

El Dorado County

Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Summary

El Dorado County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$877,911.89
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$1,095,674.94
Staff Recommended 3:1 Matching Amount	\$292,637.30
Estimated Total System Cost	\$1,616,185.92
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$217,763.05
Remaining 3:1 Matching Amount	\$72,587.68

Voting System:

Hardware:

AccuVote-OS (Optical Scan) version 1.96.6 – 123 Units

AccuVote-TSX with AccuView Printer Module (Touch Screen) version 4.6.4 – 130 Units

Software:

GEMS Software Version 1.18.24

Vendor:

Diebold Elections Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

El Dorado County anticipates receiving its new voting equipment by mid-March 2006. The county plans to begin using this equipment in the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

El Dorado County projects that its project completion date will be upon certification of the November 2007 UDEL.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

The AccuVote-TSX units with the AccuView Printer component being purchased by El Dorado County include a voter verifiable receipt printer, which is a VVPAT component.

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El Dorado County's Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness. The Diebold AccuVote-OS Optical Scan units and AccuVote-TSX touch screen units are certified for use in California.

El Dorado County will be converting from the Datavote punch card voting system to a blended optical scan and touch screen voting system. El Dorado County believes that the deployment of the one optical scan unit and one DRE unit in all polling places will bring the county into full compliance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The DRE units will provide access to those voters with disabilities and will also satisfy the second-chance voting requirements by not allowing over-votes and identifying under-votes to each voter.

El Dorado County assembled a Voting Systems Selection Committee comprised of the elections staff, members of the public, poll workers, trainers, the former County Registrar, former board members, and a member of the League of Women Voters to assist in the selection of the new voting system. The Voting Systems Selection Committee believes that the Diebold optical scan ballot most closely resembles the current punch card voting process and thus would reduce the training time and increase voter acceptance of the new system. Approximately forty percent of El Dorado County's registered voters are permanent absentee voters, and the number of absentee voters has been increasing every year. El Dorado County believes that purchasing optical scan voting equipment will cost significantly less than a full touch screen option, and it is in alignment with the county's absentee voting trend.

El Dorado County is currently developing an extensive voter outreach program to introduce the new voting system to its voters. The county plans to hold demonstrations of the new voting equipment at community events and also plans to involve the local media to promote the new voting system. The county is considering developing direct mail pieces to assist its voters on how to use the new equipment before voters get to the polls. The county plans to provide its poll workers and voters with evaluation forms and surveys to get feedback on the new voting system. Based upon this feedback, the county will adjust procedures as necessary to best serve its voters. El Dorado County has retained an outside consultant to assist in the development of a project plan to fully implement the new voting system.

El Dorado County will only receive VMB payments once it has submitted detailed invoices for its certified voting equipment. Please note that the staff proposed funding award is based upon allowable reimbursement under Proposition 41 for voting equipment hardware and software only. The ancillary services and extended warranties line items listed in the El Dorado County contract with Diebold would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that El Dorado County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$877,911.89.