

MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT INTENT TO NEGOTIATE

SUBJECT	Voting Tabulation System Hardware, Software, Installation and Training	DATE POSTED	MC ✓ SE 2/21/14 DS ✓ SE 2/21/14 CC ✓ SE 2/21/14
PURCHASING REPRESENTATIVE	Dennis W. Wallace 941-749-3034	DATE CONTRACT SHALL BE AWARDED	Upon successful negotiations
DEPARTMENT	Supervisor of Elections	CONSEQUENCES IF DEFERRED	
SOLICITATION	RFP # 14-0272JL	AUTHORIZED BY DATE	<i>M. Wendel 2/21/14</i>

NOTICE OF INTENT TO NEGOTIATE

Notice of Intent to Negotiate with **Election Systems & Software, LLC** of Omaha, Nebraska to furnish and install Voting Tabulation System Hardware, Software, Installation and Training.

ENABLING/REGULATING AUTHORITY

Federal/State law(s), administrative ruling(s), Manatee County Comp Plan/Land Development Code, ordinances, resolutions, policy.

Manatee County Code of Laws

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The County, acting on behalf of the Supervisor of Elections, solicited proposals to furnish and install a voting tabulation system complete with all hardware, software, training and support services as certified by the State of Florida Division of Elections in accordance with Florida State Statute 101.015.

SOLICITATIONS:

The RFP was advertised on the Manatee County website, and DemandStar, it was also provided to the Manatee County Chamber of Commerce for release to its members. The following two (2) proposals were received:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1) Dominion Voting Systems | Denver, CO |
| 2) Election Systems & Software, LLC. | Omaha, NE |

EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Scott Farrington Assistant Supervisor, Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office
 Carlos Gomez Senior Systems Administrator, Information Technology Department
 Dennis W. Wallace Contracts and Buyer Manager, Financial Management Department / Purchasing Division

EVALUATION RESULTS SUMMARY:

The Evaluation Committee convened on January 9, 2014 to review evaluation committee responsibilities, discuss member's availability for future meetings, and the Florida Sunshine Laws as applicable to public meetings. It was determined during this meeting that both Proposers should provide an oral interview.

The Evaluation Committee convened on January 27, 2014 and January 31, 2014 to provide for the Oral Interview from each firm. Each firm was asked to present the following agenda items, specifically:

- a) Demonstrate the firm's elements providing the specific requirements of the Scope of Services as outlined in the RFP; and,
- b) Identify the firm's implementation plan where it has been used in other similar installations and explain why they were successful; and,
- c) Provide a hands-on demonstration of your proposed hardware and software to include the Precinct scanner, ADA solution, Central Count Scanner and Election Management System. In addition, emphasis was to be on the transmission, encryption, and integrity of data.

The Evaluation Committee convened on February 19, 2014 to discuss the offers based on the stated requirements in the RFP, continuing the acquisition process and determining a recommendation to the County Administrator.

Election Systems & Software, LLC:

Election Systems & Software, LLC (“ES&S”) demonstrated exceptional qualifications via their proposal and subsequent oral presentation. ES&S has 40 years of experience with 30 years in Florida providing optical scanning equipment. Their proposed equipment, the DS200® Precinct-based Digital Scanner, demonstrated ease of use with a scanner that combines a paper-based system with the flexibility of a digital environment. The DS200® uses high resolution imaging digital scanning technology which enables both sides of the ballot to be scanned simultaneously. The equipment includes a redundant use of seals and locks for security and a steel bottom base which can be easily maneuvered using a commercial grade wheels.

To accommodate absentee and mail ballots ES&S demonstrated their DS850® Central Scanner which features high speed sorting, folded ballot processing, and user-friendly design and operation. Using the DS850® absentee ballot counting can be completed at over 300 ballots per minute without stopping for over-vote, under vote, or write-in sorting.

The ES&S AutoMark® Visual Assistance Terminal was also demonstrated which allows for voters with vision and mobility impairments to mark standard paper ballots without poll worker intervention. This product is menu driven with a paper trail and is not intimidating to use. All the equipment is powered by the ES&S ElectionWare® Election Management Software which provides a total solution based on a flexible design which can enable the County to effectively manage its elections including early voting and electronic ballot handling and adjudication.

Election Systems & Software, LLC., was ranked first by the Evaluation Committee in all around capabilities and resources that can accommodate the essential requirements of Manatee County for an efficient voting tabulation system to include the accumulation and transmission of votes, training and technical support, and storage and maintenance of equipment, which will enhance the voting process for voters and election staff alike.

Dominion Voting:

Dominion Voting also demonstrated noteworthy qualifications in their proposal and subsequent oral presentation. Dominion was founded in 2003 and now has over 1,200 worldwide clients. Dominion’s products combine a hardware and software system into a fully integrated solution which has been designed for voting, counting, consolidating, canvassing, and transmitting election results.

Dominion’s products include the ImageCast® Evolution (“ICE”) which is bulkier than other systems and uses their Election Management System software. Dominion’s equipment includes the AuditMark® technology that prints out the voters results with the ballot image which, while impressive, would not eliminate the need for a manual recount by the Supervisor of Elections. Dominion’s central count scanner, the ImageCast®, which can be used for absentee and mail-in ballots, also features the AuditMark® technology.

It was the Evaluation Committee’s opinion that while Dominion Voting presented a notable display of technology and equipment it was not appraised as encompassing or as user-friendly as the system proposed by the first ranked firm and, as a result, did not appear to be the best fit solution for the County, and consequently, the Evaluation Committee ranked Dominion Voting second.

The above justifications are a generalized summary of major observations intended only to provide the County Administrator a sufficiently detailed overview of the main observations of a majority of Committee Members. Each Committee Member may have considered one or more facts or factors more or less important than the other Committee Members when voting, and this summary of the Evaluation Committee’s decision is not an attempt to exhaustively describe each of the relevant factors which motivated each of the Committee Members to select the rankings described.

The Evaluation Committee voted unanimously 3 to 0 to proceed with **Election Systems & Software, LLC.**

The resulting agreement will be managed by the Supervisor of Elections.

<p align="center">ATTACHMENTS (List in order of attached)</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>	<p align="center">FUNDING SOURCE (Acct Number & Name)</p>	<p>Supervisor of Elections 001 0000801 56400 Machinery & Equipment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Funds Verified <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Funds</p>
<p align="center">COST</p>	<p>To Be Determined by Negotiations</p>	<p align="center">AMT/FREQ OF RECURRING COSTS (Attach Fiscal Impact Statement)</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>