



Leslie R. Swan
Supervisor of Elections
Indian River County

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Joseph Flescher, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Indian River County
1800 27th Street, Building A
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Chairman Flescher:

On January 30, 2017, RFP #2017039 was issued for the purchase of a new voting system for Indian River County. Two state certified vendors, Dominion Voting Systems (Dominion) and Elections Systems & Software (ES&S), submitted proposals for the new voting system.

Indian River County's current voting system has reached its end of life. The County's tabulation system is over 15 years old. In addition to the age of the equipment, the equipment vendor, Sequoia Voting Systems, is no longer in business. Indian River County is one of only two counties in Florida who utilize Sequoia Voting Equipment. Purchase of a new voting system is also necessitated by Florida Statute 101.56075, which requires that voting, including for persons with disabilities shall be via marksense ballot by 2020. Indian River County's current touch screen voting machines, which are designated for voters with disabilities, do not allow for voting using a marksense paper ballot.

Fifteen years ago, ease of use was the deciding factor in purchasing a voting system; today security is the overriding factor when acquiring a voting system. Voting equipment released after 2008 is manufactured with advanced encryption software, significantly reducing the chance of hacking.



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The RFP review committee met on March 1, 2017 to evaluate the proposals submitted by Dominion and ES&S. The evaluation criteria were as follows:

<u>EVALUATION CRITERIA</u>	<u>EVALUATION POINTS</u>
	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
1. Firm Qualifications/Capabilities/Team Members	10
2. Statement of Work Matrix	15
3. Equipment Specifications Matrix	30
4. Election Management Systems Service/Client Components	10
5. Warranty/Support/References	10
6. Voting System Cost Proposal	25
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Total	100

Each committee member completed a separate evaluation form for each of the evaluation criteria categories. The scores from the evaluation forms were tallied. After careful review of both vendors' proposals, the RFP review committee unanimously recommends ES&S's proposed voting system. ES&S provided a turnkey solution that included all necessary components of a voting tabulation system: hardware, software, and associated equipment, provisions for ongoing warranty, repair and maintenance, and technical support that met the specifications stipulated in the RFP.

Currently, 42 of Florida's 67 counties utilize ES&S as their voting system vendor. The review committee noted several other key factors that led to the selection of ES&S as the preferred vendor (see attachment).

I will be appearing before the Board of County Commissioners on March 21, 2017 to recommend the Board enter into a formal contract with ES&S for the purchase of a new voting system for Indian River County. Three years ago, when I came before the Board of County Commissioners to begin the process of acquiring a new voting system, the initial estimate for the proposed voting system was \$1.4 million. I am pleased to inform the Board that the proposed cost for the system is \$944,567.92.

The ES&S voting system is \$455,432.08 less than the original estimated cost (-32.5%). I do want to inform the Board that the annual software licenses and hardware maintenance costs for the new voting system will be approximately 32% higher (\$29,417 annually) than our existing annual licensing and maintenance costs. Our existing maintenance costs are lower, because we are currently not paying maintenance fees for our 75 AVC Edge touchscreen voting machines. In 2008, legislation was passed requiring voters to cast their vote using a paper ballot. At that time, Indian River County was using touchscreen voting machines. The County purchased optical scan units for paper ballot voting and used the AVC Edge for voters with disabilities, creating a surplus of touchscreen machines. Therefore a

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fiscally conservative decision was made to suspend payment for annual maintenance costs on the touchscreen units. In addition, the Elections Office is only being charged annual maintenance costs for one Optech 400C mail ballot tabulator, the second Optech 400C mail ballot tabulator has been on loan, without charge, from Sequoia Voting Systems , which is no longer in business.

I would be remised if I did not acknowledge Jennifer Hyde and the entire Purchasing Department for their professionalism and diligence throughout the entire RFP process. They guided me through every step of the process. We at the Supervisor of Elections office sincerely appreciate all of the support of the Board of County Commissioners and look forward to formalizing a contract with ES&S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie R. Swan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Leslie R. Swan
Supervisor of Elections

Enclosures