



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 12/17/2019

New Business

Department: Election Services

Presenter(s): Joyce Kanavel, Interim Election Services Director

Contact(s): Joyce Kanavel, Interim Election Services Director

Subject: ADA Voting Machine Replacement

Brief Summary:

On August 23, 2019 the North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBOE) voted to certify several new voting systems for use in North Carolina's elections. The needed certification for upgrading Buncombe County's ADA voting equipment was part of this vote. This certification allowed the Buncombe County Board of Elections (BCBOE) and the Buncombe County Commissioners (BOCC) to move forward with the replacement of the aging Automark ballot marking device that has been used in all voting locations since 2006.

The BCBOE attended and witnessed demonstrations of the different types of voting systems at the Haywood County public demonstration site. The BCBOE met on September 24, 2019, and discussed the information gathered at the demonstration. The board unanimously voted to make a preliminary recommendation to the BOCC to test and purchase the Express Vote ballot marking device for use in providing an accessible voting option in Buncombe's voting locations.

The Express Vote unit proposed was tested in all 11 precincts that participated in the November 2019 municipal elections. The conduct of the test demonstrated that the equipment meets all requirements set out by the NCSBOE.

BCBOE has successfully completed testing and has submitted the request to the NCSBE's to replace the current Automark ballot marking device with the Express Vote ballot marking device. The BCSBE has approved the request. At this time, BCBOE is requesting approval from BOCC so staff can move forward with implementation.

The bid purchase is \$372K which is less than the \$400K in the approved capital budget plan.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve the purchase of ExpressVote as the new ADA voting machine replacement.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends approval.