

DRE Equipment Spending Cap – Options

Background

At the July 17, 2002, meeting of the Voting Modernization Board, the Board established a policy to place a \$3,000 per machine spending cap on the amount the State would contribute to the purchase of new Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting equipment.

State law now requires that all DRE voting systems must receive federal qualification and include an Accessible Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (AVVPAT) by January 1, 2006, in order for the equipment to be certified and used in California. Any county that currently uses DRE voting systems must retrofit its current DRE units with an AVVPAT component. As of January 1, 2005, any county that elects to purchase DRE voting equipment must ensure the equipment contains an AVVPAT.

The \$3,000 spending cap cost per DRE voting machine was established based upon cost estimates from voting system vendors during July 2002. The AVVPAT component will increase the overall cost of purchasing DRE voting equipment units; therefore, the cost assumptions used to formulate the \$3,000 spending cap per DRE may no longer be applicable.

Options

1. Maintain the \$3,000 per machine spending cap policy on the amount the State would contribute to the purchase of new Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting equipment.
2. Increase the spending cap on the State contribution amount to up to \$4,000 per DRE machine.
3. Eliminate the spending cap policy in its entirety.