



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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CONNY B. McCORMACK
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

MAY 9, 2003

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: CONNY B. McCORMACK
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

**INSTALLATION OF INTERIM VOTING SYSTEM (“INKA VOTE”)
& DEMONSTRATION ELECTION**

As you are aware from previous reports, Los Angeles County is one of nine California counties whose pre-scored punch card ballot system was banned from further use (de-certified) by Federal Court action in 2002. The deadline for retirement of these systems is January 2004.

We reported to your Board on October 1, 2001:

If the de-certification deadline is accelerated to November 2004, or even if a compromise is forged for a date in late 2005 but sufficient funding has not been identified to acquire and operate touch screen voting technology countywide, the RR/CC will prepare a contingency plan for use of an alternative paper based voting system until such time as a new electronic voting system can be implemented.

When the deadline was accelerated even further than anticipated – to January 2004 – the RR/CC developed and received approval for an interim voting system. InkaVote, a paper-based optical scan system, has been thoroughly tested and will be inaugurated during a demonstration election on June 3, 2003 at our Headquarters building in Norwalk.

We have designed a vote recorder device that has the “look and feel” of the Votomatic (punch card) vote recorder in order to minimize the impact of this change on voters and pollworkers. The similarity to the punch card system that has become familiar to voters during its 35 years of service should help ease the transition from “punch” to “pen” as a method of marking the ballot.

Attached are a demonstration InkaVote ballot and a photo reproduction of the voting device that voters will use for the first time in a live election in November 2003 for the UDEL election. We will use InkaVote for absentee (mail) voting and polling place voting throughout 2004, in both the Primary and General elections.

Also attached is a timeline that describes the broad overview of the challenges involved in implementing two new voting systems over the next two years.

Next Steps in Voting System Implementation

Your Board unanimously voted in August 2002 to apply to the State of California Voting Modernization Board for funds from voter-approved Proposition 41. Proposition 41 funds allocated to Los Angeles County cover only about 49% of the projected total cost of purchasing Touchscreen voting devices Countywide. Therefore, Federal funding from the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) will be required to bridge the gap. The HAVA State Plan Committee is in the process of developing its recommendations for distribution of these funds, which will not flow directly to counties, but will be allocated through the State. We anticipate issuing an RFP in early 2004 for Countywide polling place electronic voting equipment based on these two funding sources.

Attachments

c: David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer





Myriad Steps to Replace Punch Card Voting System

"2 in 2" Challenge: Implement Two New Voting Systems in Two Years

