



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *October 8, 2024*

DATE: Tuesday, October 8, 2024
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Cari Ann Burgess, Interim Registrar of Voters
(775) 328-3238, cburgess@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation that the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners approve the renewal of the annual software license fee for Dominion Voting Systems' hardware and software used by the Registrar of Voters Office, under the ongoing contract signed on June 29, 2017, in the amount of [\$389,785.25]. (All Commission Districts).

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve the renewal of the annual software license fee contract with Dominion Voting Systems for the Registrar of Voters Office, in the amount of [\$389,785.25]. This renewal continues the support of our hardware and software voting systems under the ongoing contract signed on June 29, 2017, which extends through December 31, 2025. The renewal will ensure continued operational support for elections, including both universal mail-in ballots and in-person voting. Staff also recommends authorizing the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Sustainability of our financial, social and natural resources

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 8, 2017 (PW920596), the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

Washoe County and Dominion Voting Systems Inc. signed the first and second amendments to the Agreement for continued services on December 1, 2019, and June 1, 2020, respectively.

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

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

There has been significant discourse at local, state, and national levels regarding the aging voting equipment used across the United States. Washoe County's voting infrastructure was last updated in 2017 with the adoption of the Dominion System, replacing equipment that had been in use since 2004, funded by the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

During the 2016 election cycle, challenges with existing equipment necessitated the use of paper backups to tally votes from three machines during the November General Election. This highlighted the obsolescence of the equipment and reinforced the need for modernization. In response, the Nevada State Legislature passed AB 519 during the 2017 legislative session, allocating \$1,700,000 from the State General Fund to Washoe County for new voting machines.

Dominion Voting Systems was one of only two vendors certified for use in Nevada. Their system offers touchscreen voting and direct record entry capabilities, which align closely with Washoe County's needs. The County has had a productive partnership with Dominion since 2004, benefiting from their consistent support and commitment to excellence. This long-standing relationship and the need for operational continuity led to the decision to exempt the purchase from competitive bidding requirements as permitted under NRS 332.115.

The decision to upgrade to the Dominion System in 2017 aimed to address outdated equipment issues, comply with legislative mandates, and uphold the integrity of Washoe County's electoral process.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Washoe County Registrar of Voters will be invoiced an Annual software License fee in the amount of [\$389,785.25]. The funds for renewal are available in the FY25 budget under 112210.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend approval of the renewal of the annual software license fee contract for hardware and software services for the Registrar of Voters Office from Dominion Voting Systems for Fiscal Year 2025. This renewal, amounting to [\$389,785.25], continues the ongoing support of our voting systems, including both hardware and software. Additionally, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Recommendation to approve the renewal of the annual software license fee agreement for the Registrar of Voters Office with Dominion Voting Systems in the amount of [\$389,785.25] for Fiscal Year 2025. Authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.”