

Alexa Voting

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October 29, 2022

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.