



Voting Modernization Board

Modernizing Voting Equipment in California

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To: Voting Modernization Board

From: /s/ Jordan Kaku
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Re: Staff Report – Final Round of Funding

The purpose of this report is to examine the remaining funding allocations under the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002 (“Act” or “Prop 41”) and to propose a plan to move forward with a final round of funding requests.

Originally, the Voting Modernization Board (VMB) was established to oversee the modernization of voting systems for each California county, with an allotment of \$195 million. To date, 18 years later, counties have a combined remaining allocation of \$14,259,990.91 spread across 21 counties. Of those counties with remaining funds, six have come before the VMB and have been reimbursed for the replacement of an entire voting system.¹

Under the Act, counties may be reimbursed for replacing each part of their voting system once. In the staff report from November 15, 2019, counties that have replaced an entire system may also be reimbursed for expansion of their existing voting system solution by adding components to further modernize their existing system².

For those counties that have not been reimbursed for an entire system in their previous phases, parts of a voting system that are replaced are reimbursable so long as they have not been previously requested by that county.

Voting systems typically consist of the following:

1. Client (Workstation) / Server
2. Stand Alone (Workstation)
3. Precinct Scanner for tabulation

¹ Counties that have been paid for an entire voting system with remaining funds are: Calaveras, Humboldt, Mendocino, Solano, Tulare, and Ventura.

² <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vmb/expansion-vs-replacement.pdf>

4. Central Scanner for tabulation
5. Election Management System Software (Can have many functions - Ballot Layout, Election Programming)
6. Tabulation Software
7. Ballot Marking Devices
8. Adjudication Software
9. Ballot on Demand Workstation and Printer
10. External Supporting Peripherals (Not Subject to Certification): keyboards, mice, printers, network switch, various cables, accessibility devices (Sip & Puff, Jelly Switches, or other external controls), carrying cases for polling place equipment, ballot boxes, accessibility tables, and printer ink/cartridges.

Other components that could be considered an expansion of a voting system include:

1. Remote accessible vote-by-mail systems (RAVBM)
2. Ballot on Demand systems
3. Electronic Poll Books (e-poll books)
4. Vote-by-Mail processing equipment
5. Signature verification hardware/software

Potential Deadline for a Final Funding Round

If the Board were to determine to set a deadline by which counties with remaining funds must use them or they would be reverted to the fund for redistribution to other counties, the VMB staff would recommend setting the deadline for Project Plan submission by December 20, 2021.

The VMB staff would send out a final notice to counties with remaining Prop 41 funds to claim those funds before the December 20, 2021, deadline.

Any funds remaining to be claimed could be reallocated to counties that come forward to the Board with a request for these funds to purchase additional voting equipment and/or related components for the expansion of their existing equipment. The new reallocation formula of these funds could be based on the total number of Registered Voters and the final amount of the remaining funds. The Board could also set a timeline on requests for the relocated funds to be done by July 29, 2022.