

# VMB Policy – DRE Equipment Spending Cap

## **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.

The \$3,000 spending cap cost per DRE voting machine was established based upon cost estimates from voting system vendors during July 2002.

## **Effect of the AVVPAT Requirement on the DRE Spending Cap Policy**

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 (Elections Code §§ 19250, 19251). In addition, Elections Code Section 19252 requires that to the extent that Voting Modernization Fund monies are available for expenditure, funds shall be used to comply with the new AVVPAT requirement.

Any county that currently uses DRE voting systems must retrofit its current DRE units with an AVVPAT component. The initial estimates for the cost to retrofit existing DRE equipment with an AVVPAT range from \$250 to \$875 per unit.

As of January 1, 2005, any county that elects to purchase DRE voting equipment must ensure the equipment contains an AVVPAT. While it is still unclear how much more the DRE units will cost, it is anticipated that the new AVVPAT component will increase the overall cost of purchasing DRE voting equipment units. Therefore, cost assumptions used to formulate the July 2002 the \$3,000 spending cap per DRE are no longer applicable.

## **Options**

1. Eliminate the spending cap policy in its entirety.
2. Increase the spending cap on the State contribution amount to up to \$4,000 per DRE machine.
3. Solicit county input on the spending cap policy and determine the amount at a later date.