

Elections Capital Outlay Request



ExpressVote Expansion Request

Challenge

- Last year Election Services learned that the vendor would no longer support the machines Buncombe currently uses during Early Voting.

Proposed Solution

- Election Services weighed the options and found that expanding ExpressVote (the machines currently being used for ADA equipment at all sites) was the best choice fiscally, and logistically; while also increasing accuracy and giving better service to voters.

Actions

- Election Services proposed the expansion to the Board of Elections over two public meetings in January and the Elections Board approved proposal to the Buncombe County Commission.
- GS 163-165.8 requires specific Commissioner approval.



ExpressVote Expansion Request

Cost

- Total cost for the project, which would be implemented this October, is \$604,225.
- Estimated lifespan is 15 years.
- Equipment would serve all Early Voting locations for all election types.

For Voters

- Reduces voter check-in time at voting locations.
- Increases accuracy by eliminating hand marking mistakes (i.e. bubbling too many, marking illegibly, not flipping over the ballot, etc.).
- Precinct reported results will be available immediately instead of 30 days after the election.



ExpressVote Expansion Request

Application

- ExpressVote is, at its essence, a pen. Voters use it to mark their paper ballot.
- It is NOT a tabulator and does not replace the paper ballot.
- All auditing procedures remain unchanged.

Other Considerations

- Simple, safe, and proven system that is already in use in Buncombe and 11 other counties in NC.
- Certified by the State Board of Elections, vetted by the Buncombe County Board of Elections and supported by the BC IT Director.
- Was previously approved by Commissioners in 2019 for ADA application.
- Easy setup for poll workers and Election Services currently has knowledge base to implement.
- Reduces paper consumption for Early Voting by half.
- Expands ADA capabilities (sight, hearing and tactile enhancements) to every early voter.

