



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

**Meeting Date: 6/20/2023**

#### **New Business**

**Department:** Election Services

**Presenter:** Corinne Duncan, Election Services Director

**Contact(s):** Corinne Duncan, Election Services Director

Jake Quinn, Board of Elections Chair

Curt Euler, Legal

**Subject:** Approval of ExpressVote for Early Voting Ballot Printing/Marking Equipment Upgrade

**Brief Summary:** The proposal is to streamline the way ballot marking and production is conducted during Early Voting. Currently, Buncombe County Election Services uses a Ballot-on-Demand (BOD) system that the vendor is no longer supporting. This challenge and the high cost and complexity of the current system prompted Election Services staff to consider other options and recommended expanding the use of ExpressVote from ADA only to the main marking method for Early Voting to the Board of Elections. The Board of Elections approved adoption on January 24, 2023 as required by GS163-165.8.

The cost for 140 machines is \$604,225, and is included in the proposed FY24 budget. Buncombe County already uses ExpressVote so the system is proven and supported both by the State Board of Elections and Buncombe County Information Technology Department. After cost comparisons and implementation planning, this expansion is the best choice both fiscally and logistically, while also increasing accuracy and giving better service to voters. It reduces paper and supply consumption and expands sight, hearing and tactile enhancements to every early voter.

**Recommended Motion & Requested Action:** Approve use of ExpressVote for Early Voting in Buncombe County.

**County Manager's comments and Recommendation:** Recommends approval.