

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.
CHAIR

J. Eric Elliott
SECRETARY

John A. Redding
MEMBER



Kathie Chastain Cooper
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- DECEMBER 14, 2005

Present: Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair
Mr. J. Eric Elliott, Secretary
Mr. John A. Redding, Member

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections
Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections
Mrs. Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes- December 8, 2005

Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes for December 8, 2005. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Voting Equipment Discussion

a) Staff Recommendation:

Mrs. Cooper presented the Board with a statement of the staff recommendations signed by herself, Director of Elections; Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections; Terry J. Cox, Computer Elections Technician and Betty James, Voting Equipment Technician (see attached). The signed document was a listing of the issues with the 2 vendors and their equipment approved by the State Board of Elections for purchase. Mrs. Cooper stated that the staff is recommending DRE (Direct Record Electronic) voting equipment. The staff's first choice is the Diebold Accuvote TSX DRE Voting System with Optical Scan for mail absentees. The second choice is the ES&S (Election Systems and Software) iVotronic DRE with Optical Scan for mail absentees. Mrs. Cooper further discussed the staff's concerns regarding Optical Scan systems, such as the size of the equipment and the large paper ballots that would have to be stored for up to 22 months. She stated that one benefit to the Diebold Accuvote TSX DRE is the paper trail that is contained in a canister that is sealed. She stated she is concerned about the Board of Elections history with ES&S. Mrs. Cooper stated she is still has been waiting for a week for the pricing of ES&S's equipment.

b) Board Discussion and Decision

Mr. Elliott stated that one of the problems in making a decision is that the state standards are still evolving.

Mr. Elliott presented a prepared statement (see attached) stating that the Board is recommending the ES&S Optical Scan Voting System with enough DRE equipment for One-Stop voting and handicapped voting in the precincts. He further explained their decision was based in part on concerns expressed by the public regarding voting systems and manufacturers.

Mr. Elliott made a motion for the Board Members to adopt the recommendation for ES&S Optical Scan voting equipment. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Each Board Member signed the statement of recommendation.

Mrs. Cooper stated she objects to the Board's decision about ES&S.

Mr. Redding stated that since they do not have the official cost of the ES&S equipment from the State Board of Elections, he is uncertain if the vote should be taken at this time. Mr. Elliott stated that no vendor is binding in the Board's recommendation to the County Commissioners.

Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Redding seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 4:14 PM.

s:/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s:/ Mr. J. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member