Will Your Vote Count?

My original intention was to build a hack-proof voting machine. My research showed there were more problems than just the possibility of someone changing or adding votes. There are actually three categories of problems. The first is machine failure. The manufacturers are producing low quality products with a failure rate of around 10%. This is unacceptable and should be addressed but it is not part of my project. The second problem is the possibility of someone tampering with the machines and adding or changing votes. My machine addresses this issue with several security measures. The third problem is theoretical. There doesn’t appear to be any guidelines for the process of placing machines, monitoring activity and insuring the machine’s votes are actually included in the vote count. Several sources stated that most poll workers are elderly and not computer literate, very little information came from the machine manufacturers and no one was trained to run the machines or trouble-shoot minor problems. My project includes a process to address these issues. Electronic voting has received much criticism but, really, all methods of voting have proven to be defective. I wouldn’t say that I’ve actually created a perfect system because there isn’t any way to test it. But it has been interesting to explore the problems because voting is one of our basic rights.