



Lake County Board of Commissioners

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County Leaders Attend Voting Equipment Demonstration

The Lake County Board of Elections demonstrated a proposed voting system offered by Election Systems and Software (ES&S) to the Board of County Commissioners at the April 29th meeting. The Board of Elections have been researching and evaluating options for three years. Most recently they have conducted a week-long mock election, attended public demonstrations, solicited input from local stakeholders, and received suggestions from precinct election officials to ensure all concerns and input is considered.

"Safe, reliable and trustworthy elections are at the heart of our nation. I appreciate the dedicated effort by our Board of Elections to ensure that the voting equipment that will be used by our residents will meet expectations for years to come," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

"Elections' integrity has always been our #1 priority and this ballot marking device that produces a paper ballot for each voter will, without a doubt, guarantee that priority," said Board of Elections Chairman, Dale H. Fellows.

The proposed ES&S maintains a touchscreen interface Lake County voters are familiar with while offering the benefits of a paper-based ballot. "Maintaining strong voter confidence in our processes and results is the highest priority for us at the Board of Elections. As Director, I believe this system offers a lot to like: we've maintained a touchscreen voting experience while providing a tangible ballot for the voter to review and confirm.



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This hybrid voting system, we feel, is the wave of future. This system is secure, reliable, ADA compliant, and never connected to the Internet," said Director Ross McDonald.

Similar to the past, this new voting machine – The ExpressVote – will allow voters to mark their ballot on a touchscreen, but has the added benefit of printing the voter's ballot for them to hold and review. Once satisfied, the voter will deposit their ballot into the DS200 precinct scanner. "We know the voters will immediately adapt to this new voting machine because it's a continuation of the equipment they've been comfortable using for the last 15 years," said Deputy Director Jan Clair.

ES&S has been Lake County's chosen elections vendor since 2005. The Omaha, Nebraska based company has been a national leader in elections hardware and software with all of their equipment being built in the United States.

"The three mission critical items for me as it relates to new voting equipment is having a paper ballot, the product is made in America and does not connect to the internet. The ES&S product meets all three objectives and I thank the Board of Elections for their due diligence to provide safe and transparent elections," said Commissioner John Plecnik.

The total purchase price for the proposed vendor is \$2,805,847.00 with \$2,224,664.63 provided by the Ohio Secretary of State and \$581,182.37 from the County General Fund. If approved, voters' first use would occur at the November 2, 2021 General Election. This equipment is projected to be used for the next 10-15 years.

"Lake County voters should rest assured that our Board of Elections, their staff and countless Election Day workers will continue to conduct elections that are second to none in the State of Ohio," added Commissioner Ron Young.

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