

Recommendation for Boulder County's Voting System

- **Why are we recommending purchasing a paper-based voting system at this point?**
 - The DRE environment is in flux.
 - No security standards or disability standards until around 2006.
 - Voter confidence issues surrounding “unverifiable” voting are providing an incentive for DRE manufacturers to add a printed, voter-verified paper ballot or record.

Voting System Recommendation

- Boulder County was always going to have to purchase a paper-based voting system as a component of its overall voting system to handle an estimated twenty to thirty thousand expected absentee votes.
- The Clerk's Office is simply recommending to continue with the purchase of that paper-based portion of the voting system equation.

Voting System Recommendation

- Paper-based voting systems have their own standards. They do not face the standards for technical/security matters that are pending for DRE's.
- However, paper-based systems do not solve the question of access for disabled voters.
 - A federal court in Florida ruled that a county must provide blind and disabled with audio voting machines, a ruling that will affect every county with an optical scan system. Florida SOS says the ruling will cost millions.

Voting System Recommendation

- **Why were we looking at DRE's at all?**
 - Need to replace the DataVote system.
 - DRE's are viewed as a solution to the federal mandate to provide disabled voters with the opportunity to vote unassisted.
 - They were the only solution to the disability issue.
 - They are currently the approach most favored by the disability community.
 - Going forward, all counties still face a mandate to allow disabled voters the opportunity to vote unassisted.

Voting System Recommendation

- **Why do we recommend purchasing the Hart system?**
 - There isn't market uncertainty about optical scan or ballot image reading systems.
 - System produces a paper ballot. Also produces a digital ballot image.

Voting System Recommendation

- Will save time and money by allowing us to under-print ballots in preparation for an election.
- Reduces security and administrative problems associated with having excess ballots on hand.

Voting System Recommendation

- Allows us to print ballots on demand when extra ballots are needed, such as with replacement ballots or last-minute absentee requests.
- Uses off-the-shelf components: scanners, computers, printers

Voting System Recommendation

- Ballots need only be printed on a slightly heavier stock paper.
- Ballots don't need to be printed according to strict design standards as with normal optical scan ballots.

Voting System Recommendation

- Will allow quicker resolution of ballots with questions of voter intent by eliminating the need for duplicate ballots.
- Ballot scanning doesn't need to stop to resolve questionable ballots, unlike counting with traditional optical scanning systems.

Voting System Recommendation

- Contests requiring an interpretation of voter intent are automatically highlighted on the ballot image.
- Ballot resolution process is more public and transparent and each resolution is logged onto the audit log.

Voting System Recommendation

- **Why are we opposed to leasing?**
 - Money spent on leasing is money that could be spent on a new system. Future budget available for elections uncertain.
 - Companies that would lease to us would not have an incentive to perform the work needed to integrate our voter registration system with the envelope tracking and ballot counting system. We will be at the mercy of two vendors - not just the one that is leasing us equipment - to do timely and efficient programming for us.

Voting System Recommendation

- Boulder County was always going to purchase a paper based system for absentee voting.
- Boulder County will recoup HAVA funds for replacing our punch card system.

Voting System Recommendation

- **How we got to this decision**
 - Current punch card system slated for elimination.
 - Advisory committee to examine the accessibility and usability of DRE's.
 - Security issues left to county IT department.
 - Secy of State made a decision to seek punch card deadline waiver.
 - DRE security and disability standards are not on schedule.

Voting System Recommendation

- Clerk's Office was making its decision in what became an evolving environment, with the expectation that a system would be chosen for use in 2004.
- The advisory committee meetings have all been public.
- In these meetings, the Clerk's Office never limited its scrutiny of voting systems to just DRE's. This process has always been about selecting a comprehensive voting system.