



Santa Cruz County CA

Approved
Mar 9, 2021 9:00 AM

Agenda Item DOC-2021-175

Ratify amendment to contract with Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$11,681.01 yearly, raising annual payments to the amount of \$217,857 through Fiscal Year 2026-27 for additional equipment, and take related actions, as recommended by the County Clerk

Information

Department:	County Clerk / Elections	Sponsors:	Tricia Webber
Category:	CLK/ELECT - Board Letter	Functions:	General Government

Attachments

[Board Memo](#)
[Dominion Voting Equipment Lease Amendment 21C4393 \(signed\)](#)
[ADM-29 Amendment 21C4393 Dominion Voting Systems](#)

Financial Impact

The costs for additional voting equipment is covered by the State of California matching funds.

Board Letter

Recommended Action(s):

Ratify an amendment to the contract with Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. for the voting equipment lease agreement in the amount of \$11,681.01 yearly raising annual payments to the amount of \$217,857 through Fiscal Year 2026-27; and allow County Council and Risk Management to sign the agreement.

Executive Summary

The County Clerk/Elections Department requests the Board ratify an amendment to the lease for the County's voting system, in the amount of \$81,767.07 (over the length of the lease, \$11,681.01 yearly), which enabled the department to lease more mobile ballot printers in order to conduct the November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election under the urgency legislation (AB 860 and SB 423) put into place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board approved the original lease at the June 25, 2019 meeting. The Board also approved the County's participation in the Voting System Replacement program on May 14, 2019 where the County will receive a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$1,009,500 of State allocated funds to assist in replacing the voting system and other voting related equipment starting with the 2020 election cycle.

Background

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Orders N-64-20

(May 8, 2020) and N-67-20 (June 3, 2020) to outline the voting method for the November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election. Two bills were amended to enact changes to the Elections Code to codify the Executive Orders. Both bills had urgency clauses and the last of the two bills was signed by the Governor on August 6.

Assembly Bill 860 (Chapter 4, June 18, 2020) required all counties to mail a ballot to all active registered voters; expand the remote accessible vote by mail system (RAVBM) program; institute a tracking system for all voters to track where their ballot is in the system (in the mail, received by the elections office, status of signature, etc.); expand the postmark deadline; and allow the counties to process ballots as soon as received.

Senate Bill 423 (Chapter 31, August 6, 2020) detailed in-person voting, requiring counties to have one voting location per 10,000 voters; at each voting location a voter can receive a ballot, replacement ballot, vote provisionally, and register to vote; create and conduct a voter outreach campaign; have drop boxes; and to provide alternative methods for voters to return their ballots safely (such as mobile voting or drive through ballot drop-off locations).

Santa Cruz County needed 17 in-person voting locations open for four days (October 31 through November 3) in order to comply with Senate Bill 423. Each of the locations needed a ballot printing unit so ballots could be printed on demand.

On June 25, 2019 the Board approved our current voting system lease which allowed the County Clerk/Elections Department to lease 10 mobile ballot printing units which were utilized during the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election at 10 service centers. This amendment is to lease eight more units, seven to be used at service centers and the eighth to be placed in our mobile voting unit - the VoteMobile trailer.

On May 14, 2019, the Board approved Santa Cruz County's participation in the Voting Systems Replacement Contract to receive matching funds allocated by the State for replacement of the County's current voting system. Funds from this allocation will be used to offset the increase in the lease payment.

Analysis

This amendment to the contract allowed the County to be compliant with the changes in statute based on Senate Bill 423.

Leasing the equipment allows for changes in the voting environment of upgrading more easily, adding equipment if needed, or eliminating equipment if the County chooses to change to the vote center model in the future.

Body

Strategic Plan Element(s)

6.A (County Operational Excellence: Customer Experience) - In addition to conforming with Federal and State law, a new voting system will improve the voter experience and provide a more secure and auditable voting system that is in line with the County Strategic Plan.

Meeting History

Mar 9, 2021 9:00 AM Video **Board of Supervisors** **Regular Meeting**

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Zach Friend, Second District Supervisor
SECONDER: Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor
AYES: Manu Koenig, Zach Friend, Ryan Coonerty, Greg Caput, Bruce McPherson

Discussion

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