



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 29, 2024

TO: Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board
Jeffrey K. Shapiro, Vice Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board
Amb. (ret.) Christopher Henzel, Secretary of the Fairfax County Electoral Board

FROM: Eric Spicer, General Registrar and Director of Elections

SUBJECT: Purchase of Replacement Electronic Pollbooks and Voting Equipment

Overview

After conducting a review including both quantitative and qualitative analysis, I am requesting authorization from the Fairfax County Electoral Board to engage in formal contract negotiations to acquire new electronic pollbooks and voting equipment.

My staff and I recommend Knowink for the purchase of new electronic pollbooks and ballot on demand equipment and ES&S for new voting equipment.

The new electronic pollbooks will be implemented immediately after our current pollbook lease expires in February 2025. The new voting equipment will be acquired in January 2025.

Background

Fairfax County's current pollbook system is provided through a three-year lease with Knowink that expires in February 2025. Fairfax County's current ballot on demand system was purchased from Knowink in November 2022.

Fairfax County's voting equipment is provided by ES&S and is nearly 10 years old. The current voting equipment is rapidly approaching the end of its useful life. The number of repairs and other maintenance required has increased significantly in recent years.

Conclusion and Recommendations

After considering equipment from interested vendors, I recommend that we replace our leased pollbook system with the electronic pollbooks that were demonstrated to us by Knowink, our current vendor. Knowink has a well-established relationship with Fairfax County, offers competitive pricing, and the use of their equipment will not require additional training or risks that could be associated with the conversion to a different type of electronic pollbook system. In addition, Knowink stands out as the best choice because we can continue using our existing ballot on demand hardware, which has proven quite successful.



Conclusion and Recommendations (Continued)

After considering equipment from interested vendors, I recommend that we replace our existing voting equipment with ballot scanners, accessible machines, and high-speed scanners that were demonstrated by ES&S, our current vendor. ES&S offered competitive pricing and provides equipment currently being utilized in several jurisdictions in Virginia. ES&S has committed to providing voting equipment that is VVSG 2.0 compliant. ES&S can meet our preferred delivery timeline. They are the only vendor currently producing their own purpose-built high-speed absentee ballot scanner. ES&S provides maintenance and repairs onsite, decreasing potential disruptions or risks involved in shipping equipment to be repaired.

Taking all of these factors into consideration, it seems clear that Knowink and ES&S offer the best, most viable, most cost-effective solutions for replacing our electronic pollbooks and voting equipment. With approval from the Electoral Board, staff will proceed with the County's contracting and procurement process. Initiating procurement now ensures sufficient time to acquire and test the new electronic pollbooks and voting equipment in January and February 2025, well before its first use in the June 2025 Primary Election.

Copy: Cheryl Jones, Deputy Director
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Ravi Udeshi, Election Manager
Tyrone Allen, Voting Equipment Manager
Sarah Prowitt, Communications Division Chief

