

**Item Title:** Approve the Purchase of New Voting Equipment for the Board of Elections

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners approves the purchase of a new Voting System to replace the current Voting System being used by the Board of Elections. The recommended new Voting System is produced by Elections Systems and Software (ES&S) and consists of the DS200 Precinct Tabulator, DS850 High-Speed Scanner, and UNITY 3.4.1.1 Election Software Suite.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** State statute (163A-1116) states that the Board of County Commissioners, with the approval of the County Board of Elections, may adopt and acquire only a voting system of a type, make, and model certified by the State Elections Board for use in some or all voting places in the county at some or all elections.

**Background:** Wake County's current voting system was originally purchased in 2006 with an estimated 10-year lifespan. In 2015, the Board of Commissioners appropriated \$3,118,000 for voting systems replacement. The Board of Elections has proceeded to fulfill the requirements of 163A-1117 which outline the process for acquiring new voting systems and is prepared to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on the purchase of a new voting system.

**Board Goal:** This action supports routine County operations.

**Fiscal Impact:** This action has no new financial impact. The County appropriated \$3,118,000 for the voting equipment replacement in the Automation CIP. The current purchase of \$1,736,987 will be followed by a subsequent purchase of ADA voting equipment. Costs are anticipated to fall within the available appropriated amount.

**Additional Information:**

In 2006, Wake County purchased its current voting system which consists of the Elections Systems and Software (ES&S) M100 Optical Scan Tabulator, M650 High-Speed Scanner, and UNITY 3.4.0.1 Election Software Suite. Since its purchase, Board of Elections has carefully maintained, serviced, and deployed this equipment for use in all elections, extending its service past the manufacturer's suggested 10-year lifespan. In 2015 Board of Elections began preparing for the process to replace their current voting system.

State statute (163A-1117) outlines the process for acquiring new voting systems. Before the Board of Commissioners can approve the acquisition of a new voting system the County Board of Elections must fulfill several requirements:

- 1) Witness a public demonstration of the proposed Voting System, and at least one other certified Voting System.
- 2) Test during, an election, the proposed Voting System.
- 3) Make a final recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on which Voting System to adopt.

Board of Elections fulfilled the public demonstration requirement by attending the Public Voting Systems Demonstration at the NC State Board of Elections on July 27, 2018 in which BOE witnessed voting system demonstrations from Election Systems and Software (ES&S), Hart InterCivic, Dominion Voting Systems, Unisyn, and Clear Ballot.

Statute (163A-1116) states that the Board of County Commissioners, with the approval of the County Board of Elections, may adopt and acquire only a voting system of a type, make, and model certified by the State Board for use in some or all voting places in the county at some or all elections. Currently, the only certified voting system in NC that is still being produced is the ES&S DS200 Precinct Tabulator, DS850 High-Speed Scanner, and UNITY 3.4.1.1 Election Software Suite. On June 26, 2018 the Board of Elections voted unanimously to test this ES&S voting system during the November 6, 2018 General Election. The proposed ES&S voting system was successfully deployed at the Board of Elections Early Voting site for the duration of Early Voting, fulfilling the testing requirement of § 163A-1117.

On February 18, 2019 the Board of Elections voted unanimously in favor of recommending to the Board of Commissioners the purchase of a new voting system, consisting of the ES&S DS200 Precinct Tabulator, DS850 High-Speed Scanner, and UNITY 3.4.1.1 Election Software Suite.

**Attachments:**

1. Presentation
2. § 163A-1116 - 1118