



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *November 18, 2025*

DATE: Thursday, October 9, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Andrew McDonald, Registrar of Voters
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Interim County Manager
Mark Stewart, Purchasing and Contracts Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the transition from Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) equipped Dominion Voting Systems (now Liberty Vote) voting machines to ICX Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) with vote center-based ballot scanning in an amount not to exceed [\$1,764,619.70], to be funded through the Capital Improvement Fund (CIP), project PW920234 and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to make the necessary purchases.

If the BMD purchase is approved, staff further recommends approval of an extension to the Liberty Vote annual software license and support contract agreement for hardware and software used by the Registrar of Voters Office in connection with the BMDs, in the amount of [\$357,821.36], with an approximate 3% annual escalator, extending the contract through December 31, 2030, with two optional one-year extensions, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the extension on behalf of Washoe County.

If the BMD purchase is not approved, staff recommends approval of the fifth amendment, which includes license and warranty extension only, with Liberty Vote for hardware and software used by the Registrar of Voters Office for the continued use of the VVPAT equipped voting machines, in the amount of [\$411,797.86], for the first year, with an approximate 3% annual escalator extending the contract through December 31, 2030, with two optional one-year extensions, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the fifth amendment on behalf of Washoe County. Voters. (All Commission Districts). FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve the transition from legacy VVPAT-equipped voting machines to ICX Ballot Marking Devices (BMD) with vote center-based ballot scanning on-site. This upgrade strengthens transparency, streamlines election night reporting, and aligns Washoe County with statewide technology standards.

The proposed ICX Ballot Marking Devices (BMD) enhances voter accessibility by generating 12-point font, full-face tangible and legible ballots identical to mail ballots, eliminating QR codes and enabling voters to clearly see their voted ballot, potentially increasing voter confidence. In addition, vote center ballot scanners allow ballots to be physically scanned on-site at the vote center improving election efficiencies.

The BMDs, and vote center-based scanners represent a significant advancement in accessibility and efficiency, bringing Washoe County in alignment with evolving state and federal election best practices. Investing now, before end-of-life issues impact election operations, ensures uninterrupted voter accessibility, and continuing of voter election integrity.

Successful implementation of the new BMD equipment cannot be completed within the existing Registrar of Voters (ROV) facilities, the two warehouses on S. Rock Blvd. and the East 9th Street office, due to space and storage limitations. Implementation will therefore include identifying and transitioning to a consolidated facility capable of housing all ROV operations under one roof. Relocating to a single, integrated headquarters will streamline operations, foster a cohesive team environment, enhance transparency for public observation, and provide adequate space for current and future election needs as Washoe County continues to grow.

The current leases for the ROV's two warehouse spaces on South Rock Boulevard expire in April 2026. The Community Services Department (CSD) will present a future Board item on December 16, 2025, proposing a new facility located at 6550 Longley Lane, Suite 145, Reno, Nevada 89511, for possible action. The item will include a lease summary and associated fiscal impacts, and will allow the Board to consider renewal of the existing leases or relocation to the new, fully integrated warehouse and headquarters facility. This relocation would address the space and storage limitations necessary for successful BMD implementation. Should the proposed space not be approved, staff will identify alternative storage and operational solutions to support election operations.

If the Board approves the BMD purchase, the Liberty Vote contract renewal will coincide with the acquisition, ensuing uninterrupted support for new equipment. If the BMD purchase is not approved, staff recommend extending the Liberty Vote annual contract agreement to maintain operational continuity with the existing VVPAT system.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On October 8, 2024, the Board approved the one-year extension of the annual software license fee for Dominion Voting Systems' hardware and software, under the ongoing contract signed June 29, 2017, through December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$389,785.00.

On August 1, 2023, Washoe County and Dominion Voting Systems Inc. executed a third amendment to update the scope of the Agreement, incorporating terms and conditions from the first amendment.

On August 27, 2019, the Board approved the purchase of additional voting equipment hardware and software for the Registrar of Voters Office from Dominion Voting Systems in the amount of \$445,425.00.

On May 21, 2019, the Board approved the FY 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Plan. This included \$445,425.00 in FY 2019-2020 for Registrar of Voters - Additional Election Equipment project.

On August 8, 2017, the Board approved a sole-source purchase for hardware and software voting systems and agreed to an ongoing annual licensing agreement between the Washoe County Registrar of Voters and Dominion Voting Systems for software and hardware maintenance, with a term extending to December 31, 2025.

On May 23, 2017, the Board approved the FY 2018-2022 Capital Improvements Plan. This included \$1,896,125 in FY 2018 for the Voting Equipment Replacement project.

On January 26, 2016, the Board approved \$224,523 for the purchase of Absentee Ballot Central Scanning Hardware and Software from Dominion Voting Systems. This purchase included first-year maintenance and training, with subsequent years' maintenance costs incorporated into the Registrar of Voters' base budget. The action also included an inter-fund contingency transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund for the project.

BACKGROUND

Washoe County last conducted a comprehensive upgrade to its voting infrastructure in 2017, when the Board approved the purchase of a new voting system from Dominion Voting Systems. This initiative replaced equipment that had been in use since 2004, originally funded by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (AB 519). The transition to Dominion followed performance issues observed during the 2016 General Election, including the need to rely on paper backups in some instances, which underscored the urgency for a more modern, secure, and accessible voting system.

Since 2016, the County has invested more than \$2.9 million in equipment, software and maintenance. However, the current VVPAT-equipped machines are aging, have accessibility limitations, and necessitate system modernization.

FISCAL IMPACT

If the Board approves the purchase of the BMDs, sufficient budget authority for the purchase is available in the FY26 Capital Improvement Fund (CIP), under Project PW920234 - Voter's New Software/Server/Ballot Equipment, for the procurement and deployment of Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs), not to exceed [\$1,764,619.70].

Subsequently, if the BMD purchase is approved, the annual software license and support contract agreement for hardware and software in the amount of [\$357,821.36] for the first year, is included in FY26 budget under Account 112210, GL 710210 (Software Maintenance). Budget authority will be requested for subsequent fiscal years:

FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31 - Optional	FY32 - Optional	Total
357,821.36	410,644.93	422,952.52	435,641.76	448,716.22	462,178.23	476,032.67	3,013,987.69

If the BMD purchase is not approved, the approval of the fifth amendment for the annual software license and support contract agreement the amount of [\$411,737.86] for the first year, is included in FY26 budget under Account 112210, GL 710210 (Software Maintenance). Budget authority will be requested for subsequent fiscal years:

FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31 - Optional	FY32 - Optional	Total
411,737.86	424,081.43	439,789.42	449,893.36	463,395.42	477,297.93	491,602.97	3,157,798.39

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve the transition from Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) equipped Dominion Voting Systems (now Liberty Vote) voting machines to ICX Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) with vote center-based ballot scanning in an amount not to exceed [\$1,764,619.70], to be funded through the Capital Improvement Fund (CIP), project PW920234 and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to make the necessary purchases.

If the BMD purchase is approved, staff further recommends approval of an extension to the Liberty Vote annual software license and support contract agreement for hardware and software used by the Registrar of Voters Office in connection with the BMDs, in the amount of [\$357,821.36], with an approximate 3% annual escalator, extending the contract through December 31, 2030, with two optional one-year extensions, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the extension on behalf of Washoe County.

If the BMD purchase is not approved, staff recommends approval of the fifth amendment, which includes license and warranty extension only, with Liberty Vote for hardware and software used by the Registrar of Voters Office for the continued use of the VVPAT equipped voting machines, in the amount of [\$411,797.86], for the first year, with an approximate 3% annual escalator extending the contract through December 31, 2030, with two optional one-year extensions, and

authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the fifth amendment on behalf of Washoe County.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the transition from Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) equipped Dominion Voting Systems (now Liberty Vote) voting machines to ICX Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) with vote center-based ballot scanning in an amount not to exceed [\$1,764,619.70], to be funded through the Capital Improvement Fund (CIP), project PW920234 and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to make the necessary purchases.

If the BMD purchase is approved, approve the extension of the Liberty Vote annual software license and support contract agreement for hardware and software used by the Registrar of Voters Office in connection with the BMDs, in the amount of [\$357,821.36], with an approximate 3% annual escalator, extending the contract through December 31, 2030, with two optional one-year extensions, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the extension on behalf of Washoe County.

If the BMD purchase is not approved, approve the fifth amendment, which includes license and warranty extension only, with Liberty Vote for hardware and software used by the Registrar of Voters Office for the continued use of the VVPAT equipped voting machines, in the amount of [\$411,797.86], for the first year, with an approximate 3% annual escalator extending the contract through December 31, 2030, with two optional one-year extensions, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the fifth amendment on behalf of Washoe County."