

# Los Angeles County

## Phase 1 -- Project Documentation Package Staff Report

### Summary

| <b>Phase 1</b>                                      | <b>Amounts</b>   |
|---|------------------|
| Phase 1: Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount     | \$639,071.25     |
| VMB Approved Allocation Amount                      | \$49,636,590.28  |
| Phase 1: 3:1 Matching Fund Amount                   | \$213,023.75     |
| Phase 1: Total System Cost                          | \$902,936.15     |
| <b>Phase 2 &amp; 3</b>                              |                  |
| Phase 2: Remaining Allocation Amount                | \$48,997,519.03  |
| Phase 2: 3:1 Matching Fund Amount                   | \$16,332,506.34  |
| Phase 2: Total System Estimated Cost For All Phases | \$107,000,000.00 |

### Phase 1 -- Voting System:

**Hardware:** AccuVote-TS (Touch Screen) 4.3.15 Version – 171 Units

**Software:** GEMS Software Version 1.18.18

### Phase 1 -- Vendor:

Diebold Elections Systems, Inc.

### Phase 1 -- Acquisition Schedule:

Los Angeles County has secured the Phase 1 voting system equipment and this new equipment was first used for the early voting pilot project during the November 2000 General Election.

### Phase 1 -- Project Completion Date:

The Phase 1 voting system was fully implemented during the November 2002 General Election

### Phase 1 -- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

Los Angeles County's contract with Diebold Elections Systems, Inc. does not contain an explicit "upgrade" option for retrofitting the DRE units with a VVPAT component. Los Angeles County plans to wait for clarification from the Secretary of State on the exact specifications to be required for the VVPAT before they negotiate with Diebold to retrofit the touch screen units.

---

**Phase 1 -- Staff Recommendation:**

Los Angeles County's "Phase 1 -- Project Documentation Package" meets the requirements for completeness. The Diebold AccuVote-TS touch screen units are certified for use in California.

Los Angeles County is the largest voting jurisdiction in the United States, with approximately 3.6 million registered voters. As such, Los Angeles County plans to use a three-phased approach to upgrade their voting system. The county believes that in order to ensure a successful implementation in their county they must have a comprehensive multi-staged plan involving a wide range of voter education and hands-on use of the new voting equipment.

Los Angeles County began their first phase of selecting a new voting system via a pilot project during the November 2000 General Election. This small scale early voting program utilized nine voting locations staffed with 34 touch screen Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) units exposing the county's voters to the new voting system technology.

The Phase 1 segment was completed during the November 2002 General Election. During this election Los Angeles conducted "early voting" at 21 locations throughout the county using the new 171 DRE units. The county surveyed voters who used the early voting DRE's and the results showed a high satisfaction level regarding the ease of use of the new voting system.

While the Phase 1 early voting pilot project garnered good responses from the voters, Los Angeles County believed that converting too rapidly to a new voting system countywide could commit the county to an expensive acquisition of first generation electronic voting technology.

Los Angeles County's Phase 1 early voting DRE acquisition does not fully address the new state and federal requirements for accessibility. However, Los Angeles County will incorporate a Phase 2 and Phase 3 into their overall plan and intends to convert to a complete DRE touch screen voting system for all polling sites. The combined three phases will bring their county into compliance with both state and federal law.

The Phase 2 InkaVote voting system was used for the first time during the November 4, 2003 Uniform District Elections (UDEL). The Phase 3 total conversion to a touch screen based voting system in polling sites is anticipated to take place during Los Angeles County's November 2005 countywide UDEL.

Los Angeles County has asserted that the phased approach is preferable due to the anticipated high cost of the total system conversion, the limited number of vendors that market equipment certified for use in California and the overall enormity of their geographical voting jurisdiction.

Los Angeles County will only receive VMB payments once they have submitted "invoices" for their voting equipment.

It is our recommendation to approve Los Angeles County's "Phase 1 -- Project Documentation Package" and issue a "Funding Award" letter in the amount of \$639,071.25.