

Blount County Election Commission

Election System Procurement
July 2019

Two Primary Motivators Prompt Voting System Purchase

- Ongoing dedication to fulfill the Election Commission's mission: to deliver lawful, fair, accessible and accurate elections.
- Elections security is of utmost importance using the most up-to-date technology with all the security measures available.

E-Slate Voting System

- Current voting Machines have an aging voting system infrastructure. They are nearing the end of their reliable usefulness.
- Purchased in 2006 paid partially through a HAVA (Help America Vote Act of 2000) federal grant.
- Outdated technology.
- Increased need for costly repairs, difficulty finding replacement parts.
- Cumbersome “dial” requires much patience and is challenging for the elderly.

Key Issues Considered

- Security
- Accessibility
- Auditability
- Usability
- Voter Convenience
- Transparency of process
- Testing
- Certification

New Voting Process Technology

- User friendly for all ages
- Exceptionally easy to use = reduction in training and consulting costs
- Certified by the State Election Commission and federally by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).
- A new system incorporates security, accessibility and usability features that were not available 10 years ago.

Other Factors Considered

- Initial expenditure (voting system and implementation)
- Purchase price includes all needed components
- Scalable and adaptable over the next 15 years
- Easy to use (setup, training, voters)
- Provider with excellent customer service and loyalty ratings.
- Ample on-site support, as needed.

Other Factors Considered (cont'd)

- Established training program tailored to our needs.
- Expert 24/7 technical support; prompt vendor response to issues.
- Minimal preventative maintenance required.
- Compact, lightweight, and stackable
- Robust supply chain
- Built to accommodate change (legislative, etc.)
- System early in its lifecycle.

Funding Voting Equipment

HAVA (Help America Vote Act of 2002) Federal funds available again through this grant

- Appropriate \$1.3 million.
- \$10,000 per ED precinct and EV sites (\$380,000).
- Grant reimburses once entire system has been paid in full.