirmation, the voter's index finger is marked with ink and is given a ballot paper, stamped with official mark. Before issuing the ballot paper, a voting official inserts a voter's registration number on the side and top counterfoil. The voter is then shown a vacant voting booth to vote in secret.

The voter has to place a tick/cross in the square next to name of the candidate for whom s/he wishes to vote for and return to the Ballot Issuer to verify authenticity of the ballot paper (checks top counterfoil and official mark and removes a counterfoil). The voter drops the ballot paper into a ballot box. If a voter is incapacitated from voting due to blindness or other physical reasons, s/he may use a prescribed template for blind electors or take assistance from a person accompanying her/him or from the Voting Station Manager.

Lesotho also offers advance voting for voters who are on duty on voting day. According to the country's Electoral Law, if an advance elector dies before the Election Day, her/his vote still counts.

LIBERIA



Population	4,713,125 (as of May 11, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,798,930 (as of Dec 20, 2014)
Name of the EMB	National Elections Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senate and the House of Representatives
Electoral System	30 members of the Senate are elected by plurality vote. 73 members of the House of Representatives are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon reaching the polling station, a voter's identity is verified by polling officials. Once confirmed, the voter gets a ballot paper and is directed towards an unoccupied voting compartment to vote in secret.

The ballot paper contains a list of candidates' names. The voter is required to mark the ballot according to her/his choice, fold the ballot and place it in a ballot box.

In case a voter is unlettered or incapacitated, s/he can request for assistance from a person of her/his choice to mark the ballot.

MADAGASCAR



Population	25,520,534 (as of May 18, 2017)
Registered Voters	7,971,970 (as of Dec20, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Commission Electorale Nationale Independante
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	Regional legislatures appoint 22 members while 11 members are appointed by the President in the Senat (Senate). Through plurality vote, 115 members are elected in single-member constituencies while 12 members are elected by single non-transferable vote from two-member constituencies in the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The voting commences at 6 am and closes at 10 pm. Voting is conducted by means of single ballot. The Presiding officer shows the empty ballot boxes to parties present and later closes it by 2 locks or 2 dissimilar padlocks. The Poll member checks the voter for marks of indelible ink to prevent duplication of vote. The voter is asked for national identity card and voter card to prove her/his identity. The Polling official makes an entry in the electoral register after which a ballot paper is provided to the voter to cast her/his vote in secrecy. The ballot is then dropped in a ballot box. The voter signs in the enrollment list and the poll member also countersigns it. The voter's left hand thumb is then marked with indelible ink.

MALAWI



Population	18,210,413 (as of May 8, 2017)
Registered Voters	7,470,806 (as of Aug 1, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Malawi Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	Through plurality vote, 194 members are elected in single-member constituencies in the National Assembly.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

On the polling day, voting starts from 6 am and closes at 6 pm. Before voting begins, the presiding officer exhibits empty ballot box to all stakeholders and seals it later. The voter is required to show voter registration certificate to the presiding officer for identity confirmation. The voter's finger is dipped in indelible ink and a ballot paper is provided. The voter casts her/his vote in a voting booth. Blind or differently-abled voters can be accompanied by another registered voter or polling officer to cast the vote. There is a provision of assigning another polling station if a voter may not be present in his registered polling station on poll day, for which the voter needs to inform and get a written authorization from registration officer of his constituency.

MALI



Population	18,609,750 (as of May 14, 2017)
Registered Voters	6,829,696 (as of May 15, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Independent National Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	Through absolute majority vote, 147 members are elected in the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly). A second round of voting is held if in a constituency no candidate receives majority of votes
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In 2007, Mali replaced multiple ballot system with single ballot system. As per article 80 of the law, the model and content of the ballot is determined by decision of the Minister in charge of Territorial Affairs. In single ballot system, candidate name, party symbol, photos etc. is printed on one ballot paper. The voter has to mark the box of candidate/party of her/his choice. The earlier law mandated that voter had to cast her/his vote by leaving a finger impression after dipping finger in inkpot. The single ballot system was brought in use with an aim to reduce electoral fraud.



A polling official putting ink stain on finger of the voter to avoid multiple voting in Malawi
 Courtesy: Malawi Electoral Commission, Official Facebook page



A picture promoting women empowerment in election administration in Sierra Leone
 Courtesy: National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone

MAURITANIA



Population	4,256,066 (as of May 28, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,328,168 (as of June 21, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Commission Electorale Nationale Independante
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	53 members of the Majlis al-Shuyukh (Senate) are elected by indirect vote while 3 members are reserved for the diaspora community. 81 members of the Al Jamiya Al Wataniya (National Assembly) are elected in single- and multi-member constituencies while 14 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Mauritania has semi-presidential regime as per the constitution of July 20, 1991. Mauritania has witnessed major changes in its electoral process when single ballot system was introduced during transition period of 2006-2007 elections. Multiple ballot system was replaced by single ballot system. By writing the Arabic alphabet letter or by stamping the box of candidate of choice or list of candidates, the voter makes a valid choice.

MAURITIUS



Population	1,263,473 (as of July 1, 2016)
Registered Voters	913,294 (as of 2017)
Name of the EMB	Office of the Electoral Commissioner
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	Through plurality vote, 62 members of the National Assembly are elected while the Electoral Supervisory Commissioner allocates 8 additional members.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Each voter has to cast as many votes as the number of seats (3) to be filled for the elections in each constituency. The three candidates who receive the largest number of votes are declared elected.

The Presiding Officer gives instructions to the elector as to “how to record a valid vote” once a voter is handed a ballot paper. The voting booth is prepared in a manner that it offers secrecy of voting. The ballot paper must be folded so that the vote is not revealed.

MOZAMBIQUE



Population	29,404,064 (as of May 04, 2017)
Registered Voters	10,964,978 (as of Nov 18, 2014)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assembleia da Republica
Electoral System	Through closed list proportional representation system, 248 members are elected and remaining 2 are selected in single member constituencies in the Assembleia da República.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The polling stations open at 9 am. Polling officials show empty ballot boxes to candidates and party agents present and seal them later. At least one polling staff is present to verify the number of electors and guide them to their polling stations within the voting centre. After the voter's identity is established, s/he is allowed to mark her/his choice on the ballot paper. There is a provision of 'Special vote', i.e. in Mozambique, party staff and polling agents are allowed to vote before polling station opens. Special ballot papers are put in envelopes and dropped in a ballot box.

NAMIBIA



Population	2,559,405 (as of May 4, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,267,334 (as of June, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Commission of Namibia
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	42 members are elected by indirect vote in the National Council. 96 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system in the National Assembly.
Voting Method	Electronic Voting Machine
Audit Trail	No paper trail but a lamp on EVM indicates voter's choice

Voting Process

The Electoral Commission of Namibia has a Voters Registration Kit which is a computerized unit that captures the voter data. A bio metric system combines fingerprint of the voter with voter's personal detail for easy identification on poll day. A voting card is also issued to the voter that has personal information like name, address, type of election voter can vote in, etc. On poll day, the voter's identity can be identified in 2 ways through the voter card, i.e. (a) Manual recognition of the voter through her/his photo on voter card and (b) Electronic recognition by scanning voter card and matching thumb scan impression stored in elector data base.

Once the identity is confirmed, a voter casts the vote by pressing the button (Green) corresponding to preferred candidate on the Electronic Voting Machine. The lamp corresponding to the candidate's name glows and indicates voter's choice. The voter presses the Register Button (Red) to confirm/validate the vote.

NIGER



Population	21,437,400 (as of May 14, 2017)
Registered Voters	7,581,486 (as of March 25, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Independent National Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	Through closed list proportional representation system, 105 members are elected while remaining 8 members are elected by plurality vote in single-member constituencies in the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

For the first time, Niger introduced the Single Paper Ballot System during the first round of presidential elections in 2011. Multiple ballot system is used in other elections. Niger voters were new to single ballot system and needed voter education to learn the new voting method. Earlier, voters used to pick up ballot paper with distinctive features of the candidate of their choice but in the single ballot system they have to identify their candidate on a single paper and cast their vote by means of putting their fingerprint on the box representing their choice.



A senior citizen taking part in voter registration in Tanzania
Courtesy: National Electoral Commission of Tanzania



Biometric voter verification system awareness in Uganda
Courtesy: Electoral Commission of Uganda

NIGERIA



Population	191,013,679 (as of May 4, 2017)
Registered Voters	67,422,005 (as of Apr 3, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senate and the House of Representatives
Electoral System	In the Senate, 109 members are elected and in the House of Representatives, 360 members are elected through plurality vote in single member constituencies.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon arrival at the polling station, a voter is required to show her/his Permanent Voter's Card (PVC). The polling official checks photo on the PVC for identification purpose and also checks the name of the voter in the voter list. A card reader is used to confirm the status of PVC. In order to ascertain that the voter has not voted before, fingers are also checked for ink marks. A tick is marked corresponding to the voter's name in the voter list upon verification.

Indelible ink is applied on cuticle of the finger. A folded ballot paper (printed side inwards) with its back stamped and signature by INEC official is given to the voter.

The voter enters the polling booth and stains appropriate finger with indelible ink to mark the section provided in the ballot paper corresponding to her/his candidate of choice. The ballot paper must be folded vertically with the printed side facing inwards before it is dropped into a ballot box.

RWANDA



Population	12,123,431 (as of May 18, 2017)
Registered Voters	6,392,867 (as of Dec 18, 2015)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Chambre Des Deputes
Electoral System	Regional governing council indirectly elects 12 members, President appoints 8 members, political organizations appoint 4 members while Institutions of higher learning select the remaining 2 members in the Senat (Senate). Through closed-list proportional representation system, 53 members are elected in the Chambre Des Deputes (Chamber of Deputies) while 27 of its members are elected indirectly by special interest groups.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

On poll day, voting commences at 6 am and ends at 3 pm. Voting is an obligation for citizens of Rwanda. Each polling room has 3 polling agents. First polling agent verifies identity and whether a voter fulfils the requirements as mentioned in electoral law. Second polling agent is given the responsibility of issuing ballot paper and third polling agent is assigned with the responsibility of marking on the voter's card. The voter casts her/his vote by means of ballot paper in secrecy and drops it in a ballot box before leaving the poll room.

SENEGAL



Population	15,983,503 (as of May 11, 2017)
Registered Voters	5,719,090 (as of March 20, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Autonomous National Electoral Committee
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	Through plurality vote, 90 members are elected in the Assemblée Nationale while 60 members are elected by proportional representation. 50% of the candidates on the party lists must be women.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

Senegal's history of elections goes way back to 1848, even before its independence from France. Senegal uses multiple ballot bulletins system in elections. Each candidate or party has a separate ballot paper. The voter chooses ballot paper of candidate of her/his choice and puts it in an envelope and drops it into a ballot box. Ballots are designed in different colours so as to encourage even the least educated voters to participate in elections. The use of single ballot was proposed for smooth operations and budget control measure but due to lack of consensus it was not included in the new Electoral Code of January 2011.

SIERRA LEONE



Population	7,092,113 (as of June 30, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,128,967 (as of April 30, 2017)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Parliament
Electoral System	Through plurality vote, 112 members are selected in single member constituencies and remaining 12 members are elected by indirect vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

At the polling centre, the Polling Centre Queue Controller checks ID cards of voters and guides them to the correct polling station. The Voter Identification Officer crosschecks the identities of voters in voter register and voters signs against their name. The voter is given ballot papers of presidential and parliamentary elections by Ballot Paper Issuer after checking fingers for ink. The Ballot Paper Issuer guides the voter and directs her/him towards the voting screen. The voter casts the vote by either printing thumb impression or ticking with a pen in the space against the preferred candidate. The Ballot Box Controller monitors that ballot papers are inserted in correct ballot boxes. The voter's finger is not inked at this stage. The Ballot Box Controller then directs the voter towards the Ballot Paper Issuer to vote for Mayor and Councillor elections. It is known as the second stage of voting and the same process is repeated. The voter's finger is inked in the second stage.

SOUTH AFRICA



Population	55,349,600 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	26,333,353 (as of June 1, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Commission of South Africa
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	The Regional legislatures nominate 90 members of the National Council of Provinces while 400 members of the National Assembly are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

A voter's identity is confirmed by polling officials and ballot paper is handed over. A unique number is assigned to each ballot paper and the voter must make sure that there is a stamp at the back of the ballot paper as it verifies that s/he was issued to vote on Election Day. In the national and provincial elections, voters are given two ballot papers (one for each election), and for municipal elections voters in metros and local councils are given two ballot papers (one for a ward councilor and another for a political party as part of the PR section of the election). Voters in areas which form part of a district council receive a third ballot paper for the district council election.

Polling staff guides the voter towards an empty voting booth. S(he) marks an 'X' in the box next to the political party and/or candidate of choice.

Ballot papers are folded in half before leaving the voting booth. A stamp is checked at the back of each of the ballots by an election official. The voter then drops the completed ballot paper in the ballot box.



A differently-abled citizen casting his vote in Uganda
Courtesy: Electoral Commission of Uganda



A long queue of voters during 2014 elections in South Africa
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

TANZANIA



Population	56,605,026 (as of May 9, 2017)
Registered Voters	23,254,485 (as of Nov 19, 2015)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Bunge
Electoral System	In the Bunge (National Assembly), 239 members are elected in single member constituencies through plurality vote. 102 seats are reserved for women, 5 seats are allocated to Zanzibar House of Representatives whereas members for 10 seats are nominated by the President.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The voter enters a polling station and submits her/his Voter ID card to the Presiding Officer. The Presiding officer reads the voter's name loudly so that observers and party agents can hear it clearly. The Presiding officer gives three ballot papers to the voter, i.e. for voting for President, Member of Parliament and Councilor, and demonstrates how to fold the ballot after casting the vote. The voter enters the polling booth and marks a 'v' under the box of preferred candidate. The ballot paper is folded into half and dropped into a ballot box. The little finger of the voter is marked with indelible ink to avoid multiple voting.

TOGO



Population	7,661,989 (as of May 10, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,509,258 (as of May 11, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Commission Electorale Nationale Independante (CENI)
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	Through closed-list proportional representation system, 91 members are elected. There are 30 multi-member constituencies. 10 members are elected by The Grand Lomé constituency. 3 constituencies elect 4 members each, 17 constituencies elect 3 members each and 2 members are elected by 9 constituencies.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter has to carry an elector card and her/his identity is verified and registered in the voter list. A ballot is provided and the voter goes into a polling booth, marks her/his choice and folds the ballot. The President of the polling station checks and declares that the voter has only one ballot paper. The voter drops the ballot into a ballot box and puts her/his finger into a vial which contains indelible ink.

TUNISIA



Population	11,476,219 (as of May 7, 2017)
Registered Voters	5,236,244 (as of Feb 25, 2015)
Name of the EMB	High Independent Election Authority
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Tunisian Constituent Assembly
Electoral System	Through closed list proportional representation system, 217 members are elected in the Tunisian Constituent Assembly.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

There is a provision for voters that they can choose a desired polling station at the time of voter registration. Usually election starts from 7 am and ends at 6 pm but in presidential elections (2014), opening time was curtailed to 8 am so that polling staff had enough time to organize election materials and station. One polling staff is assigned at the door to handle queue, second polling staff is assigned the task of voter verification and taking voters' signatures on electoral register and third staff sits at the adjacent desk to stamp and handover the ballots to voters. Voters then mark ballots in secret and drop them in ballot boxes.

UGANDA



Population	41,437,903 (as of May 7, 2017)
Registered Voters	15,277,198 (as of 11 Mar, 2016)
Name of the EMB	The Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	Through plurality vote, 281 members are elected in single member constituencies, 112 members are reserved for women and 25 members are reserved by legally established special interest groups in the National Assembly.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In order to bring accuracy, a bio-metric voter verification system (BVVS) and voter location slips are introduced. There must be at least 5 voters in queue for poll to start. The voter announces her/his name and shows the voter card. The Presiding officer confirms the identity and checks the right hand thumb of the voter to verify that s/he has not voted yet. A ballot paper is given to the voter and s/he casts the vote in a voting basin. The ballot is folded and dropped into a translucent ballot box. The Polling officer marks indelible ink on the right thumb of the voter before s/he leaves the polling station. Blind persons can only vote through the assistance of another person. Social media access is blocked by the Uganda Communication Commission on Election Day.

ZAMBIA



Population	17,152,758 (as of May 07, 2017)
Registered Voters	7,528,091 (as of Aug 19, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Commission of Zambia
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	First-past-the-post method is used for elections to the National Assembly where 156 members are elected in single member constituencies.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

The Polling station opens at 6 am and closes at 6 pm. A voter is required to bring Green National Registration Card (NRC) and Voter's card. Once identity is established, the voter's hand is checked for ink marks. Indelible ink is marked on the right thumbnail and voter is issued a ballot paper. There are four colours of ballot papers, i.e. Orange for Presidential election, Red for National Assembly election, Purple for Mayoral/Council chairperson election and Grey for Local Government election. The voter is guided towards the polling booth where s/he marks a cross against the candidate of choice. The ballot is folded and dropped in appropriate transparent ballot box with lids matching the colour of the ballot papers as per election type.

ZIMBABWE



Population	16,289,321 (as of May 18, 2017)
Registered Voters	5,874,115 (as of Mar 9, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	60 members of the Senate are elected by proportional representation at the provincial level, 16 members are elected by regional governing councils, 2 seats are reserved for the President and Deputy President of the National Council of Chiefs while 2 seats are filled to represent persons with disabilities. 210 members of the National Assembly are elected by plurality vote in single-member constituencies while 60 members are women elected by proportional representation at the provincial level.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

Ballot papers are used in Zimbabwe for elections. Voters visit polling stations and prove their identity by showing identity cards, voter cards or voter certification certificate. Upon confirmation of identity, the presiding officer hands over the officially marked ballot paper to voters. The voter takes the ballot paper in the compartment provided for the purpose of voting and marks a cross in the rectangle opposite to the name of the preferred candidate. The ballot paper is folded in a way that only official mark remains visible when the voter goes to drop it in a ballot box placed near the presiding officer.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN



Population	34,012,628 (as of April 24, 2017)
Registered Voters	20,845,988 (as of June 14, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Meshrano Jirga and the Wolesi Jirga
Electoral System	68 members of the Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders) are elected by regional legislatures while 34 members are appointed by the President. 249 members of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) are elected by single non-transferable vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Ballot papers are used for voting. Voters mark their ballots in secret behind a voting screen. The marked ballots are then dropped in ballot boxes. The counting of votes, thereafter, is done manually.

In Afghanistan, all citizens who are 18 years or above, have valid voter IDs, and have not been deprived from their civil or political rights, have the right to vote.

There are separate polling centres with female staff to encourage women to vote in elections.

ARMENIA



Population	3,030,772 (as of May 4, 2017)
Registered Voters	2,588,590 (as of April 2, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Central Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Azgayin Zhoghov
Electoral System	At least 105 members of the Azgayin Zhoghov (National Assembly) are elected through proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon arriving at the polling station, voters need to present relevant identification documents to polling officials. On confirmation, a voter receives a voting pass, ballot papers and an envelope. The voter needs to choose one ballot paper corresponding to the political party s/he wants to vote for, and put it in an envelope. The envelope is then dropped into a ballot box.

For the April 2017 national assembly elections, Armenia used electronic voting machines and live video feeds of polling stations to avoid vote rigging.

BAHRAIN



Population	1,415,304 (as of May 5, 2017)
Registered Voters	349,713 (as of November 22, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Majlis Al-Nuwab
Electoral System	40 members of the Majlis Al-Shura (Shura Council) are appointed by the monarch. 40 members of the Majlis Al-Nuwab (Council of Representatives) are elected by absolute majority vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Internet voting used earlier but later scrapped
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon entering the polling station, voters have to present relevant identification documents to the polling officials. Once the identity is confirmed, the voter is directed towards a special voting room to maintain secrecy of vote. The voter has to tick against her/his choice of candidate on a ballot paper provided by the polling officials. The ballot paper is then put in a ballot box.

A person who is illiterate, blind or with special needs can verbally tell the polling officials her/his vote choice for them to make the relevant tick on the voter's behalf.

For citizens of Bahrain living abroad, internet voting was offered for the National Action Charter in 2001 and for Parliamentary Elections in 2002. However, for the 2006 Parliamentary Elections, plans to use both electronic and internet voting were dropped due to privacy and security concerns.

BANGLADESH



Population	164,461,525 (as of April 24, 2017)
Registered Voters	92,007,113 (as of Jan 5, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Bangladesh Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Jatiya Sangsad
Electoral System	300 members of the Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament) are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting used in some parts of the country
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The voter marks her/his ballot paper and puts it inside a ballot box.

In 2010, Chittagong city used electronic voting machines in local corporation elections. Later EVMs were also used in some wards in Narayanganj, and Narsinghdi Municipality polls. In 2012, EVMs were used in corporation elections of Comilla city.

However, an uninterrupted use of EVMs nationwide was not made possible, apparently due to a dispute over technical glitches between the Bangladesh Election Commission and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), one of the technologists.

BHUTAN



Population	768,577 (as of 2016)
Registered Voters	402,149 (as of Sep, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Election Commission of Bhutan
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Gyalong Tshogde and the Gyelyong Tshogdu
Electoral System	First-past-the-post system is used in elections. 20 members of the Gyalong Tshogde (National Council) are directly elected while 5 eminent persons are appointed by the monarch. 47 members of the Gyelyong Tshogdu (National Assembly) are directly elected in two rounds of elections.
Voting Method	Electronic Voting Machine and Postal Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The EVM has been in use since the first-ever Parliamentary Elections under the Constitution in 2008. At the polling booth, a voter produces her/his Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC). The voter's identity is verified in the Electoral Search System/Voter List and the first polling officer calls out the voter's name and serial number loudly to make the polling representatives aware of the voter's presence. The serial number of the voter is recorded in the Register of Voters by the second polling officer and the prescribed finger is marked with indelible ink. The voter receives a signed Voter's Slip, which s/he presents to the third polling officer who, after verification, releases the 'Ballot' button of the EVM and directs the voter to a secluded Voting Compartment to cast her/his vote. Differently-abled persons may choose to be accompanied by a companion to the voting compartment.

A Postal Voter has to fulfil 3 vital steps i.e. RAV: first Registering with the ECB, Applying to the respective Returning Officer, and Voting on the signed postal ballot paper, as per the set procedures and within the time frame set out in the Election Notification.

CAMBODIA



Population	16,042,604 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	9,675,453 (as of May 1, 2013)
Name of the EMB	The National Election Committee
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Radhspeha Ney Preah Recheanachakr Kampuchea
Electoral System	123 members of the Radhspeha Ney Preah Recheanachakr Kampuchea (National Assembly) are elected by universal adult suffrage. 57 members of the Senate are elected by members of the National Assembly and local Commune Councilors, 2 members are elected by the National Assembly and another 2 members are appointed by the monarch.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter has to present her/his relevant documents for identification to the polling officials. Upon confirmation, the voter gets a ballot paper containing logo and name of political parties running for the election.

The voter is required to mark on the ballot paper against only one political party of her/his choice. This process is to be done in secret. The ballot paper is then dropped in a ballot box and the voter's finger is dipped with indelible ink.

Voters who are handicapped can be assisted in voting by an adult or they can ask for the assistance of the chairperson of the polling station.

HONG KONG



Population	7,374,900(provisional figure as of end-2016)
Registered Electors	3,805,536 (provisional register as of June 1, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Affairs Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Legislative Council
Electoral System	35 members of the Legislative Council are returned by geographical constituencies (GCs) through direct elections while another 35 members are returned by functional constituencies (FCs). For GCs, list system of proportional representation for voting is used. Different voting systems apply to elections of different FCs.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In the Legislative Council elections, an elector/authorised representative (AR) is issued with different ballot papers, depending on her/his entitlement. Inside a voting compartment, the elector/AR has to mark the ballot paper(s) in the following way – a) For the GC and the District Council (second) FC election, through list system of proportional representation, the elector has only one vote and s/he must affix the chop supplied to mark a single “” against the list containing one or more candidates' names of her/his choice in the circle provided; b) For the 24 ordinary FCs, elected through first-past-the-post system, the elector/AR is entitled to cast 1 vote and has to mark a single “” against the candidate of her/his choice in the circle provided, save in the Labour FC which has 3 vacancies to fill, then the elector may mark a “” against the names of up to 3 candidates; c) The ballot paper for the 4 special FCs, elected through preferential elimination voting system, has all the candidates' names printed on it. The elector/AR must use the pen provided to indicate her/his preference, by writing Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.) in the circle opposite the names of the candidates, in descending order of preference. The marked ballot paper(s) are to be inserted into different coloured ballot boxes according to the constituency type.



A voter shows his inked finger as a symbol of vote in Afghanistan
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



A senior citizen casts his vote in Bhutan
Courtesy: ECB

INDIA



Population	1,339,553,600 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	834,101,479 (as of June 10, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Election Commission of India
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Lok Sabha
Electoral System	233 members of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) are indirectly elected by the State Legislatures while 12 members are appointed by the President. 543 members of the Lok Sabha (People's Assembly) are elected by first-past-the-post system while 2 members are appointed by the President.
Voting Method	Electronic Voting Machine
Audit Trail	Partially implemented

Voting Process

An Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is a stand-alone vote recording machine working on battery without any network connectivity. It consists of two Units – a Control Unit and a Balloting Unit – joined by a five-meter cable. The Control Unit is with the Presiding Officer or a Polling Officer and the Balloting Unit is placed inside the voting compartment. The Polling Officer is in charge of the Control Unit who presses the Ballot Button before each vote is cast. The voter casts her/ his vote by pressing the blue button on the Balloting Unit against the candidate and symbol of her/ his choice. The EVM was first introduced in 1982 in a bye-election in the South Indian state of Kerela. Since 2004, EVMs are fully used by the ECI in conducting general elections to the Lok Sabha. It is considered as a national pride of Indian electoral democracy. India also uses VVPAT in some of its state legislative elections. A paper trail displaying the vote given to a political party/ candidate is printed by a machine after the elector casts the ballot on the EVM.

INDONESIA



Population	262,959,182 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	193,944,150 (as of July 24, 2014)
Name of the EMB	General Elections Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Dewan Perwakilan Daerah and the Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat
Electoral System	132 members of the Dewan Perwakilan Daerah (Regional Representative Council) are elected by single non-transferable vote. 560 members of the Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (House of Representatives) are elected by open list proportional representation.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

On the polling day, voters have to mark their choices on a ballot paper and put it in a ballot box. Voters may ask for a new ballot in case of a spoiled ballot as replacement. However, the replacement can only be done once. Similarly, if a voter makes an error while casting her/his vote, the voter may ask for a substitution ballot, but only once.

Voters who are physically handicapped may request for assistance in voting from other persons.

In Indonesia, voting rights are given to citizens who have reached 17 years of age or more, or are married.

ISRAEL



Population	8,298,400 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	5,881,696 (as of March 17, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Central Elections Committee
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Knesset
Electoral System	120 members of the Knesset are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter is given an official blue coloured insulated envelope and shown the way towards the voting booth where s/he votes in secret. Inside the booth are slips, one for each party. There are also blank white slips of paper.

The voter chooses the relevant slip (of the party list s/he wants to vote for) and puts it in the envelope. The voter can also use the white slip to write (in Hebrew or Arabic only) the name of the list of candidates and its respective letter. The sealed envelope is then dropped inside a ballot box.

There are special polling stations set up for people who are physically handicapped.

In Israel, every citizen over the age of 18 years has the right to vote.

JAPAN



Population	126,096,083 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	103,962,784 (as of Dec 14, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Administration Committee
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Sangiin and the Shugiin
Electoral System	96 members of the Sangiin (House of Councillors) are elected through open-list proportional representation system while 146 members are elected by single non-transferable vote. 300 members of the Shugiin (House of Representatives) are elected by plurality vote while 180 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; EVMs have been used in some places
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

A couple of months before an election, voters receive a polling place entrance ticket which they have to present on Election Day. Upon scanning the ticket, the voter receives a ballot which is colour-coded according to the type of election and is directed towards the polling booth. Voters have to write with a pencil the name of the candidate/party for whom they wish to vote. The ballot is then dropped in a ballot box.

Electronic voting machines were used for the first time in Niimi, Okayama in 2002 in the elections for mayor. Thereafter, other city municipalities and towns such as Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto, and Rokunohe too used EVMs. Regions like Kani, Ebina, Shiroishi and Fukushima Prefecture village of Otama also used EVMs but later suspended the method. The prime reason for scrapping electronic voting was that it turned out to be expensive.

KYRGYZSTAN



Population	6,112,364 (as of May 14, 2017)
Registered Voters	2,851,952 (as of Dec 11, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Jorgorku Kenesh
Electoral System	120 members of the Jorgorku Kenesh (Supreme Council) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter's identity is verified by polling officials through her/his biometric personal data. The technology of identifying voters through biometrics was introduced nationally in the 2015 parliamentary elections.

Once the identity is confirmed, the voter gets a printed cheque which the voter gives to another polling official in return of a ballot paper. The voter is then directed towards an unoccupied voting compartment to vote in secret.

Inside the voting compartment, the voter marks the ballot indicating her/his choice of candidate/political party. The ballot is then put inside a sealed ballot box.

LAOS



Population	7,021,296 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,733,932 (as of March 20, 2016)
Name of the EMB	National Election Committee
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Sapha Heng Xat
Electoral System	132 members of the Sapha Heng Xat (National Assembly) are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter is required to present her/his voting certificate to the polling officials in order to get the ballots. Once the ballot is obtained, a voter has to fill it out and deposit it in a ballot box.

If a voter is illiterate, s/he can take assistance from a person nominated by the polling officials.

For voters who are sick, disabled or old and as a result are unable to reach the voting location, mobile teams are arranged to go and collect ballots from such person at their locations.



Enthusiastic young voters queue up for voting in Bhutan
Courtesy: ECB



A mother carries her child and waits for her turn at a polling station in Bangalore, India
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

MALAYSIA



Population	31,085,088 (as of Apr 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	13,268,002 (as of Apr 1, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Election Commission of Malaysia
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Dewan Rakyat
Electoral System	44 members are appointed by the monarch in the Dewan Negara (Senate), whereas state legislature elects 26 members. 222 members of the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives) are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In order to prevent duplicate/fraud voting, for the first time in 2008 general election, voters had their index fingernail marked with indelible ink before being issued a ballot paper.

A voter casts her/his vote by means of ballot paper with a sign 'X' against the name of the preferred candidate. After marking the choice, the voter folds the paper and puts it into a ballot box. Traditional black metal boxes were replaced by transparent ballot boxes in the 2008 general elections.

In case of two simultaneous elections (parliament and state legislative assembly), “PARLIMEN” and “NEGERI” are two boxes marked separately and each of the two ballot papers needs to be marked, folded and inserted separately.

MALDIVES



Population	358,679 (as of 2017)
Registered Voters	255,987 (as of May 6, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Elections Commission of Maldives
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Majlis
Electoral System	85 Members are elected by plurality vote in the Majlis (People's Council).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The poll is scheduled to commence at 8:00 am. The candidate list and registers are kept and displayed where everyone can see them. The ballot papers are sealed in a security envelope which is opened 15 minutes prior to opening of polls to determine that ballot papers are provided as per requirement of the polling station.

The ballot box is shown to all party agents, domestic and international observers, media, etc. present to confirm that it's empty and later sealed.

The voter presents a valid personal ID and the voter's name is confirmed against the register. The voter finger is marked with indelible ink and a ballot paper is given to her/him. The voter proceeds to the voting booth and casts her/his vote. The voter then drops the ballot paper into the ballot box and exits the polling station.

Counting of ballots is done manually by the polling officials in the polling centers 30 minutes after closing of ballot boxes. The opening of the ballot box for ballot counting, consideration of ballots and totalling votes and arriving at the results – are all carried out at the polling stations. Once the result sheet from the particular voting center is signed, the preliminary results from that centre are announced and publicly displayed in the voting centre. After counting is completed, the polling station in-charge announces the result of the casted votes in that polling station.

MONGOLIA



Population	3,153,491 (as of July 16, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,990,797 (as of July 7, 2017)
Name of the EMB	General Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	UlsynIkh Khural
Electoral System	In UlsynIkh Khural, through plurality votes 48 members are elected in multi-member constituencies while 28 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers with electronic vote counting machine
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Polling starts from 7 am and closes at 10 pm. When a voter arrives at the polling station, the authorized staff of the state administrative authority checks the fingerprint of the voter and also checks the voter's data against the voter's registration in the civil registration national database and the electronic copy of the voter list. If the fingerprint matches, a voter registration bill is given to the voter along with a ballot paper. The voter manually marks the ballot with black permanent marker by shading the oval corresponding to candidate of choice. The ballots are counted by Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines at polling stations. The scanning machine requires only 25 percent shading of ovals. Once the voting is closed, votes are tallied automatically and results are transmitted via mobile network after being printed and signed by polling officers and observers.

MYANMAR



Population	54,746,691 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	34,295,334 (as of March 14, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Union Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Amoyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw
Electoral System	Through absolute majority vote, 168 members are elected in the Amoyotha Hluttaw (House of Nationalities) while 56 members are appointed by the military. Through absolute majority vote, 330 members are elected in the Pyithu Hluttaw (House of Representatives) while 110 members are appointed by the military.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Only a person whose name is registered on the voter list is eligible to cast a vote. The voter has to bring any identification card to the polling station to be identified. Voters receive a voter slip in advance of Election Day to a) guarantee the ability to vote even if they do not have identification; b) ensure timely identification and voting; and c) allow the modification or correction of voter information (corrections are made on voter slips by voters themselves and necessary actions are carried out later by relevant sub commissions). On Election Day, the voter has to cast a vote for a candidate of each House of Parliaments (the Amoyotha Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the State/Region Hluttaw). After the voter casts a vote, her/his fingernail is marked with indelible ink. The candidate who gets the majority of votes is elected. A run-off election is held, in the case of a tie.

NEPAL



Population	26,494,504 (as of 2011)
Registered Voters	14,072,416 (as of February 2017)
Name of the EMB	Election Commission, Nepal
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Federal Assembly
Electoral System	National Assembly: FPTP (with weighted vote of electoral college comprising of members of State Assembly and mayor, deputy-mayor, chair and vice-chair of the municipal and village bodies).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

On poll day, the polling officer issues a permit pass to candidates, agents and non-partisans observers as they arrive. Empty ballot box is shown to all for assurance of fairness and is sealed later. Once a voter enters the station, s/he goes to the voter identification table where the polling staff confirms her/his identity and announces the name of the voter so that the candidate, agents and observers can hear the name. A ballot paper is issued to the voter and s/he casts the vote in secrecy and leaves the polling station.

If a voter finds that a vote is already casted by her/his name, that voter may be entitled to cast a Tendered Ballot. The voter provides his identity card. If the polling officer is assured, s/he issues a ballot paper to the voter and makes its entry in polling journal. The voter marks the ballot and returns it to the Polling Officer, who puts it in a special envelope for Tendered Ballot Papers.

PAKISTAN



Population	195,982,603 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	84,207,524 (as of May 11, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Election Commission of Pakistan
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	By means of indirect vote, 104 members are elected in the Senate. Through majority vote, 272 members are elected in the National Assembly while through direct proportional representation vote the other 70 seats are elected, out of which 60 are reserved for women and 10 for non-Muslims.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

The first direct general election for the National Assembly was held on December 7, 1970.

As per the electoral rolls, voters cast their votes at specified polling stations. Since the election for both National and Provincial Assembly constituencies are held on the same day, the voter is issued two separate ballot papers.

When an elector visits the polling station to vote, the Presiding Officer asks for identification proof and confirms the identity. After confirmation, a ballot paper is issued to the elector. The voter is required to mark the ballot paper in the screened off compartment to ensure secrecy of vote.



Election in action at a polling station of Japan
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



A soldier casting her vote in the base in Israel
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

PHILIPPINES



Population	103,503,488 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	55,735,757 (as of May 11, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Commission on Elections (COMELEC)
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senado and the Kapulungan Ng Mga Kinatawan
Electoral System	24 members of the Senado (Senate) are elected by plurality vote. 230 members of the Kapulungan Ng Mga Kinatawan (House of Representatives) are elected by plurality vote while 57 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots with electronic counting of votes
Audit Trail	Implemented

Voting Process

The poll commences at 6 am and closes at 5 pm. A voter's name is checked in the voter list, finger is checked for indelible ink and identity is confirmed. A ballot paper and a marking pen are issued. The voter fills the ballot and feeds the ballot paper into a Vote Counting Machine (VCM). A receipt is printed for the voter to verify the accuracy of her/his vote and place it in a receptacle placed near the VCM.

VCMs transmit results electronically with printed copies and secure digital cards physically as a backup in case of non-transmission.

SINGAPORE



Population	5,607,283(as of 2016)
Registered Voters	2,460,484 (as of April 7, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Elections Department of Singapore
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Parliament
Electoral System	Members of Parliament (MPs) consist of either elected, non-constituency or nominated Members. The majority of MPs are elected into Parliament at a General Election on first-past-the-post basis and represent either Single Member Constituencies (SMCs) or Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs). The present Thirteenth Parliament has 92 MPs consisting of 89 elected MPs and 3 Non-Constituency MPs (NCMPs). 9 Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs) appointed by the President of Singapore also sit in the Parliament to contribute independent and non-partisan views.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented (Not applicable)

Voting Process

A voter goes to a polling station and her/his identity is confirmed by the polling officials. Once the identity is confirmed, a ballot paper is handed over to the voter.

The voter marks an 'X' in the empty box on the right-hand side of the ballot paper, opposite the name and symbol of the candidate(s) of choice. The voter folds the ballot paper to cover her/his choice and drops the ballot paper into a ballot box.

SOUTH KOREA



Population	50,667,194 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	42,479,710 (as of May 09, 2017)
Name of the EMB	National Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Kukhoe
Electoral System	Plurality vote decides 253 members of the Kukhoe (National Assembly) while 47 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

Candidates are elected through marking system of voting: a voter puts a mark for the candidate of choice on the ballot where names of candidates are printed in advance.

In the National Assembly elections and elections for local council members, a voter shall cast 2 ballots, one for a candidate of local district and another for a political party.

On Election Day, voters visit polling stations as per their registered constituencies. Polling stations are usually schools. Each station is equipped to facilitate disabled and infirm voters. Ballots are printed in black and voters mark their preference with red stamp. Black and red colour combination enables speedy automated counting process. After marking the ballot, it is placed in an ordinary ballot box. At the end of the poll, ballots are sealed in the presence of candidates, agents, etc. and are dispatched to counting centres. Optical scanners are used for counting.

SRI LANKA



Population	20,887,552 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	15,044,490 (as of Aug 18, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Election Commission of Sri Lanka
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Parliament
Electoral System	225 members are elected by open list proportional representation in the Parliament.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

The counterfoil of the ballot paper mentions serial number of the voter. The ballot paper is handed over to the voter and is directed towards the cubicle to ensure secrecy of vote. S(he) then marks the letter 'X' or the figure '1' opposite the symbol and the name of the candidate of choice on the ballot paper.

A voter has to specify and mark preference as figure '1', '2', '3', etc. if there are more than three candidates at an election, opposite the symbol and the name of the candidate.

TAIWAN



Population	23,550,077 (as of May 31, 2017)
Registered (Eligible) Voters	18,782,991 (as of Jan 16, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Legislative Yuan
Electoral System	73 members of the Legislative Yuan are elected by plurality vote, 34 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system while 6 members are elected by single non-transferable vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon reaching the polling station, a voter has to present her/his National Identity Card to the polling officials. On confirmation, the voter gets a ballot paper. On the ballot, a voter is required to mark a circle, with the help of a tool prepared by the election commission, in the 'select' column of a candidate/political party of her/his choice.

To ensure that voters with disabilities are able to exercise their right to vote, the Central Election Commission has a checklist of 28 criteria to assess whether a polling station meets the accessibility requirements. Some of the assistance tools in polling stations include wheelchair accessible polling booths and ballot slip covers with Braille printing. Furthermore, recorded audio electoral bulletins are distributed by the Central Election Commission to the visually impaired prior to Election Day, while sign language interpretation is offered in government funded broadcasts to inform people with hearing loss of each candidate's policies.

A voter with disability can take assistance of a family member/polling administrator and scrutineer in casting the vote.

THAILAND



Population	68,277,966 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	50,071,589 (as of Aug 7, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Sapha Phuthaen Ratsadon
Electoral System	250 members of the Wuthisapha (Senate) are appointed by the military while 6 seats are reserved for members of the army. 350 members of the Sapha Phuthaen Ratsadon (House of Representatives) are elected by plurality vote while 150 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon reaching the polling station, a voter has to present her/his relevant documents for identification to the polling officials. Once the identity is confirmed, the voter gets a ballot paper which contains a list of candidates/political parties running for elections.

The voter is required to mark a cross in the designated space available on the ballot paper, as per the voter's choice of candidate/party. The ballot paper is then put inside a ballot box.

The Election Commission also provides facilitation/assistance to the disabled in casting their votes.



Women queue up to exercise their vote at a polling station in Pakistan
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

TIMOR-LESTE



Population	1,233,663 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	743,150 (as of Mar 20, 2017)
Name of the EMB	National Election Commission (CNE) and Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE)
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Parliament
Electoral System	Through closed-list proportional representation system, 65 members are elected in the National Parliament.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Timorese electoral authorities (CNE & STAE), for the first time in 2017, conducted elections free from international assistance. Votes are casted by means of ballot papers. Each polling station has a team of 5 electoral officers, i.e. President, Identification verification officer, Ballot paper controller, Ballot box controller and Queue controller. The ballot paper is printed in white, smooth, non-transparent paper. Each ballot paper contains name of the candidates and their colour photographs laid horizontally. A voter needs to carry voting card on Election Day. In the absence of voting card, voter may exercise her/his vote by showing old voting card or any other official document containing a recent photograph.

TURKEY



Population	80,300,824 (as of May 10, 2017)
Registered Voters	55,319,222 (as of Apr 16, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Supreme Election Board
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Turkiye Buyuk Millet Meclisi
Electoral System	Through closed list proportional representation system, 550 members are elected in the Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi (Grand National Assembly of Turkey).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

On poll day, voting starts at 8 am and closes at 5 pm. The Supreme Election Board decides and announces which documents shall be accepted for voter identification. A voter needs to present any identification document which has Republic of Turkey identification number on it or any other document as announced by the Supreme Election Board. The President of the ballot box committee takes voters one by one in the voting area. After identity verification, the President gives a ballot paper to the voter and directs her/him towards a closed voting place. After marking the choice, the ballot is folded and put in an envelope and dropped in a ballot box.

VIETNAM



Population	95,285,377 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	67,485,480 (as of May 22, 2016)
Name of the EMB	National Election Council
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Quoc-Hoi
Electoral System	500 members of the Quoc-Hoi (National Assembly) are elected by absolute majority vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter has to cast the ballot in secret and put it in a ballot box. If a voter is unable to write her/his ballot, s/he may ask another person for assistance.

In situations where a voter is ill, old or disabled, and is unable to reach the polling station, the election team shall bring an auxiliary ballot box and the ballot to her/his residence in order for the voter to cast the ballot.

Election time in Vietnam usually starts at 7:00 in the morning and ends at 7:00 in the evening. The election team may change the schedule but is not allowed to begin the elections earlier than 5:00 am or end later than 10:00 pm.

Citizens of Vietnam who are eighteen years of age and above have the right to vote.

YEMEN



Population	28,030,469 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	10,243,364 (as of Feb 21, 2012)
Name of the EMB	Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Majlis Annowab
Electoral System	111 members of the Majlis Alshoora (Shura Council) are appointed by the President. 301 members of the Majlis Annowab (House of Representatives) are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon entering the polling station, a voter is required to submit her/his voter registration card to the election committee. On confirmation, the voter gets a ballot slip and is directed towards a specially designated booth to vote in secret. The ballot slip features the logos of all the candidates running for office. The voter then has to mark the ballot slip and put it in a ballot box.

Voters who are blind or physically handicapped can request for assistance of a confidant from among the registered voters to cast the vote.

AUSTRALIA and OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA



Population	24,571,895(as of 29 June, 2017)
Registered Voters	15,676,659 (as of 11 July, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Australian Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senate and the House of Representatives
Electoral System	76 members of the Senate are elected through single transferable vote (STV) proportional representation system. 150 members of the House of Representatives are elected through an alternative voting system.
Voting Method	Mostly manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting used in some of the state elections
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In an Australian federal election two ballot papers are used: white for the Senate and green for the House of Representatives. When voting for the Senate, a voter must choose only one of the two options: 'above the line' (ATL) vote or 'below the line' (BTL) vote. If voting ATL, the voter must number at least 6 boxes in order of preference for parties or groups, where number 1 is their first preference. If voting BTL, the voter must number at least 12 boxes of individual candidates in order of preference, where number 1 is their first preference. The ballot is then put in a ballot box. When voting for the House of Representatives, a voter must number every box in order of preference, where number 1 is their first preference.

In 2001, 17 members of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) legislative assembly were elected through electronic voting. Since 2006, Electronically Assisted Voting (EAV) has been used in Victorian State elections. Electronic voting was also used on a trial basis for identified groups, including blind and low vision voters, in the 2007 federal elections. From the 2013 federal election, blind and low vision voters have been able to cast their vote via tele phone from a location of their choice. At the 2016 federal election, Australia scanned ballot papers and recorded voter preferences electronically through optical character recognition technology along with manual verification by human operators.

NEW ZEALAND



Population	4,597,338 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,158,576 (as of March 3, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	House of Representatives
Electoral System	Through plurality vote, 71 members are elected in the House of Representatives, while through closed-list proportional representation system other 50 members are elected.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In a by-election, a voter can only cast vote within her/his electorate. In a general election, a voter can vote at any voting place in the country, but will need to cast a special vote if the voter is outside her/his electorate.

On Election Day, the voter visits her/his electorate. The voter is provided with an EasyVote card or a letter from the Electoral Commission. It takes longer time to vote if the voter does not have the EasyVote card or the letter.

The voter receives a ballot paper from the Issuing Officer at the polling station and takes the ballot to a private booth. On the ballot paper, the voter can put a tick mark on either the candidate name or the political party of preference or on both.

In order to encourage maximum participation, there are two options available to voters who cannot visit polling booth on Election Day: such voters can vote in advance, or can cast a special vote.



Polling officials in action during elections in New Zealand
Courtesy: Electoral Commission of New Zealand



A voter drops his ballot in the ballot box in New Zealand
Courtesy: Electoral Commission of New Zealand

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Population	7,909,165 (as of May 8, 2017)
Registered Voters	4,776,096 (as of June 26, 2012)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Parliament
Electoral System	Limited Preferential Vote (109 members are elected in the National Parliament).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Until the 2002 national elections, Papua New Guinea was following First-Past-The-Post system but later the National Parliament made amendments in Organic Law on National and Local Level Government Elections and introduced Limited Preferential Voting in only National Elections according to which the winner must have the absolute majority (50%+1).

On polling day, a voter has three options to mark as per her/his preference by placing the number '1' as first preference, '2' as second preference and '3' as third preference. The Ballot paper must have initials of the Presiding Officer before marking and dropping it in a ballot box.

EUROPE

ALBANIA



Population	2,910,191 (as of May 4, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,271,885 (as of June 23, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Kuvendii Shqipërisë
Electoral System	140 members of the Kuvendii Shqipërisë (Parliament of Albania) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon entering the polling station, a voter is required to present her/his relevant documents of identification to the election officials. On confirmation, the left hand of the voter is marked with a special ink, which is indelible for at least 24 hours. This is to ensure that a voter does not cast her/his vote more than once. The voter is then handed over a ballot paper and is directed towards a voting booth. Alone in the booth, the voter marks on the ballot paper, with the sign 'x' or '+' or another sign that clearly indicates the voter's choice, next to the name of her/his choice of candidate/party. The voter then deposits the ballot paper in a ballot box.

In 2012, major political parties of Albania decided to implement a pilot project for electronic voting in elections in Tirana and Fier cities in 2013. The project, however, failed to take off.

More recently, the Democratic Party in opposition has demanded electronic voting in the June 2017 elections for it to be free and fair.

AUSTRIA



Population	8,588,134 (as of April 24, 2017)
Registered Voters	6,399,607 (as of Dec 4, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Federal Electoral Board
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Nationalrat
Electoral System	61 members of the Bundesrat (Federal Council) representing Austria's nine provinces are elected by indirect vote. 183 members of the Nationalrat (National Council) are elected through open-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter gets a blank envelope and a ballot paper. The voter goes to the polling booth, fills in the ballot paper, and places it in the envelope. The closed envelope is then put into a ballot box.

Voters can also cast their votes through postal ballots from within or outside the country. The postal ballots can be delivered by mail, in-person appearance or through a person of trust. Mobile voting is also allowed at prisons, hospitals, nursing homes and for homebound voters. There is no proxy voting.

BELARUS



Population	9,462,732 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	6,978,490 (as of Sept 22, 2016)
Name of the EMB	The Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus for Elections and National Referendums
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Palata Predstaviteley
Electoral System	56 members of the Soviet Respubliki (Council of the Republic) are elected by regional governing councils while 8 members are appointed by the president. 110 members of the Palata Predstaviteley (Chamber of Representatives) are elected by absolute majority vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Voters mark the ballot paper secretly in a specified room by putting any sign next to the name of their choice of candidate. They then put the paper in a ballot box.

In Belarus, voters have to be at least 18 years old to participate in the parliamentary elections. However, citizens who are declared legally incapable by court or are serving prison sentence have no right to vote.

For people unable to visit polling stations on the Election Day, due to health or other valid reasons, the precinct election commission authorizes its members to organize voting at the place of residence of these persons.

BELGIUM



Population	11,430,447 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	8,001,278 (as of May 25, 2014)
Name of the EMB	IBZ (Federal Public Service Interior)
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Chambre des Représentants
Electoral System	50 members of the Senaat (Senate) are elected by indirect vote while 10 members are elected by the Senate itself. 150 members of the Chambre des Représentants (Chamber of Representatives) are elected through flexible-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Electronic Voting, Ballot Paper
Audit Trail	Implemented

Voting Process

Each voter receives an activated smart card which s/he inserts in a card reader attached to a stand-alone voting machine. The voter can make her/his preference on the LCD touch screen of the machine which also has a built-in printer to create a paper record of the vote.

After choosing and confirming the vote on the touch screen, the machine prints out a ballot containing two parts, a human-readable part and a machine-readable barcode. The voter verifies her/his printed vote and goes to a separately located ballot box, scans the barcode on the ballot and puts it in an opaque, sealed electronic ballot box. The ballot box, before storing the paper, reads the vote's barcode and transfers the data to two separate USB pen drives.

Manual marking of ballots with a pencil in a designated polling booth is another voting method practiced in Belgium. Voters living outside the country can cast their votes in Belgium, or at the Embassy, or by post.

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA



Population	3,791,622 (as per the 2013 Census)
Registered Voters	3,362,636 (as of May, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Predstavnicki Dom
Electoral System	The House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH consists of 15 Delegates, of whom two-thirds are from the Federation Parliament (including five Croats and five Bosniaks) and one-third from the Republika Srpska National Assembly (five Serbs). 42 members of the Predstavnicki Dom (House of Representatives) are elected through open-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon reaching the polling station, a voter's identity is checked by polling station committee's member. Once confirmed, the voter receives a ballot containing the names of the parties/candidates running for office. The voter is directed towards the voting booth to cast her/his vote in secret. Once the voter marks her/his preferred choice of candidate, s/he folds the ballot paper and places it in a ballot box.

If a voter is blind, illiterate or bodily incapacitated, s/he can request for assistance in voting. In such cases, any person selected by the voter may assist her/him in casting the ballot. It is not necessary that the person helping the voter be a registered voter. One person can provide assistance only once. Members of the polling station committee are not allowed to provide assistance in voting.

BULGARIA



Population	7,364,570 (as of February 1, 2011)
Registered Voters	6,810,341 (as of March 30, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	240 members of the National Assembly are elected with a proportional electoral system with party candidate lists, registered in multi-seat constituencies and coalitions and initiative committees with available preference option of a candidate from the list.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Machine Ballot
Audit Trail	Implemented

Voting Process

In the polling stations, voters have the option of voting either with a paper ballot or a machine ballot.

In the paper ballot system, the voter receives a paper ballot by a member of the section election commission who tears it from the ballots stub straight before handing it to the voter and puts the commission's stamp on it. The voter marks her/his choice with “X” or “V” alone inside a cabin. When the voter comes out, s/he hands the folded ballot to a member of the commission who checks whether the number of the ballot corresponds to the number of the stub and if it does, puts a second commission stamp on the ballot and tears the piece with its number on it, and then drops it in a separate box. The voter may give preference to a specific candidate from the list with a mark.

In the case of machine voting, the voter may use specialized machine voting devices. The machine ballot is structured in the same way as the paper ballot. After the voting is completed, a control receipt is printed, which is dropped in a special machine voting box.

CROATIA



Population	4,190,669 (as of Dec 31, 2015)
Registered Voters	3,719,182 (as of May 12, 2017)
Name of the EMB	State Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Hrvatski Sabor
Electoral System	143 members of the Hrvatski Sabor (Assembly) are elected based on proportional representation and preferential voting. Voters may vote only for one slate of candidates and they may mark one candidate on the selected slate to have precedence over other candidates (preferred vote).8 members of the Hrvatski Sabor, representing national minorities, are elected as individual candidates. The elected representative is the candidate who has won the greatest number of votes cast.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Voters are given a ballot on which they can encircle the ordinal number to the left of the name of a particular slate. If a voter wants to give a preferred vote to a particular candidate on the slate, s/he shall encircle the ordinal number to the left of the name and surname of the candidate to whom such voter wants to give a preferred vote.

The votes are casted behind a voting screen to maintain secrecy. The ballot is then dropped into a ballotbox.

If a voter, due to any physical handicap or illiteracy, is unable to vote independently, s/he can be accompanied to the polling station with another person. The accompanying person should mark the ballot only upon the authorization and instruction given by the concerned voter.

CYPRUS



Population	1,185,519 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	543,186 (as of May 23, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by Ministry of Interior
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Vouli Antiprosopon
Electoral System	80 members of the Vouli Antiprosopon (House of Representatives) are elected by open list proportional representation.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

With regard to the voting method in Cyprus, a ballot paper is used which is required to be marked with special symbols. The symbols indicate the choice made by the voter for a particular candidate/party. Symbols such as '+', 'X', or '✓' are to be marked in the appropriate square box on the ballot paper.

It is encouraged that voters use the pens provided at polling booths since only blue or black ink coloured pens are allowed to mark the ballot with. The use of any other colour of ink would render the ballot null.

CZECH REPUBLIC



Population	10,553,830 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	8,424,227 (as of Oct 25, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senát and the Poslanecká Sněmovna
Electoral System	81 members of the Senát (Senate) are elected by absolute majority vote. 200 members of the Poslanecká Sněmovna (Chamber of Deputies) are elected through flexible-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Voting is done by marking the choice of candidate on a ballot paper. A voter receives an envelope and a ballot paper from the polling officials and is directed towards the polling booth. S/he then encircles the preferred candidate's ballot position number and inserts the ballot into the envelope. The voter cannot indicate more than four candidates listed on one ballot form. The envelope is then dropped into a ballot box.

If a voter is incapable of marking the ballot by her/himself due to physical handicap, or because of illiteracy, s/she can be accompanied to the voting booth by another voter for assistance.

DENMARK



Population	5,756,170, as of April 1st, 2017)
Registered Voters	4,153,153 (as of Dec 3, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Folketinget
Electoral System	179members of the Folketinget (Parliament) are elected by open-list proportional representation.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

On Election Day, voters have to cast the ballot in private in a voting booth. The voter marks a cross against the name of her/his choice of candidate/party. The ballot paper is then put in a ballot box.

Voters may ask for assistance in cases of disability, poor health or similar reasons to cast their vote. Such voters can take assistance either from polling officials or from a person of their choice.

Voting in advance is also permitted in Denmark. In such cases, voters need to prove their identity to the vote receiver, upon which they receive the advance voting material. Voters then fill in the ballot paper in private and put it in an envelope. Voters also have to fill in a covering letter, sign it in the presence of the voter receiver, and put it in the envelope. The envelope is then sealed and sent to the voter's local council of the municipality where s/he is registered on the electoral register.

ESTONIA



Population	1,306,366 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	899,793 (as of March 2, 2015)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Committee
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Riigikogu
Electoral System	101 members of the Riigikogu (Parliament) are elected through open-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Both manual marking of ballots and internet voting
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In Estonia, voters can cast their votes through both envelope and internet voting methods.

In the ballot paper method, voters receive a ballot paper and two envelopes. Voters fill in the ballot paper and put it into an envelope. They then put the envelope into another outer envelope on which information about the voter is written. The envelope is then delivered to the voter's polling district of residence. Once the eligibility of the voter is confirmed, the outer envelope is opened and the inner envelope is put into a ballot box. This system ensures secrecy of vote as well as prevents casting of vote more than once.

Internet voting was first introduced in the local elections of 2005. More than 9,000 voters (about 2 percent of the voter turnout) had cast their ballots through this method. Internet voting was then used in parliamentary elections as well. In this system, a voter downloads I-voting application that encrypts the vote and gives a digital signature to confirm her/his choice.

FINLAND



Population	5,538,063 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	4,221,237 (as of April 20, 2015)
Name of the EMB	The Election Unit of the Ministry of Justice
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Eduskunta
Electoral System	199 members of the Eduskunta (Parliament) are elected by open-list proportional representation while 1 member is elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting earlier used in some parts of the country but later suspended
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Voters have to mark their choices on a ballot paper and put it in a ballot box.

Electronic voting was introduced in Finland in the 2008 municipal elections of Karkkila, Kauniainen and Vihti. In this, electronic voting machines with touch screen and card reader were used to allow casting of votes. However, in 2010 it was decided that the development of electronic voting would not be continued but close attention would be paid to international case studies.

In 2016, the government decided to carry out a thorough study on the possibilities to introduce internet voting in general elections.

FRANCE



Population	64,888,587 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	46,066,499 (as of May 6, 2012)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by Ministry of the Interior
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Assemblée Nationale
Electoral System	348 members of the Sénat (Senate) are indirectly elected by an electoral college. 577 members of the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) are elected by absolute majority vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots in Envelopes
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Voters insert their choice of ballot (of the candidate/list they want to vote for) into an envelope and drop it in a transparent ballot box.

In 2003, for the election of the representatives to the Assembly of the French Citizens Abroad, French citizens were allowed to use remote internet voting. However, in March 2017, the French government dropped plans to allow citizens abroad to vote electronically in the legislative elections scheduled in June 2017, citing cyber security concerns.

In 2007, electronic voting machines were used in presidential elections. However, gradually their supply and demand declined considerably.



A voter casting her vote in Albania
Courtesy: Central Election Commission



Voting cards for the second round of the French presidential elections 2017 in France
Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

GEORGIA



Population	3,973,559 (as of May 10, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,459,532(as of May 1, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission of Georgia
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Parliament of Georgia
Electoral System	Mixed system. 77 members of the Parliament of Georgia are elected through closed-list proportional representation system while 73 members are elected by majority vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon entering the polling place, a voter has to present her/his relevant identification documents to the polling officials. Once the identity is confirmed, the voter receives a ballot paper and is directed towards a ballot booth to vote in secret.

The voter has to fill out the ballot paper according to her/his choice of candidate.

If a voter is unable to independently mark the ballot paper, she/he can take assistance from an authorized person.

After leaving the ballot booth, the voter has to put the ballot in an envelope, seal it and place it into a ballot box.

GERMANY



Population	80,644,599 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	61,943,569 (as of Sep 22, 2013)
Name of the EMB	The Federal Returning Officer
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Bundestag
Electoral System	69 members of the Bundesrat (Federal Council) are filled by regional legislatures. 299 members of the Bundestag (Federal Diet) are elected by plurality vote while another 299 members are allocated by popular vote through mixed-member proportional system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; EVMs used earlier till 2005
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Voters have to mark their choices on a ballot paper and put it in a ballot box.

Germany piloted its first electronic voting machines in Cologne city in 1998. The next year, the city used EVMs for conducting the European Parliament elections. Soon other cities and municipalities too started using electronic voting. In 2005, about 2 million voters used EVMs in the general elections to cast their votes.

However, after the 2005 general elections, complaints reached the German Constitutional Court against the use of EVMs. In 2009, the German Federal Constitutional Court banned electronic voting.

GREECE



Population	10,897,774 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	9,939,902 (as of 2015)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by Ministry of Interior
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Vouli ton Ellinon
Electoral System	250 members of the Vouli ton Ellinon (Parliament) are elected through open-list proportional representation system while 50 members are allocated for the party that wins a plurality of votes.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In Greece, voters are required to manually mark ballot papers in order to cast their votes. For this, voters have to mark a cross next to the name of the candidate(s) of their preference. The ballot paper is then sealed in an envelope and put into a ballot box.

The right to vote in Greece is granted to individuals who are at least 17 years of age, or would turn 17 on the year of the election, have the capacity for legal act and are not the subject of an irrevocable criminal conviction for felonies listed under article 51 (par. 3) of its Constitution.

HUNGARY



Population	9,794,084 (as of Apr 23, 2017)
Registered Voters	8,261,394 (as of Oct 3, 2016)
Name of the EMB	National Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Országgyűlés
Electoral System	106 members in the Országgyűlés (National Assembly) are elected in single-member constituencies and 93 members are directly elected in a single nationwide district by proportional representation vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

An Electoral committee verifies the voter's identity and whether the voter is included in the electoral roll. After identification, a counting committee provides ballot paper and an envelope to the voter. The ballot paper is stamped in the voter's presence. The voter needs to sign the electoral roll upon receiving the stamped ballot paper.

The voter is then directed towards a polling booth which has arrangements to ensure that the voter can fill the ballot in secret. Votes are considered valid only if marked as 'x' or '+' in the circle placed beside the name of the candidate and over the name of the list. Other marks are considered invalid. Finally, the voter puts the ballot paper in the envelope, and the envelope is cast in a ballot box.

ICELAND



Population	333,983 (as of May 17, 2017)
Registered Voters	246,511 (as of Oct 29, 2016)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Althing
Electoral System	63 members of the Althing (Parliament) are elected through open-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Online voting in Ölfus municipality in 2015
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The ballot paper used in Iceland contains a list of letters of the alphabet for political organizations which put forward their candidates in elections. The voter has to mark a cross in the check box on the ballot paper with a pencil in front of the letter of the alphabet as per her/his choice for candidate. The voting is done in a polling booth in secret. If a voter wishes to change the ranking of candidates, s/he can put the number 1 in front of the name of candidate who is her/his first choice, number 2 for second choice and so on. A voter can also reject candidates on the list by crossing out their names, or can keep the list unchanged by neither crossing out names nor altering the ranking of the names. After completing the ballot, it is dropped in a ballot box.

The Electoral Commission also makes available a card, of the same dimensions as the ballot paper, with raised list-letters-of-the-alphabet and Braille lettering, and a window in front of each letter and a pocket on the reverse. This allows voters who are blind to make a cross through the window in front of the list for which they are voting and thus cast their vote in private and without assistance. Still, assistance can be provided if a voter informs that s/he would be unable to write on the ballot paper.

In 2015, the municipality of Ölfus conducted a fully online residents' referendum that witnessed a participation rate of 43 percent.

IRELAND



Population	4,742,593 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,202,442 (as of Feb 26, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Dáil Éireann
Electoral System	166 members of the Dáil Éireann (House of Representatives) are elected through single transferable vote (STV) proportional representation system. One seat is reserved for the Speaker of the House. 49 members of the Seanad Éireann (Senate) are elected by indirect vote while 11 members are appointed by the prime minister.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting trialled in some parts of the country but later the idea was scrapped
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

A voter is required to number the ballot paper according to her/his preference of the candidate/party. Number 1 would mean first preference, number 2 as second, and so forth till the voter wishes to keep marking. The ballot is then put in a ballot box.

Electronic voting machines were trialled in the 2002 general elections in three constituencies. The machines were again used in seven constituencies in the 2002 referendum on the Treaty of Nice. Later the government planned to introduce EVMs for local and national elections on a larger scale. However in 2009, the government announced scrapping of the electronic voting system due to cost issues and public dissatisfaction.

ITALY



Population	59,798,533 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	50,773,284 (as of Jan 31, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Direzione Centrale dei Servizi Elettorali
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senatodella Repubblica and the Camera dei Deputati
Electoral System	322 member of the Senatodella Repubblica (Senate) and 630 members of the Camera dei Deputati (Chamber of Deputies) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system, except for five members of the Senate who are elected by the President and two members are ex-officio.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting used in some parts of the country
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Voters mark their choices on a special card with an indelible pencil and put it in a ballot box.

Test runs of electronic voting were conducted in the European Parliament elections in 2004. In 2006, electronic voting machines were used at four polling stations in the national elections.

In 2008, Trentino trialled EVMs in its provincial elections while in 2013, two towns of Salento region used EVMs in their local elections.

LATVIA



Population	1,946,591 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,552,235 (as of Oct 29, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Saeima
Electoral System	100 members of the Saeima (Parliament) are elected through flexible-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon arriving at the polling station, voters have to present their relevant identity cards. Voters then receive a ballot envelope and a set of ballot papers after which they go to a polling booth to vote in secret. Voters have to choose one ballot paper as per their preference of candidate and mark it with a special symbol (+) while cross out the names of candidate whom they do not wish to support. Voters may also leave the ballot unmarked. They then need to seal the ballot paper in an envelope and put it in a ballot box.

If a voter has a physical disability, s/he can instruct another person to mark the ballot paper on her/his behalf.

LITHUANIA



Population	2,834,098 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	2,405,143 (as of Oct 25, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Central Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Seimas
Electoral System	71 members of the Seimas (Parliament) are elected by absolute majority vote while 70 members are elected through open-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

With the first parliamentary elections being held in 1992, Lithuania has emerged as a new democracy. New technologies were used in the 2016 parliamentary elections, i.e. ABRIS & VEDLYS.

ABRIS allows polling staffs to identify electors in the electronic database and mark all those who voted while VEDLYS was used to compile constituency results and enter polling station results into electronic protocols.

At the polling station entrance, a voter is issued a polling station arrival card after identity confirmation. Identified voters are marked status as “voted” in ABRIS and instructions are given regarding marking the ballots. A voter mark her/his choice on a ballot, folds it and puts it into a ballot box.

LUXEMBOURG



Population	583,066 (as of May 16, 2017)
Registered Voters	246,974 (as of June 7, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Government Centralizing Office
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Chambre des Députés
Electoral System	60 members of the Chambre des Députés (Chamber of Deputies) are elected by open-list proportional representation.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In the Luxembourg elections, each voter has as many votes as the number of members to be elected in the constituency. A voter can allocate two votes to each candidate up to the total of votes s/he has.

To cast the ballot, a voter can either fill a white circle or mark a cross (+ or x) on the ballot provided, using a pencil/pen/similar instrument, assigning a vote to each candidate from that list.

In Luxembourg, voting is compulsory for all registered voters. If a voter is unable to take part in the ballot, s/he must give valid reasons for abstention. Voters over the age of 75 years and those who, at the time of the election, live in a municipality other than the one in which they are called are excused by this law.

MACEDONIA



Population	2,083,018 (as of May 16, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,784,416 (as of Dec11, 2016)
Name of the EMB	State Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Sobranie
Electoral System	Through closed-list proportional representation system, 120 members are elected while 3 members are reserved for the diaspora community in the Sobranie (Assembly).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The voting process starts at 7 am and closes at 7 pm. Once the voter arrives at the polling station, the Electoral board checks if the voter is at the right polling station and her/his nail/thumb of the right hand is scanned under ultraviolet lamp to check if there are any indelible ink marks. The voter's personal identity is checked through identity card or passport. Ordinal number of the voter is circled in voter list and the voter has to sign on it.

A stamped ballot paper is given to the voter and her/his right thumb is sprayed with ink. The voter casts her/his vote by circling ordinal number of the candidate of preference. The ballot is folded and dropped into a ballot box.

MOLDOVA



Population	3,550,852 (as of January 1, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,253,457 (as of June 20, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Central Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Parlament
Electoral System	Through closed-list proportional representation system, 101 members are elected in the Parlament (Parliament).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Every voter has to vote in person. Voting for other individuals (voting by proxy) is not allowed. The precinct electoral bureau hands out ballots to voters based on the voter list, only upon the presentation of an identification document.

In polling stations located outside of the Republic of Moldova, the voter presents a statement certifying that they are not voting multiple times.

The ballot is filled out by the voter in a secret voting booth or room. A voter who is unable to fill out the ballot her/himself has the right to invite another individual into the voting booth, with the exception of members of the electoral bureau, representatives of candidates, and persons authorised to observe electoral procedures.

The voter applies the stamp with the inscription “Voted” (“Votat” in the original) in the circle of only one of the rectangles on the ballot, which signifies that s/he has voted for the respective electoral contestant.

If, for health or other well founded reasons, the voter is unable to come to the polling station, the precinct electoral bureau, at her/his oral or written request, can delegate no less than two members of the bureau with a mobile ballot box and all electoral materials necessary for voting to go to the place of voter's residence to conduct the voting.

NETHERLANDS



Population	17,022,882 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	12,893,466 (as of Jan 30, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Kiesraad (Electoral Council)
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Tweede Kamer
Electoral System	Through flexible-list proportional representation system, 150 members of the Tweede Kamer (House of Representatives) are elected whereas through flexible-list proportional representation system, 75 members of the Eerste Kamer (Senate) are indirectly elected.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers; EVMs used earlier but later suspended
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Electronic Voting Machines in polling places were used on a large scale in the Netherlands during 1990-2005. A group named Wij Vertrouwen Stemcomputers Niet (We Do Not Trust Voting Machines) showed on TV that the e-voting systems in use could, under certain circumstances, be manipulated and votes' secrecy can be compromised. In 2008, the use of EVM was suspended.

In the current voting system, an elector has to fill in the circle with a red pencil next to the name of candidate of preference on a ballot paper.



Voter education and awareness programme in Georgia
 Courtesy: CEC



Votes being casted during elections in Moldova
 Courtesy: ComisiaElectoralăCentrală, Official Facebook page

NORTHERN IRELAND



Population	1,829,725 (as of Dec 31, 2013)
Registered Voters	1,254,709 (March 2, 2017)
Name of the EMB	The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assembly
Electoral System	In the Northern Ireland Assembly, proportional representation system is used to elect 108 members.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The Election Day is usually scheduled on a Thursday. The voting window is from 7am to 10pm at polling places throughout Northern Ireland.

Voting can be done in the following ways:

In person at a polling place: At the polling station, a member of the polling station staff carries out identification process of the voter through photographic identification. After confirmation a ballot paper is issued. A voter then goes to the polling booth, marks the ballot paper, folds it to conceal the vote and inserts it into a ballot box.

By post or Proxy: In Northern Ireland, a voter is required to fill in an application form and explain the reason why s/he cannot go in person to vote at the polling station in order to vote by post or proxy.

NORWAY



Population	5,319,573 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,764,851 (as of June 29, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by the Norwegian Directorate of Elections. Overall responsibility of elections lays with the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Storting
Electoral System	Open-list proportional representation system is used to elect 169 members in the Storting (Parliament).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented (Not applicable)

Voting Process

The elector goes to a polling booth where the act of voting is performed in a secluded room and unobserved. The elector takes the ballot paper of the party or group for which s/he wishes to vote and makes any changes that s/he might wish. The elector folds the ballot paper to conceal the vote. The elector goes to an election official, who stamps the ballot paper. The election official crosses off the elector's name in the voting register. The elector then puts the ballot paper into a ballot box.

The Norwegian Government and Parliament decided to test e-voting in 2008. In September 2011, the first trial was conducted during the local government elections in ten municipalities. Following the positive experiences, the government gave nod to conduct another e-voting trial during the parliamentary elections in 2013. In June 2014, the government decided not to conduct further e-voting pilots in Norway due to lack of a broad political support for the introduction of Internet voting.

POLAND



Population	37,148,322 (as of March 31, 2017)
Registered Voters	30,250,658 (as of March 31, 2017)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senate and the Sejm
Electoral System	In the Senate, plurality votes elects 100 members in single-member constituencies. In the Sejm, 460 members are elected through open-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot paper
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

A voter visits the polling station and identification documents are checked. In case a voter spoils the ballot, the law does not allow for it to be replaced. The polling staff provides the ballot paper and guides her/him towards the voting screen to mark her/his ballot in secret.

In order to achieve maximum participation and to facilitate the voting process for both disabled and elderly voters, proxy voting provision is available for disabled and elderly voters (those over 75 years of age). Postal voting was also recently extended to all voters, including those disabled and abroad, and voters with visual impairments, except for local elections where only disabled voters may use postal method of voting.

PORTUGAL



Population	10,272,119 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	9,741,377 (as of Jan 24, 2016)
Name of the EMB	National Elections Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Assembleia da República
Electoral System	In the Assembleia da República (Assembly of the Republic), through closed-list proportional representation system 230 members are elected.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

In Portugal, there are three types of ballot papers, i.e. White (for Parish assembly), Yellow (for Municipal assembly) and Green (for City council). At the polling station, a voter is required to show her/his photo identity card and also must know her/his voter number or must carry voter card/voter certificate. The voting right cannot be delegated/transferred to anyone.

After identity verification, a ballot paper is provided to the voter. The voter marks a cross inside a square on the ballot paper corresponding to the candidate of preference. Voting is not compulsory in Portugal.

ROMANIA



Population	19,691,624 (June 12, 2017)
Registered Voters	18,872,702 (June 13, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate
Electoral System	The 464 members of the Parliament (136 senators and 358 deputies are elected by slate voting, according to the principle of proportional representation); 18 seats in the Chamber of Deputies are reserved for the National Minorities.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

The voting starts at 7.00 a.m. and closes at 9.00 p.m. Each voter has to present her/his ID document, and, where appropriate, the document proving her/his residence, to the computer operator of the electoral bureau of the polling station. The computer operator inserts the voter's personal identification number in the Computer system to monitor turnout and prevent illegal voting.

Voters have to vote separately, in closed booths, by applying the “VOTED” stamp in the quadrilateral that comprises the list of candidates or the name of the candidate (s)he wishes to vote for. After voting, voters fold the ballot papers so that the white page bearing the control stamp stays out and then insert them into a ballot box, making sure that they do not open. The wrong folding of the ballot paper does not entail the ballot nullity, if the secrecy of the vote is preserved. The “VOTED” stamp, handed over to the voter for voting, is returned to the president, who affixes it onto the ID document, mentioning the election date. In the case of voters voting based on their ID cards, a self-adhesive stamp marked “VOTED” and the election date is applied on the back of the card.

RUSSIA



Population	143,387,071 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	110,061,200 (as of Sep 22, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Gosudarstvennaya Duma
Electoral System	Regional governing council appoints 166 members in the Sovet Federatsii (Federation Council). Through closed-list proportional representation system in the Gosudarstvennaya Duma (State Duma), 225 members are elected while the other 225 members are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

Voting starts at 8 am and remains open till 8 pm. On voting day, the ballot box is emptied and shown to all stakeholders (candidates, agents, polling officials, etc), which is later stamped by the seal of precinct election commission. The polling staff checks passport or document replacing passport of voters for identity verification. Each voter is provided 2 ballot papers, i.e. one for federal electoral district and another for single mandate electoral district. Once the ballot is received, the voter has to record the series and number of passport or the document replacing passport in the voter list. The polling staff also countersigns on the voter list. The vote is casted by marking any sign inside the square corresponding to the preferred candidate's name on the ballot paper and dropping the ballot in a ballot box.

In the 2012 Presidential elections, web cameras were placed in 96% of the polling stations. Many polling stations had new stationary ballot boxes made of transparent material having narrow openings in order to prevent ballot stuffing.

SCOTLAND



Population	5,295,400 (as of Jan 1, 2011)
Registered Voters	4,099,407 (as of May 9, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Management Board
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Pàrlamaidna h-Alba
Electoral System	In the Pàrlamaidna h-Alba (Scottish Parliament), 73 members are elected by plurality vote while 56 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

Voters can vote in the following ways:

In person at a polling station: The polling station staff ask the voter for their name and address. The voter is then given a ballot paper containing a list of the candidates, parties or the options s/he can vote for. The voter casts her/his vote on the ballot paper and puts it in a ballot box.

By post: Postal voting is available on demand. The voter is required to fill in the postal voting statement, put the ballot and statement in an envelope and seal it. The envelope is inserted into a further envelope. The ballot should be posted back as quickly as possible to make sure it is counted. At postal vote opening sessions, the outer envelope is opened and the envelope containing the ballot paper is taken out, the postal voting statement is checked against the signature and date of birth on file to make sure they match.

By proxy: In order to apply for vote by proxy, the elector needs to complete a form, which can be requested from the Electoral Registration office. There are different forms depending on the reason that one needs a proxy vote. After completing the right form, the elector needs to print it, sign it, and send it back to the local electoral registration office.

SERBIA



Population	8,781,384 (as of May 16, 2017)
Registered Voters	6,712,839 (as of April 7, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Republic Electoral Commission & Electoral Committee
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Narodnaskupština
Electoral System	Through closed-list proportional representation system, 250 members are elected in the Narodnaskupština (National Assembly)
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

The Republic Electoral Commission & Electoral Committee conducts the elections in Serbia. On the poll day, voting starts at 7:00 am and closes at 8:00 pm. Votes are casted by means of ballot paper. In order to cast vote, the voter has to circle the sequence number written in front of the selected election list. After marking the vote, the voter drops the folded ballot paper into a transparent ballot box.

SLOVAKIA



Population	5,431,654 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	4,426,760 (as of March 5, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Elections conducted by the Ministry of Interior
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Národná rada
Electoral System	150 members of the Národná rada (National Council) are elected through flexible-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

In Slovakia, the voter can give vote to only one political party but can mark the names of up to four candidates as per her/his preference. Preferential voting is optional and if the voter does not use this option, her/his vote is counted only for the party s/he voted for. The voter has to enter a special space reserved for the polling booth, mark her/his choice of candidate on a ballot paper, seal the ballot in an envelope and put it in a ballot box.

SLOVENIA



Population	2,070,899 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,714,055 (as of Dec 20, 2015)
Name of the EMB	State Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Državni Zbor
Electoral System	In the Državni Svet (National Council), 40 members are indirectly elected through an electoral college. In the Državni Zbor (National Assembly), 88 members are elected through open-list proportional representation system while the Borda Count system elects 2 members.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

General Voting: Registered voters cast their votes through manual marking of ballot papers as per specified polling station in the electoral roll.

Early Voting: There is a provision for voters to vote early at a special polling station at the headquarters of the district electoral commission, but not earlier than five days prior to polling day and not later than two days prior to polling day. It is only for those electors who may not be available to cast their vote on poll day.

Postal Votes: The following persons are entitled to vote by post:

1. those in the care of a home for the elderly who do not have permanent residence at home;
2. voters who are being treated at hospitals or health spas;
3. voters who, on polling day, are in a penal institution;
4. voters with disabilities – they have submit to the decision of the competent authority on the recognition of disability status. They can vote by post once or permanently.

SPAIN



Population	46,069,113 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	34,597,038 (as of June 27, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Central Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senado and the Congreso de los Diputados
Electoral System	In the Senado (Senate), plurality votes decides 208 members while regional legislatures nominate 58 members. 350 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system in the Congreso de los Diputados (Congress of Deputies).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter gets a ballot paper and an envelope from the polling staff. Inside a polling booth, a voter chooses the candidate of preference from the list of candidates and places the ballot paper into an envelope and seals it. Prior to election, some parties post to voters a list already placed in an envelope to encourage votes for their party. After exiting the booth, the voter goes to the attendant, shows identification and hands gives the envelope. The attendant confirms the identity and directs the voter towards the ballot box to drop the envelope inside the box.

SWEDEN



Population	9,907,806 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	7,330,432 (as of Oct 1, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Swedish Election Authority
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Riksdag
Electoral System	The electoral system used is proportional representation. In the Riksdag (Parliament), the 349 seats consist of 310 permanent constituency seats and 39 adjustment seats. The number of permanent constituency seats in every constituency is based on the number of people qualified to vote in the constituency. The distribution of the permanent seats reflects the election results in each constituency. The purpose of the adjustment of seats is to make sure that the distribution of seats among the parties over the whole country is as proportional in relation to the number of votes as possible. The whole country is viewed as it were a single constituency and is then compared with the distribution of votes in the 39 constituencies.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

Sweden has multi-coloured ballot papers. Yellow is for elections to the Riksdag (the national legislature and the supreme decision-making body of Sweden) election, white is for municipal elections and blue is for county council elections.

A voter can choose from three different types of ballot papers. One ballot allows the voter to pick from a list of candidates, another identifies the party the elector want to select and the third is blank for the elector to write down preference.



A woman casts her vote in United Kingdom
Courtesy: UK Electoral Commission, Official Twitter Handle

SWITZERLAND



Population	8,440,119 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	5,325,848 (as of Feb 12, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Federal Chancellery
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Consiglio Nazionale and the Consiglio degli Stati
Electoral System	In the Consiglio degli Stati (Council of States), plurality vote decides 6 members in single-member constituencies, 36 members are elected by plurality vote in multi-member constituencies while 4 members are elected by list proportional representation. In the Consiglio Nazionale (National Council), through open list proportional representation 194 members are elected while plurality vote decides 6 members.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers; Electronic voting
Audit Trail	Verified internet voting

Voting Process

Voters have to access voting platforms via an internet browser protected by basic Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology. To avoid the possibility of multiple voting, an electronic record is marked accordingly in the voter register once a voter casts her/his vote. For the first time in the 2015 federal assembly election, some level of voter verifiability option was incorporated. A polling card along with a booklet containing names of the candidates and an individual four-digit code related to each candidate is available with voters. The voter, identified through a unique number printed on the polling card, makes her/his choice. The voter receives an initial confirmation followed by an overview of her/his choice with reference codes of candidate codes in the booklet. The voter verifies and enters the confirmation code of the polling card (which is sealed separately) and the system replies by providing a final code that should correspond to the code on the polling card. This helps the voter in verifying that her/his vote is accurately counted.

UKRAINE



Population	44,432,826 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	34,670,814 (as of Dec 17, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Central Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Verkhovna Rada
Electoral System	Through closed-list proportional representation system, 225 members are elected in a single, nationwide district and remaining 225 members are elected in single member districts in the Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

The voting commences at 8 am on poll day and closes at 8 pm. The Poll officer conducts identification process by checking mandatory identity documents as per electoral law. Upon verification, the poll officer takes signature of the voter on voter list and other poll officer writes down last name, initials and signature of the voter on the counterfoil of the ballot paper. The Poll officer then detaches the counterfoil from ballot paper and gives one ballot paper for the nationwide election district and one ballot paper for the single-mandate election district. The voter enters the polling booth, marks her/his choice, and personally drops the ballots into ballot boxes.

UNITED KINGDOM



Population	65,648,000
Registered Voters	46,826,481
Name of the EMB	The Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	House of Commons
Electoral System	In the House of Commons, 650 members are directly elected using the First-Past-The-Post system. In the House of Lords 670 members are appointed by the monarch and 92 members are hereditary.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented.

Voting Process

In the UK, there are three different ways of voting:

- In person at a polling station
- By post
- By proxy (someone voting on your behalf)

Electors vote as per their convenience. Most people vote in person at a polling station. However, vote by post or by proxy options are available if a voter is not able to go to the polling station in person on Election Day. At the polling station, a voter has to mark the ballot with pen or pencil in a compartment to maintain secrecy of vote. The ballot paper is then folded so as to conceal the vote and show the presiding officer the back of the paper in order to disclose the official mark of the ballot. In the presiding officer's presence, the ballot is put in a ballot box. Other elections in the UK at national, regional and local levels have different voting systems.

The Electoral Commission has a statutory duty to report after each election. All their post poll reports can be found on their website - www.electoralcommission.org.uk

WALES



Population	3,063,456 (as of Jan 1, 2011)
Registered Voters	2,248,050 (as of May 9, 2016)
Name of the EMB	The Electoral Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	In the National Assembly of Wales, simple majority of vote elects 40 members while 20 members are elected through party-list based proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

Voters visit the polling station with identity proof. Once identity is confirmed, voters are given two ballot papers. The first is for the voter's constituency where s/he is required to simply put a cross (X) next to the name of candidate of preference. The second ballot paper is for a party or individual candidate attempting to gain the four regional seats within the voter's region. The ballot paper lists out names of political parties and individual candidates. In the second ballot paper, the voter is also required to simply put a cross (X) next to the party or independent candidate of preference.

The voter folds the ballot paper in half, show sit back to the Presiding Officer and then puts it in a ballot box.

Voters can also vote by post and proxy.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA



Population	36,562,440 (as of April 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	25,939,742 (as of Oct 19, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Elections Canada
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	House of Commons
Electoral System	338 members of the House of Commons are elected by plurality vote while 105 members of the Senate are appointed by the Governor General.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting used in some parts of the country
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Most voters vote on Election Day, at their designated polling station, by marking an 'X' on the ballot paper beside the name of the preferred candidate. Voters do so behind a privacy screen and then drop their completed ballot into an opaque ballot box. Voters can also vote at advance polls which takes place over four days to about a week before Election Day. Alternatively, voters can apply to vote by special ballot at any Elections Canada Returning Officer's office or by mail. Special ballot voting is also available for incarcerated voters, homeless voters, and the Canadian Forces. It has additionally been made available to students on some university campuses, voters in hospitals and workers in remote areas.

Elections Canada also provides assistance to people with disabilities and with other special needs in voting. These include a sign-language or a specific language interpreter. Voters with disabilities may also request to vote at home under limited circumstances. Assistive devices – mechanical or electronic, are also used to assist voters with disabilities to varying degrees at federal and sub-national elections.

Only some of the local government elections in Canada offer electronic voting. The systems include touch-screen voting machines, optical scanning machines, internet and telephone voting

COSTA RICA



Population	4,896,545 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,024,159 (as of April 6, 2014)
Name of the EMB Elections) – TSE	Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones (Supreme Court of Elections)
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Asamblea Legislativa
Electoral System	57 members of the Asamblea Legislativa (Legislative Assembly) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Citizens who are 18 years of age and above are entitled to vote. The TSE automatically produces the list of voters and puts it outside the voting board at corresponding polling stations. From there, voters have to look for their names and check their respective voter's number.

Upon entering the voting board, the voter is required to submit relevant documents and communicate the voter's number to the polling officials. They then have to sign in an appropriate register and move towards the secret ballot.

Voters then have to mark their choices on a ballot paper and place it in a ballot box.

There are facilities for voters with disabilities.

CUBA



Population	11,390,480 (as of May 22, 2017)
Registered Voters	8,631,836 (as of Feb 3, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Comisión Electoral Nacional
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Asemblea Nacional del Poder Popular
Electoral System	609 members of the Asemblea Nacional del Poder Popular (National Assembly of People's Power) are elected by absolute majority vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Upon reaching the polling station, a voter has to present her/his relevant identification documents to the polling officials. On confirmation, the voter receives the ballot(s) and is directed towards a polling booth to cast the ballot in secret.

Inside the booth, the voter has to write an 'X' on the ballot next to the name of the candidate of her/his choice. The ballot is then dropped in a ballot box. In the election of delegates to the provincial assemblies and deputies to the Assembly National People's Power, the voter can vote for as many candidates to the corresponding ballots by writing an 'X' next to the names of the preferred candidates. If the voter wishes to vote for all candidates, s/he can write an 'X' in the circle at the top of the ballot.

In case the voter needs assistance in voting due to some physical impediment, s/he can take the help of another person.

The minimum age for citizens of Cuba to be able to vote is 16 years.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Population	10,748,884 (as of May 9, 2017)
Registered Voters	6,765,245 (as of May 15, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Junta Central Electoral
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senado and the Camara de Diputados
Electoral System	32 members of the Senado (Senate) are elected by plurality vote. 178 members of the Camara de Diputados (Chamber of Deputies) are elected through open-list proportional representation system, 5 members are elected by proportional representation while 7 members are elected by proportional representation at the provincial level.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter gets a ballot paper and goes inside a compartment or closed room to cast her/his vote in secret. The voter has to mark on the ballot the candidate(s) of her/his choice. The ballot is then dropped in a ballot box.

If a voter is unable to vote without assistances, s/he may, after permission of the election officials, ask an individual whom s/he trusts to accompany the compartment or room and mark the ballot.

In its 2016 national elections, Dominican Republic used electronic system to (a) verify identity of voters before they cast ballots and (b) digitize voter-marked ballots, and streamline counting and transmission of election data through optical scanners. However, the process failed as authorities were unable to ascertain votes registered with the help of electronic system. This was due to equipment failure, lack of human resources, and connectivity issues among others.

EL SALVADOR



Population	6,164,164 (as of May 10, 2017)
Registered Voters	4,911,672 (as of March 1, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Tribunal Supremo Electoral
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Asamblea Legislativa
Electoral System	84 members of the Asamblea Legislativa (Legislative Assembly) are elected through open-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter is required to furnish relevant identification documents to the polling officers. Upon confirmation, the voter gets a ballot paper and is directed towards a designated place to vote in secret.

The voter then has to mark the ballot clearly to indicate her/his choice of party/candidate. The ballot is dropped into a ballot box.

After the voter completes casting her/his ballot, s/he is marked with a visible indelible ink, preferably on the thumb of the right hand.

GUATEMALA



Population	16,955,322 (as of May 10, 2017)
Registered Voters	7,556,873 (as of Oct 25, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Tribunal Supremo Electoral
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Congreso de la Republica
Electoral System	158 members of the Congreso de la Republica (Congress of the Republic) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling place, a voter has to present her/his relevant identification documents to the polling officials. Upon confirmation, the voter receives a ballot paper and is directed towards a designated place to vote in secret.

The voter has to clearly mark the ballot with an 'X', a circle or other appropriate signs, to vote for her/his choice of candidate. The voter then has to deposit the ballot in a ballot box.

Once the vote has been casted, polling officials mark the index finger of the voter's right hand with indelible ink.

HONDURAS



Population	8,289,776 (as of May 17, 2017)
Registered Voters	5,355,112 (as of Nov 24, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Supreme Electoral Tribunal
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Congreso Nacional
Electoral System	Through open-list proportional representation system, 128 members are elected in the Congreso Nacional (National Congress).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In Honduras, legislative, municipal and presidential elections take place on the same day simultaneously. The election is scheduled on the third Sunday of November at an interval of four years. Separate ballot boxes are used for each election. For the first time in the November 1993 general elections, separate voting on a single ballot paper was used. In the 1997 general elections, separate ballot papers were introduced. At present, a voter receives 3 different ballot papers, i.e. first for Vice Presidents and Presidents, second for voter department's representative and third for the members of the municipal board. A voter casts her/his vote by means of ballot paper and drops it into a ballot box.



Polling official and security team managing voter queue for smooth conduct of poll in Jamaica
 Courtesy: Electoral Commission of Jamaica, Official Facebook page



Voters waiting for their turn to enter polling station in USA
 Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

JAMAICA



Population	2,811,856 (as of May 10, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,824,410 (as of Feb 25, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Commission of Jamaica
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	House of Representatives
Electoral System	21 members of the Senate are appointed by the governor-general, on recommendation by the prime minister and leader of the opposition. In the Senate, the ruling party gets 13 seats while the minority party gets 8 seats. 63 members of the House of Representatives are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling place, a voter has to present her/his voter ID card to the polling officials to obtain a ballot. In case, a voter does not have voter ID, s/he can be allowed to vote once her/his name is found on the voters' list and the identity is confirmed.

If a polling station uses Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS), the voter will have to put a specific finger on a fingerprint scanner to verify her/his identity.

After being issued a ballot, the voter has to go behind a voting booth and clearly mark an 'X' for the candidate of her/his choice with the pencil provided in the voting booth. The ballot is then folded and put in a ballot box.

MEXICO



Population	129,961,845 (as of May 5, 2017)
Registered Voters	83,563,272 (as of July 28, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Instituto Nacional Electoral
Structure of the Legislature	Congreso de la union (Bicameral National Congress)
Popular House	Both the Camara de Senadores (Senate) and the Camara de Diputados (Chamber of Deputies)
Electoral System	Through plurality vote, 96 members are elected and through closed-list proportional representation system, 32 members are elected in the Camara de Senadores (Senate). In the Camara de Diputados (Chamber of Deputies), 300 members are elected by plurality votes and remaining 200 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers; Electronic voting used in some parts of the country
Audit Trail	Implemented in some parts of the country

Voting Process

The Election Day is scheduled on the first Sunday of July and voting commences at 8 am. A voter needs to show her/his photo voting card for identity confirmation. Once verified in the voter register, the polling officer/President hands her/him the ballots. The voter marks in secrecy the circle corresponding to the political party of preference and drops the ballot in a ballot box. Thereafter, the board secretary writes 'voted' against the name of the voter in the electoral list. The voter card is punched and the voter's right thumb is stained with indelible ink.

On July 5, 2009, Mexico experienced electronic voting system for the first time. Electronic voting (e-voting) in Mexico is implemented in some states, i.e. Federal District, Coahuila and San Luis Potosí but at national level e-voting is at the evaluation stage. Facility of paper trail is available in some states which use e-voting.

NICARAGUA



Population	6,209,118 (as of May 17, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,665,141 (as of Nov 6, 2011)
Name of the EMB	Consejo Supremo Electoral
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Asamblea Nacional
Electoral System	Through closed list proportional representation system, 90 members are elected while remaining 2 seats are reserved for the former president and the runner-up candidate in the previous presidential election in the Asamblea Nacional (National Assembly).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

A voter has to vote for 6 positions and for each position there are different ballot papers and ballot boxes. In order to avoid confusion, ballot papers have a colour strip at the back and need to be dropped in ballot boxes having the same colour strip. The six colour coded ballots for different elections are: Black colour for President and Vice-president; Coffee colour for National Deputies; Dark blue colour for Departmental Deputies; Purple colour for Mayors and Deputy Mayor; Pink colour for Council Men; and Lead colour for Parlacen Deputies.

The ballot paper contains box number of different parties, alliances of parties, etc. Below the box number, it bears the acronym of the political organization, the emblem and the name of organization and in case of the ballots of the President and Vice-president and for Mayor and Vice-mayor, it has photo of the candidate. Below it appears a circle where voter has to mark her/his preference. The ballot paper is then to be folded and dropped into the corresponding ballot box.

PANAMA



Population	4,043,045 (as of May 15, 2017)
Registered Voters	2,457,401 (as of May 4, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Tribunal
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Asamblea Nacional
Electoral System	Through open-list proportional representation system, 45 members are elected in multi-member constituencies and 26 members through plurality vote in single member constituencies in the Asamblea Nacional (National Assembly)
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers; E-voting on trials
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Panama is focused on automating its electoral process such as Unofficial Data Transmission System which enables speedy tabulation of trends and results on the poll day itself. Other automations include Voting Abroad System and the Electronic Voting System.

The Bolivar Institute polling center was chosen to implement electronic voting for the 2014 Panamanian elections. Both electronic as well as manual options were available in one of its polling stations so that voters get a chance to compare both the systems.

In the manual system, Panama uses single ballot system. On poll day, voters cast their votes by means of ballot paper after going through identification and other formalities as prescribed in the Electoral Law of Panama.

TRINIDAD& TOBAGO



Population	1,368,555 (as of May 10, 2017)
Registered Voters	1,099,279 (as of Sep 24, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Elections and Boundaries Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	House of Representatives
Electoral System	In the Senate, ruling party appoints 16 members, opposition appoints 6 members and the president appoints remaining 9 members. Through plurality vote, 41 members are elected in single member constituencies in the House of Representatives.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

On poll day, voting takes place from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. The Presiding officer opens and inspects the ballot in front of candidates, their agents and polling officials and locks it with a padlock. There are 2 lines, i.e. Green line (for electors with identity card and is also on the list of electors) and Red line (remaining voters including differently-abled or incapacitated persons). A verification check is conducted, poll card number is recorded and voter's signature is taken on poll card. The Deputy presiding officer conducts a second level verification check. The voter's finger is checked for ink stains, initials are marked on poll card and ballot paper is given to the voter. The voter goes inside a voting booth, marks her/his choice and returns to the officer in charge of the ballot box. The officer asks the voter to dip her/his finger in the ink and the ballot is dropped inside the ballot box. 'Yes' is marked on the poll card as a proof that the voter has casted her/his vote and the poll card is inserted in the poll card box.

USA



Population	326,034,750 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	142,166,000 (as of Nov 4, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Federal Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senate and the House of Representatives
Electoral System	In the Senate, plurality vote decides 100 members. One-third of the Senate seats are up for election every two years. Two Senators are elected from each state. In the House of Representatives, 435 members are elected by plurality vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers; Electronic voting
Audit Trail	Implemented in some parts of the country

Voting Process

There are four types of voting methods:

Optical Scan Paper Ballot System: The ballot goes through an optical scanner which can record the markings as a vote.

Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) System: A touchscreen computer is available that records votes directly into computer memory. All the info is stored on a flash drive that is removed upon the poll's closing and sent to a central location by a police officer. At present, direct recording machines are used in 29 states, among which paper audit trails are used in 17 states.

Ballot Marking Device: This method is available for disabled voters. It combines the first two abovementioned technologies into one – a touchscreen computer (for the visual and hearing impaired) records the vote onto a physical ballot. It is then scanned or can be even hand counted.

Manual marking of Ballots: A number of states in the US use the method of manually marking ballots and counting them manually as well.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA



Population	44,191,316 (as of April 24, 2017)
Registered Voters	32,130,853 (as of Dec 11, 2015)
Name of the EMB	National Electoral Campaign
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senado and the Cámara de Diputados
Electoral System	72 members of the Senado (Senate) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system. 257 members of the Cámara de Diputados (Chamber of Deputies) are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting tested in some parts of the country
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

A voter gets a blank envelope which s/he takes into a dark room. The voter places the ballot(s) of the respective candidates of her/his preference in the envelope and puts it into a ballot box.

In 2005, four different voting devices were tested in the Buenos Aires Congressional elections, viz. (a.) direct recording electronic (DRE) device; (b.) touch-screen DRE machine with voter verifiable paper trail; (c.) optical scan technology; and (d.) optical scan device with a single ballot listing all parties/candidates.

In 2009, the province of Salta used 'single electronic ballot' system. Therein, voters selected candidates through a computer. The machine printed and recorded the casted votes in a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip, located within the paper. This ballot was then put in a ballot box and votes were counted by the computer. The same technology was then used in the 2015 local elections of Buenos Aires.

BOLIVIA



Population	11,027,041 (as of May 7, 2017)
Registered Voters	5,971,152 (as of Feb 21, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Supreme Electoral Tribunal
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Chamber of Senators and the Chamber of Deputies
Electoral System	36 members of the Chamber of Senators are elected through closed-list proportional representation system. 77 members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected by plurality vote while 53 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, election officials check the whether a voter is registered and eligible to vote. Once confirmed, the voter gets a multi-coloured ballot paper with symbols/pictures of parties/candidates. The voter marks the ballot in secret and drops it in a ballot box.

In Bolivia, citizens who are at least 21 years of age, or eighteen if married, have the right to vote.

BRAZIL



Population	207,626,276 (as of June 19, 2017)
Registered Voters	144,088,912 (as of Jun19, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Superior Electoral Court
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senado Federal and the Camara dos Deputados
Electoral System	81 members of the Senado Federal (Federal Senate) are elected by plurality vote. 513 members of the Camara dos Deputados (Chamber of Deputies) are elected through open-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Electronic Voting Machine
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

Electronic voting machines in Brazil were first tested in the 1996 Santa Catarina state elections. By year 2000, voting in the country was fully automated. On Election Day, the identity of voters is validated either through in-person verification of documents or fingerprint scanning (some of the EVMs have a fingerprint scanner). All the machines have an LCD screen to guide the voter, and a numeric keypad to enable her/him to cast the vote.

The Brazilian electoral system allows audit of its election process in multiple phases. It includes reprinting total number of votes each candidate received and comparing with the number of voters registered in that polling station, checking whether anything has been changed in the software used in each machine, etc. The electoral justice also has parallel voting, where some polling stations are randomly picked and machines are changed for new ones. The electronic ballot boxes removed go through a voting process to verify if all security aspects are still unadulterated and machines are working accordingly as expected.

For the next election, the voter will also have their vote printed by the machine, knowing at the moment that the machine registered the vote on the right candidate. It also means that all voters of a polling station can compare the final results printed by the machine with the total number of their votes.

CHILE



Population	18,279,416 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	13,573,143 (as of Dec 15, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Electoral Service
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senado and the Camara de Diputados
Electoral System	38 members of the Senado (Senate) are elected through closed party-list majority system. 120 members of the Camara de Diputados (Chamber of Deputies) are elected through closed party-list majority system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting tested in some parts of the country
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

A voter enters a secret chamber and marks her/his choices on a ballot paper. The voter is required to mark only with a black graphite pencil. The ballot is then put in a ballot box.

For persons with disabilities, Chile offers special services. For example, voters who are visually impaired can use a template made up of transparent mica which has slots corresponding to each candidate that appear on the ballot papers. Braille templates are also available for voting. People with disabilities can also take help from a person of trust who could accompany them in the secret chamber.

In 2015, the Maipu commune of Chile offered internet voting as well as electronic voting machines for casting of votes.



A voter interacting with polling officials in Bolivia
 Courtesy: Tribunal Supremo Electoral, Official Facebook page



Mobile office set up for ease of voter in Chile
 Courtesy: Comisia Electoral Central, official Facebook page

COLOMBIA



Population	49,005,307 (as of May 8, 2017)
Registered Voters	34,899,945 (as of Oct 2, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Consejo Nacional Electoral (National Electoral Council) and Registraduria Nacional del Estado Civil (National Registry of Civil Status)
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Senado and the Camara de Representantes
Electoral System	102 members of the Senado (Senate) are elected through party-list proportional representation system. 166 members of the Camara de Representantes (House of Representatives) are elected through party-list proportional representation system.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Mock electronic voting tested
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter has to present her/his relevant identification documents. On confirmation, the voter gets an electoral/voting card that has a list of political parties standing in the elections. The voter then goes towards a cubicle to cast her/his ballot in secret. The voter is required to identify the party of her/his choice, fold the card and put it into a ballot box.

In 2007, a large-scale pilot on electronic voting was conducted in Colombia wherein citizens pretended to be voting in a real election.

ECUADOR



Population	16,589,391 (as of May 9, 2017)
Registered Voters	12,816,698 (as of April 2, 2017)
Name of the EMB	Tribunal Contencioso Electoral
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Congreso Nacional
Electoral System	15 members of the Congreso Nacional (National Congress) are elected through open-list proportional representation system, 116 members are elected by plurality vote while 6 members are elected by majority vote.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots; Electronic voting piloted in 2004
Audit Trail	Piloted in 2004

Voting Process

At the polling station, a voter gets ballot paper(s) on which s/he has to mark the box according to her/his choice of candidate and then drop the ballot(s) in a ballot box.

In its 2004 local elections, Ecuador used electronic voting machines. Of the three areas where three different technologies were piloted, one offered voter-verifiable paper audit trail. In that, voters could verify their votes through paper receipts and the technology offered one physical and two electronic records for every phase of the process.



Election officials attending queries of voters in Chile
 Courtesy: SERVEL, Official Facebook page



An elderly lady casting her vote in Columbia
 Courtesy: Registraduria Nacional del Estado Civil

GUYANA



Population	773,900 (as of May 14, 2017)
Registered Voters	570,708 (as of May 18, 2015)
Name of the EMB	Guyana Election Commission
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	National Assembly
Electoral System	Through closed-list proportional representation system, 65 members are elected in the National Assembly.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballots
Audit Trail	Not implemented

Voting Process

In the presence of all stakeholders like candidates, party agents, polling officials, etc., the presiding officer opens the ballot box to assure everyone that there are no ballot papers or any other papers stuffed in advance. The ballot box is locked and the seal is marked. The voter enters the polling station and states her/his name, address, occupation and provides identification card. The poll clerk makes entry in elector register. After identification, the presiding officer examines the fingers of the voter to ascertain if there are any ink stains. Upon satisfaction, the presiding officer provides stamped (with official mark) ballot paper to the voter and also demonstrates how to vote if required. The voter enters the polling booth, marks her/his choice on the ballot paper and folds it to conceal her/his vote. The voter then drops the folded ballot paper in presence of the presiding officer in the ballot box.

PARAGUAY



Population	6,800,248 (as of May 16, 2017)
Registered Voters	3,516,275 (as of Apr 14, 2013)
Name of the EMB	Justicia Electoral
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Camara de Senadores and the Camara de Diputados
Electoral System	Through closed-list proportional representation system, 45 members are elected in the Camara de Senadores (Chamber of Senators) while 80 members are elected in multi-member constituencies in the Camara de Diputados (Chamber of Deputies).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

Voters cast their votes in the order they arrive. A voter's identity and right to vote are checked through identity card. Each ballot paper is signed on the back by the Board Members before it is handed over to the voter. A voter enters into a dark room to mark her/his preference on the ballot paper. After marking the choice, the voter returns to the table with folded ballot paper and delivers it to the President who signs at the back of the ballot. The voter's cuticle of index finger of the right hand is marked with ink. The voter drops the ballot into a ballot box and the poll officer enters the word 'vote' against the voter's name in the electoral register.



A senior citizen showing inked finger as a symbol of vote in Paraguay
Courtesy: Justicia Electoral, Republica Del Paraguay



An elderly lady showing inked finger as a proof of her vote in Paraguay
Courtesy: Justicia Electoral, Republica Del Paraguay

PERU



Population	32,103,197 (as of May 04, 2017)
Registered Voters	22,907,954 (as of Jun 13, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales (National Office of Electoral Processes)
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Congreso de la República
Electoral System	Through open list proportional representation, 130 members are elected in multi member constituencies in the Congreso de la República.
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers; Electronic voting
Audit Trail	Partially implemented

Voting process

“Choose your polling site” was a new initiative implemented in the general elections of 2016 in order to encourage voter participation. The polling staff received instructions from the election management body that the polling stations should be organized alphabetically instead of by the voting group as per National Identity Card.

Peru conducted its first trial of e-voting in 2011 in the mountain town of Pacaran. In the 2016 elections, both electronic as well as manual (Ballots) medium of voting were used. Facility of paper trail is available in some parts of the country which use e-voting. Electronic voting has automated the process of casting of votes, counting, results declaration, voter verification, etc.

Voting is compulsory in Peru.

URUGUAY



Population	3,454,507 (as of April 25, 2017)
Registered Voters	2,620,791 (as of Dec 16, 2014)
Name of the EMB	Corte Electoral (Electoral Court)
Structure of the Legislature	Bicameral
Popular House	Both the Cámara de Representantes and the Cámara de Senadores
Electoral System	30 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system while 1 member is filled as ex officio in the Cámara de Senadores (Chamber of Senators). 99 members are elected through closed-list proportional representation system in the Cámara de Representantes (Chamber of Representatives).
Voting Method	Manual marking of Ballot papers
Audit Trail	Not Implemented

Voting Process

In Uruguay, voting is compulsory for every person over 18 years. In order to cast a vote every citizen must be registered at the Electoral Court and get a Civic Credential.

Candidates are required to register their ballot papers at the Electoral Court before every election.

The polling in Uruguay starts at 8 am and closes at 7:30 pm. Before the polling starts, the ballot box is checked. A voter enters the polling place and takes an open voting envelope inside a secret room. The voter then puts the voting sheet in the envelope and closes it. The voter is not allowed to stay inside the secret room for more than two minutes.



A differently-abled voter casting his ballot in Peru
 Courtesy: Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales, official Facebook page



Queue to enter the polling station during 2012 presidential elections in Venezuela
 Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

VENEZUELA



Population	31,864,409 (as of May 9, 2017)
Registered Voters	19,504,106 (as of March 16, 2016)
Name of the EMB	Consejo Nacional Electoral
Structure of the Legislature	Unicameral
Popular House	Asamblea Nacional
Electoral System	110 members are elected through majority vote, 52 members are elected by proportional representation while 3 seats are reserved for indigenous people in the Asamblea Nacional (National Assembly).
Voting Method	Electronic voting
Audit Trail	Implemented

Voting Process

Venezuela has fully automated system of voting and can be audited in all phases. Venezuela became the first country in 2004 to implement paper audit trail in national elections. In 2012, biometric authentication of voter was also introduced. Smartmatic Auditable Elections Systems (SATIS) voting machines are used which is strengthened by integration of Integral Authentication System (SAI). It enables activation of machine by voter's fingerprints and voters can mark their vote directly on screen of the machine or on the electronic ballot. Selected option appears on the screen and voters confirm it by pressing 'Vote' option.

A receipt is printed on a special paper which is considered as physical vote with watermarks and security inks. It can be identified through a non-sequential code which ensures secrecy of voting.

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