

Georgia Secretary of State Refuses to install Security update of State's Voting Machines before 2024 election

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The Federal District Court for the Northern District of Georgia unsealed the 96-page Halderman Report in June 2023, which was a Security Analysis of Georgia's ImageCast X Ballot Marking Devices.

University of Michigan Professor of Computer Science and Engineering J. Halderman and Security Researcher and Assistant Professor at Auburn University Drew Sringall collaborated on this report and says he discovered many

exploitable vulnerabilities in the Dominion Voting Systems' ImageCast X system.

Judge Amy Totenberg had sealed and concealed the results of this investigation on Dominion voting machines in Georgia, but it was eventually released last summer after being hidden from the public for two years by then-Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

The report states that votes can be altered in these Dominion voting machines, as their software is vulnerable to hacking.

The information contained within the Halderman Report was available to all as of June 2023.

Professor Halderman wrote about his findings in a blog post after the report's release. *Back in September 2020, the Court **granted** the Curling Plaintiffs access to one of Georgia's touchscreen ballot marking devices (BMDs) so that they could assess its security. Drew and I extensively tested the machine, and **we discovered vulnerabilities in nearly every part of the system** that is exposed to potential attackers. **The most critical problem we found is an arbitrary-code-execution vulnerability that can be exploited to spread malware from a county's central election management system (EMS) to every BMD in the jurisdiction.** This makes it possible to attack the BMDs at scale, over a wide area, without needing physical access to any of them.*

Our report explains how attackers could exploit the flaws we found to change votes or potentially even affect election outcomes in Georgia, including how they could defeat the technical and procedural protections the state has in place. While we are not aware of any evidence that the vulnerabilities have been exploited to change

votes in past elections, without more precautions and mitigations, there is a serious risk that they will be exploited in the future.

Professor Halderman also tweeted out that Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger will not install Dominion's security patches before the 2024 election. This was taken from a recent [Raffensperger statement](#).

The office also announced that there will be pilots of the recently Election Assistance Commission-certified version of Democracy Suite, 5.17, in 2023. This software has not been deployed in any election in any jurisdiction as of yet. The pilots will examine its full functionality in a real-world setting. Also, in reviewing the processes it will require an update of the nearly 45,000 pieces of voting equipment, along with the subsequent acceptance testing. This process will take tens of thousands of manhours. Therefore, the statewide move to 5.17 will occur following the 2024 election cycle. This will allow the state and counties to focus on executing municipal elections and running the Presidential cycle. It also allows the state to put together a thoughtful, thorough plan to roll out the latest software.

Brad Raffensperger, a vocal opponent of former President Trump, has been aware of the results of investigation into Georgia's voting machines for two years.

Does this mean that Secretary Raffensperger was in charge of running the vulnerable machines during his reelection campaign in 2022?

Perhaps.

And now he is refusing to testify before a court in January about these same machines. But why?

[The James Magazine Online](#) reported:

Last month U.S. District Judge Amy Totenberg ruled that a lawsuit against Georgia's use of electronic voting machines must go to a non-jury trial in January. She ordered Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to defend the state's utilization of electronic voting prior to the upcoming presidential primary election because the lawsuit questions whether Georgia's current system of computerized voting is safe or whether it is vulnerable to potential hacking.

However, the state is now appealing to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to keep Raffensperger from testifying.

One lawyer to James Magazine Online familiar with the case stated, "Raffensperger selected the system, repeatedly defends the system as secure, but now can't take an hour or so in federal court to defend it."