



COLLIN COUNTY

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
2010 Redbud Blvd. #102
McKinney, Texas 75069
972-547-1990

DATE: July 24, 2017

TO: Commissioner's Court

FROM: Bruce Sherbet

RE: Election Department Enhancements (Phase 4)

Absentee ballot by mail (ABBM) procedures were amended in the 83th Legislature (2013) to permit voters to make a single application for ballot by mail for a calendar year. Previously, voters were required to submit a new mail ballot application for every election. Subsequent to implementing annual ABBM procedures, the quantity of mail ballot voters in elections has increased significantly. The new law has also created administrative challenges in filing and transferring the annual ABBM applications from election to election each year. Challenges in this area carry over to the Ballot Board because each ABBM application signature must be compared with the returned envelope containing the voted ballot. Reduction in the repeated handling of ABBM applications and improving the method used to performing signature verification of the mail balloting documents will provide enhanced security and streamline the mandated processes.

The VEMACS voter registration/mail balloting software used by Collin County can be enhanced to reduce the challenges of processing ABBM applications and signature verification of the mail balloting documents. Votec, the VEMACS software vendor, offers a software product that interfaces with the voter registration/mail balloting software and addresses the challenges of processing the ABBM documents. The BallotBoard Signature Verification software provides the following:

- Batch imaging of ABBM documents which will reduce repeated handling of hard copies and enhance the safekeeping of the annual ABBM documents.
- Seamless integration with VEMACS (voter registration/mail ballot balloting software).
- ABBM applications and ballot envelope signatures can be displayed side-by-side for on screen comparison reducing processing time by the Ballot Board.
- Generates detailed reports regarding status of ABBM documents and automates the preparation of required notices to voters for rejected ballots.

It is recommended that the county purchase BallotBoard Verification software and equipment for processing ABBM documents. Following are the recommended items:

BallotBoard Signature Verification Software - \$24,758.28
(Recurring license fee is \$24,758.28 starting October 2018)

Kodak i4250 scanner with image guides - \$8,898.81

Batch Scanning Workstation and peripherals - \$2,050.00
(Includes desktop PC, label printer, bar code scanner)

Funding source for the requested enhancements is available in carryover funds in FY17 Elections Department budget.