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.