

Report: Aging voting machines could cause election meltdown

By Zachary Roth, MSNBC

America's voting machines are reaching the end of their lifespans, and many states appear unwilling to spend the money to replace them, a detailed new report warns. The impasse raises the threat of a catastrophic meltdown in next year's presidential election.

The report, released Tuesday by the Brennan Center for Justice, paints an alarming picture. Experts say today's machines have an expected lifespan of 10 to 20 years—closer to 10. But in most states, a majority of jurisdictions have at least some machines that were bought in 2006 or earlier, while in 11 states—including presidential battlegrounds like Nevada and New Hampshire—every jurisdiction uses such machines. Fourteen states will use some machines that were bought over 15 years ago.

Election officials are increasingly sounding the alarm. "We're just really concerned," one county election official in Missouri told the *Kansas City Star* recently. "Going into a presidential election year with old equipment – we don't want to be another Florida."

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