

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Administrative Building Conference Room #26
Monday, July 14, 2014
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ray Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All nine (9) voting members and both non-voting ex-officio members were present. Joining the meeting via teleconference were NCSBOE General Counsel Don Wright, NCSBOE County Liaison Kate Cosner, NCSBOE and Voting Equipment Specialist Brooks Garrett Jones. *Printelect* Sales Representative Chris Andrews and Election Systems & Software (ES&S) Regional Sales Manager Mac Beeson were also in attendance.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Moved, Seconded (Matthew Wechtel, David Wyatt) and Carried (9,0) to make the total number of members necessary to be seven (7).

PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

Chairman Lewis reminded the committee that its task is to either validate the voting equipment and vendor (ES&S) that the Board of Elections currently does business with or to postpone the decision to replace the current equipment in anticipation that other vendors will seek and obtain state certification prior to the January 2018 deadline. He elaborated that new information that has been presented since the last meeting in no way diminishes the responsibility of the committee to make a recommendation to the Board of Elections regarding the replacement of the voting equipment.

The Director requested the committee add to the minutes of the meeting the document that she sent out via email and titled "Voting Equipment Replacement Discussions and Actions" so it could be referenced during the committee's discussions. The information in the document is updated and/or new information that has been gathered since the June 23rd ad hoc committee meeting.

Moved, Seconded (Matthew Wechtel, David Wyatt) and Carried (9,0) to add the document to the meeting minutes so it could be referred to during the discussions.

PRESENTATION OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

Mac Beeson and Chris Andrews gave some history of Election Systems & Software and *Printelect* and demonstrated the DS200 Precinct Scanner and Tabulator. Mr. Andrews pointed out that the machine will not require as much storage room as our current machines and takes a digital image of both sides of the ballot and stores it on a thumb drive rather than the PCMCIA card that is used with the current M100 paper ballot tabulator. Images are encrypted and unreadable until entered in the updated version of Unity.

There are some additional steps involved in transferring data on election night. However, results can be transferred and merged between the old Unity and new Unity software. ES&S will have a technician on site Election Day to assist with the technology required to collect and merge election results from the various equipment that will be running (DREs, M100s, and DS200s).

The touch screen will notify the voter of ballot overvotes and blank ballots. Undervoted ballots are not notified unless the county codes to do so. The machine can process a ballot every four seconds. The bin contains a

blue locking ballot box that enables removal of the ballots for storage without poll workers having to touch the ballots.

Batteries will last from between four (4) to six (6) hours in the event of a power failure.

Discussion ensued regarding the turnaround time from requesting to receiving the printed ballots. The turnaround time is tight when considering the turnaround time from ordering the ballots to the absolute date for the beginning of absentee mail-in balloting.

The iVotronic machines do not require the printing of ballots and have the waste if they are not used. The Ballot on Demand (BOD) printer prints the ballot for the voter as they come to the polling place and is fed into the paper ballot tabulator thus reducing waste in unused ballots.

The ES&S product, ExpressVote, is a ballot marker and supplements the DS200. The machine has a touchscreen where the voter marks his/her choices and feeds the machine a blank voter card. The machine produces the marked ballot that the voter has in hand to review prior to entering it into the paper ballot tabulator. The ExpressVote was certified by the EAC in February 2014 but has not yet received NCSBOE certification. The machine can replace the AutoMark for ADA balloting purposes and is fully ADA compliant. It can save voting machine and printing costs. The machine is right around the corner for certification.

The AutoMark is a certified ADA compliant ballot marker and marks printed ballots which cannot be used again whereas the unused ExpressVote blank ballot cards can be used during the next election. The ExpressVote does not store any data. It merely marks the ballot for placement in the DS200 or M100.

The ExpressVote cuts down on the waste of unused ballots. It is the wave of the future. According to SBOE, the voter prepares his ballots, sees it on the screen, likes it on the screen, gets it in their hand, sees it in hand, likes it in hand, and walks it over to the tabulator. There can be no off the wall allegations that the screen is voting a way the voter is not wanting them to vote. It is counted in the tabulator with three protections: tabulator itself on the thumb drive, the ballot image on the thumb drive, and the actual paper ballot. Unfortunately, the technology has not kept pace for the disabled.

The Express Vote can be used in a variety of ways, but it has the potential to be used as a touchscreen that produces a paper ballot that is placed in a paper ballot tabulator.

Printelect's quote on 24 AutoMarks was based upon the number of precincts in DRE counties. The quote was to be used as a point of reference. The quote projected one Automark per DS200. The AutoMark is \$1995, the ExpressVote is \$3,500. Both the AutoMark and ExpressVote machines can be compared to a big pen. They merely mark the ballot.

The DS200 does not come with a modem. It is available, but costs more.

The cost of the voting booths is not included in the quote for implementation of the DS200 voting system.

The advantage of BOD is that you only pay for the ballots that are actually printed (.45 each) whereas counties must purchase a ballot at approximately .30 each for every registered voter which increases ballot printing costs and generates a lot of waste. The point was made that we need to test one voting system at a time rather than trying to take on too much at one time.

The Director made the point that sufficient ballots must still be purchased and on hand for emergency situations.

The NCSBOE recommended the DS200 be tested in a one-stop site rather than a precinct so that more voters and poll workers from across the precincts have the experience with the voting system in a more secured environment.

The SBOE informed the committee that one DS200 can carry all the precincts for one-stop whereas the M100 could not. Additionally, the state mandates a test of the proposed voting system prior to purchase. Thus the county cannot purchase any voting system or part thereof until the test is completed during an election.

ES&S indicated they will be in no hurry to take possession of the iVotronics, and will not invoice the county until the test is successfully completed.

The NCSBOE confirmed that it has been approached and shown a voting system; however, the vendor has not yet applied for state certification. The voting system is very similar to the ES&S ExpressVote.

The point was made that ES&S and Printelect have an established reputation for delivering good service.

A discussion ensued regarding the cost of terminal battery replacement and the life cycle of batteries in the DS200 and the DREs.

THE NCSBOE informed that the source code(s) are under vaulted (lock and key) security under Iron Mountain and are not kept on someone's desk at the NCSBOE. The source code cannot be accessed by the NCSBOE without going through Iron Mountain.

The point was made by the NCSBOE that precinct workers are going to have to be trained to deal with paper jams, spoiled ballots, reconciliation of ballots, voters getting the correct ballot styles, and ballot scanners. That is the rationale for gradual phase in of the new voting system.

The SBOE indicated that it is possible to get ready for a test of one one-stop site in the upcoming November election. Ballots for the M100 and the DS200 can share the same coding. The county will use DREs at four sites and the DS200 at one one-stop site.

A discussion ensued about the options available for paper ballot tabulators and how the DS200 will handle write-in votes that are cast.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for certified accessories such as thumb drives for the DS200.

The NCSBOE departed the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Discussion ensued about the cost of the booths and how the county can pay for them since the initial quote does not include the purchase of voting booths. The county will have the option to trade out the hardware / maintenance fees for the first year to purchase the booths. Booths will cost approximately \$120 to \$170 each, depending on the model chosen.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of testing the voting system at the BOE one-stop site. ES&S proposed that the county sign a contract with them, and that they will not invoice it until after a successful test during the November election. If the county is not happy with the test in November, the company will pick up the equipment and tear up the contract.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of paper ballots that must be purchased for the DS200 test site. Every voter that presents to vote at the test site must have a ballot available. There must also be sufficient quantities of paper ballots available to allow for spoiled ballots. The Director will work with the NCSBOE to determine the number of ballots to purchase for the test site to ensure there is a sufficient number of ballots available.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of voting booths that need to be purchased for the BOE test site.

Discussion ensued regarding postponing the test until the 2015 Municipal Elections. The point was made that to test during the General Election at the BOE one-stop site would give more poll workers, the general public, and voters hands-on experience with the new voting system.

ES&S committed to provide on-site technical support for this test on Election Day at no cost to the county. The company will be here when the BOE receives the equipment and test to make sure it is all working satisfactorily, for the public test, for the first and last day of one-stop, and through Election Day. Additionally, there will be two days of training for election staff.

ES&S and Madison County will negotiate a contract. The contract terms will define a "successful election."

The decision to purchase special pens "ballot marking devices" and/or use surge protection for the machines is up to the county.

Discussion ensued regarding the Cuyahoga County, Ohio 2012 Presidential election and potential misconduct on behalf of the DS200 voting equipment in that county.

Committee Member David Wyatt indicated that based upon the reputation of ES&S across the state and nation and the required legislation that the counties DRE's must be replaced by 2018, he saw no reason to delay the decision to replace the voting equipment. Thus he was prepared to make a motion.

Moved, Seconded (David Wyatt, Jimmy Ammons) and Carried (8,1) for the committee to recommend to the Board of Elections that the DS200 be tested in November at the Board of Elections one-stop site, and based upon a successful election as determined by the Board of Elections, the Board of Elections proceed in the process for the purchase the equipment. Commissioner Baker voted "nay" to the motion.

In the discussion of the motion, Committee Member James Baker indicated that it was his belief the committee did not need to proceed with a recommendation to purchase the equipment at this point but only with the recommendation that that the equipment be tested. Committee Member David Wyatt commented that ES&S is going to provide the equipment for the test at no charge with the expectation that the county purchase the equipment based upon a successful test.

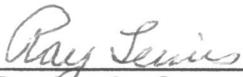
PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was provided that people in Madison County have not marked a ballot since the 60s. They will need additional time at the polls to learn and use the new voting system.

ADJOURNMENT

The committee determined there will be no need to schedule another Ad Hoc meeting at this time.

Moved, Seconded (Matt Wechtel, Ray Lewis) and Carried (9,0) to adjourn at 9:00 P.M.



Ray Lewis, Committee Chairman



Kathy Ray, Committee Recorder