



CITY OF WEST ALLIS

WISCONSIN



Memo

Date: March 2, 2006
 To: Gene Baietto, Purchasing Manager
 Cc: Paul Ziehler, City Administrative Officer, Clerk/Treasurer
 From: Monica Schultz, Deputy City Clerk
 RE: Sole Source Communication Regarding Accessible Voting Equipment

The federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 requires every voting system used in a federal election to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. While the polling places of West Allis are accessible and offer a number of accommodations, each polling place must now also have voting equipment for individuals that provides the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as for other voters. Each voting system must be approved by the State of Wisconsin Elections Board (SEB), and Wisconsin law requires that a paper record is generated at the time of voting. Federal funding is allotted in the amount of \$6,000 per polling place to meet the HAVA requirement for the September 2006 Primary.

Accessible voting equipment must provide features to accommodate persons with visual, hearing, mobility or dexterity disabilities. The equipment must also be compatible with existing voting systems (Optech III-P Eagle scanners used in the City of West Allis).

In cooperation with the Milwaukee County Election Commission and SEB, four systems were reviewed at recent vendor demonstrations:

Voting System	Type	Cost	SEB Approved	Compatible with Existing System
ES&S AutoMARK	Electronic Ballot Marking Device	\$4950	Yes	High
Sequoia Edge	Electronic voting system	Approx. \$4100 to \$5000+	Pending	Medium
Populex	Electronic voting system	\$3600+	Pending	Low
Vote Pad	Voting-on-Paper Assistive Device (non-electronic)	\$2200	Tentatively approved	N/A

The Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK best meets the needs of the City of West Allis. The AutoMARK is state certified, user-friendly for both the voters and election inspectors, preferred by disability advocacy groups such as SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered), and most compatible with West Allis' existing voting system since it allows for the marking of a ballot to then be counted like all other ballots. The system is flexible enough to offer multiple language capability as well as other peripherals such as a sip/puff tube. Annual operating expenses are estimated at approximately \$7,300 per year. Manufacturing and delivery time is approximately four months.

It is hereby recommended to authorize the purchase of the ES&S AutoMARK system, including peripherals, training, maintenance and licensing, in the amount up to \$6000 per polling place for a total of \$132,000, to be reimbursed by the State of Wisconsin Elections Board.



Monica Schultz, Deputy City Clerk