These were "concerns" that were put forward by election officials influenced by their ES&S vendor that was pushing for them to purchase the expensive ExpressVote XL for all voters to use. I'm quite sure many were supplied by the vendor because we've seen the same worded arguments other places.

First of all, if any or all of these criticisms were actually valid, ES&S would have the same criticisms of its own voter hand-marked voting systems using their DS200 scanner and ExpressVotes or ExpressVotes XL as the ADA device. They've been selling this scanner for the past 10+ years and are still selling them right now to other counties in PA.

POLLWORKER'S EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT CLEAR BALLOT (Admin PowerPoint)

*Weight and mobility of paper ballots being transported. Clear Ballot provides two ballot bags with each scanner, and each bag can accommodate 1,000 ballots. A full bag will weigh about 30 lbs (24-38lbs depending on the paper stock used), but using projected voter turnout and two bags per polling place they are unlikely to be full. Many precincts in lower turnout elections won't even have enough ballots to fill half of one bag. Clear Ballot also has a prototype for a ballot bag with wheels and a telescoping handle.

The claim that the ExpressVote XL is the only voting machine that does not require handling the ballots at the precinct is not correct. The Clear Ballot ClearCast optical scanner uses a ballot bag attached to the scanner that can be removed, then closed up and secured with the ballots inside without any handling of the ballots. The entire locked bag is taken to the election board office.

*Privacy during transfer of ballot to scanner. Voters use privacy sleeves to carry ballot in.

*Human error/misinterpretations of voter intent. Today's newer digital scanners are highly accurate in determining voter intent. Auditing software and ability to see images of total ballot can easily resolve problems: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3tIkdNG-No. Not an issue.

*Spatial issues in polling locations for multiple voting stations. Multi-booth units or putting 4 voting booths back to back leave a small footprint. No need for more than 4 or 5 booths or shields in small precincts.

*Multiple language ballots will be overwhelming. Clear Ballot can print out hand-markable paper ballots on their precinct BMD.

*Worried about a drastic change in voting procedure causing frustration. Using the ExpressVotes XL will introduce more technology that may prove a barrier for some voters and would not be accessible for everyone. It also requires extra steps for a voter to verify his own vote in small print from a paper **summary** of his choices under a glass pane; it is not like the ballot image from the touchscreen.

Studies have shown that many voters are either unable to or simply do not verify the summary before casting it into scanner. A hand-marked ballot voting system only requires a voter to intuitively fill in bubbles on a paper ballot with a pen (like an SAT test) and thus easily verifying his own vote at the same time. We are confident that the change in voting procedure to a hand-marked system will much less frustrating than sticking with "familiar".

*Missed races due to long and/or double sided ballots. Practicing good ballot design should be the number one goal in any election. Missing races can happen just as easily on a bad ballot marking device touchscreen layout. The scanner will alert voter if he misses any races so he has a chance to fix.

*Will need additional poll workers. There is no reason any additional poll workers would be needed for a hand-marked paper ballot voting system.
*Cumbersome check-in procedures. The entire process is simple, similar to what is used now. The voter signs in, is given a ballot to mark in a privacy booth, then casts it into the scanner. ES&S even has a short video explaining how simple this is for their own hand-marked ballot system, on right side of screen: http://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/county-oks-buying-voting-booths/article_43251ba3-f32f-5f93-999d-82bd1f44fa3f.html.

*Poll workers will have to police voters to ensure no one leaves with a ballot. This should not be a problem any different than catching a "fleeing voter" (someone who does not hit "Vote Cast" on a touchscreen machine). There is nothing to be gained for a voter to leave with his paper ballot; it could not be proof of how he voted because it would not be tallied. All votes cast on a paper ballot are retained in the locked scanner.
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*Ballot rejections at scanning station will cause backup. Scanners returning a ballot to a voter is a good feature because it alerts her that she undervoted (left races blank or did not vote for all available candidates or positions). She either returns ballot to scanner right away to indicate that she intended to vote that way (scanner will now accept the ballot), or she goes back to a privacy booth to correct and then rescans when ready.

Scanners reject overvotes too, in which case the voter leaves scanner with ballot to give to poll worker, who will issue her a new ballot to fill out. Visits at the scanner take mere seconds. This is not true if any problems arise on the XL machine. All the corrections must take place at the XL because it is both the marking device and scanner, and this is where lines will form.

*Large polling locations are concerned over the transport of 2500-4000 ballots, which amounts to about 50 – 80 lbs. This is the same concern as first one at top, answered in the Cost Projections Report.

*Massive paper waste in low turnout elections due to state mandated printing of 110% of precinct voters..
A common misconception is that the Pennsylvania Election Code requires pre-printing ballots for 110% of registered voters. Section 1007 says that the county "shall provide for" 50 ballots for 45 registered voters. It is intended to make sure that ballots do not run out. When it was written in 1937, extra paper ballots needed to be pre-printed because printing was a time and labor intensive process which required manual typesetting. Photocopiers, computer desktop publishing, and personal printers were invented decades later.

In the modern era, counties have easier ways to "provide for" enough ballots. Many counties, such as Lancaster and Montgomery, purchase a ballot-on-demand printer (around $5,000). This video shows the Lebanon County Election Director saying that the Dept. of State gave them approval to use a ballot-on-demand printer (at 8:42): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRlyGGuepgk&feature=youtu.be&t=522.   In addition, any polling place equipped with a ballot marking device from Clear Ballot or Hart Intercivic can print additional unmarked ballots on demand using blank paper; any places using ES&S or the other vendors cannot.

A better guideline for pre-printing paper ballots is to calculate an average of the previous three comparable elections plus 10%. This is a recommendation in the 2018 PA Senate commissioned JSGC Report on Voting Technology and the basis of proposed PA Senate Bill 418.

Calculations made for Northampton County suggested that the actual pre-printed paper ballots required would be about 1/3 of the former requirements, or much less using the type of BMDs or BOD printers as described 2 paragraphs above.

*People leaving with pens. Really? This is a big concern?

*Sequentially numbered ballots eliminate voter anonymity. The sequential numbers are on stubs that are removed from the ballots before they are cast. This requirement has been mandated in the PA Election Code for decades (Article 10, Section 1004), so this concern is obviously not true.