Alexa Voting

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This note is a challenge to those who support “internet voting” (by which we mean the electronic return of marked ballots over the internet, by email, fax, or custom app technology).

We suggest here a novel voting scheme: “Alexa voting.”

By this we mean voting using Alexa, or using another equivalent digital assistant, such as Siri or Google Assistant.

We imagine voting using a spoken dialogue between a voter and his digital assistant, as in the following example, using a special app for Alexa voting.

Voter: Alexa, I’d like to vote now, please.
Alexa: Sure, John. For what election?
Voter: The November 8th election for Massachusetts.
Alexa: Okay, how would you like to vote?
Voter: Please cast for me a “No” vote for Proposition 1.
Alexa: OK; “No” on Proposition 1. Is that it?
Voter: Yes. Please leave the ballot blank for everything else.
Alexa: Okay. Your ballot has been cast over the internet.
Voter: Thanks!

The challenge, for supporters of internet voting, is to explain why Alexa voting is unacceptable, while voting using one’s smartphone would be acceptable.

If you can’t explain the difference, then you should either support Alexa voting, or else drop your support for internet voting.