

MEMO

August 15, 2018

To: RuthAnne Hall, Lake County Purchasing Division Manager

From: Carla Wyckoff, Lake County Clerk

This memo requests consideration of a sole source purchase by the Lake County Clerk's Office (LCCO) of 80 ExpressVote (Ballot Marking) Machines (with cases) and 73 ExpressPass Printers from the Kane County Clerk's Office (KCCO).

The LCCO previously purchased (in 2015 for the 2016 Elections), via the RFP process, 34 ExpressVote Machines and ExpressPass Printers from the vendor, Election Systems and Software (ES&S), to respond to legislative mandates for universal voting in LC's 16 early voting sites and to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A critical consideration was that the ExpressVote Machine compatibility with LCCO's current DS200 tabulating machines. During this 2019 Budget process the LCCO has submitted a New Program Request (NPR) for 200 additional ExpressVote Machines and ExpressPass Printers to replace the Election Day ADA ballot marking machines, the Automarks, in LC's 121 Election Day polling sites.

The Automarks, originally purchased in 2003, are becoming outdated and are no longer being produced/sold. The market for repair parts is unreliable. It is critical to replace them within this next calendar/fiscal year. The purchase of ExpressVote Machines and ExpressPass Printers qualifies as a sole source purchase because these are the only machines that are compatible with the LCCO current equipment and systems. The urgent timing of this partial amount purchase is critical because there is an opportunity to buy a significant portion of the necessary quantity of units at a healthy discount.

The original purchase price of the ExpressVote Machines (with cases) was \$3,500.00 per unit; and the ExpressPass Printers, \$725.00 per unit. If we were to buy all 200 machines and printers new, from ES&S, the total cost would be about \$845,000.00. However, there is an unusual opportunity to buy some of the equipment from the Kane County Clerk's Office (KCCO) at a discount of more than 50%. The Aurora Board of Election Commissioners was eliminated and the election precincts previously under its purview were reassigned to other jurisdictions. The majority of them are now the responsibility of KCCO. This previous Aurora Election Commission had purchased 80 ExpressVote Machines and 73 ExpressPass Printers that were used for one

election before its dissolution. But, Kane County's Election system is not compatible with the ES&S equipment purchased by Aurora. KCCO would like to sell the ES&S equipment as soon as possible to enable purchase of additional equipment that is compatible with its own election system. KCCO knows that we use the ES&S ExpressVote Machines and ExpressPass Printers and so extended to us the opportunity to purchase this used equipment.

KCCO is offering to sell us 80 ExpressVote Machines (and cases) and 73 ExpressPass Printers for a total of \$165,000.00. The regular total price for this amount if purchased from ES&S (new) would be \$332,925. This is a savings of \$167,925. It would also reduce the amount for purchase at full price from ES&S to 120 ExpressVote Machines and 127 ExpressPass Printers (from 200). ES&S will honor the warranty on this used equipment until the end of the year and then will include them in the warranty along with new equipment purchased in the 2019 fiscal year.

Recommendation

The Lake County Clerk's Office is requesting consideration of this ballot marking equipment as a sole source and immediate purchase because the ADA compliant ballot marking equipment currently being used on Election Day must be replaced; the ExpressVote Machines and ExpressPass Printers are the only ADA compliant ballot marking devices available that are also compatible with the LCCO current equipment and systems; and the urgency of this partial amount purchase will allow a savings of \$167,925.00.