

Why touch screen systems are a **BAD** idea

1. **TS is hideously expensive** – While individual units are cheaper than optical scan units, you need five or more TS units per precinct, versus a single OpScan unit, plus a special unit for the blind.
2. **TS units are complicated and difficult to train for and support** – TS requires officials to learn how to program ballots (or they have to PAY the vendor to program them), how to calibrate the screen, and requires lots of hand-holding from the vendor (who may, or may not have time to deal with you on Election Day with all his other clients requiring similar support). When your TS systems won't boot, do you really have time to sit on the phone and listen to a recording telling you how important your call is?
3. **TS units are delicate and easy to damage** – Touch screens are very easy to damage. They are sensitive to temperature swings (like when they sit in a freezing truck overnight and are brought into a warm room on Election Day). A damaged TS unit means long lines and angry voters.
4. **TS units can and do lose votes PERMENANTLY** – We saw this in NC in 2004 when a TS system lost 4,000+ votes, costing the state untold grief and lots of money (that was NOT billed to the vendor).
5. **TS systems create votes that can be altered without detection, either accidentally or deliberately** – This has been discussed and demonstrated by computer security experts multiple times. In the case of Diebold, their source code has been on the Internet for over 5 years.
6. **A voter can never know if their vote was recorded correctly, or at all** – Since their is no tangible record of their vote, no one can be sure.
7. **TS systems cost more to maintain and store** – Because of their delicate screens, TS units must be stored in a temperature controlled environment. Because you need so many of them, it will be a LARGE temperature controlled environment. Support for these systems means expensive training and additional staff, or expensive service contracts with the vendors who may, or may not be available on Election Day.
8. **TS systems have a bad reputation** – Thanks to Diebold with its lies and lawsuits to suppress critics, the public has a VERY bad opinion of this technology.
9. **Even if you add paper to a TS system, it doesn't help if it is done wrong** – A printer on a TS unit that creates a "toilet paper roll" of ballots rather than printing discreet ballots is bad news. Guilford County election director George Gilbert testified at length to the NCGA election committee on all of the problems such a system would engender and how it would be a waste of money.