



# Albany County Board of Elections

COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTION  
**Rachel L. Bledi (R)**  
**Kathleen Donovan (D)**

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260 S. PEARL ST.  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12202  
OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.  
TELEPHONE: (518) 487-5060  
FAX: (518) 487-5077  
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM /VOTE/

## MEMO

TO: Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman of the Legislature  
Dennis Feeney, Majority Leader  
Frank Mauriello, Minority Leader  
Dave Reilly, Commissioner of Management & Budget

FROM: Rachel Bledi, Board of Elections Republican Commissioner  
Kathleen Donovan, Board of Elections Democratic Commissioner

RE: Acquisition of Voting Machines

DATE: 01/09/2024

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Please be advised that the Albany County Board of Elections is seeking approval for the acquisition of two-hundred DS300 voting machines from Elections Systems & Software, along with related software and peripherals for use in connection with the creation and scanning of ballots along with the tabulation of election results. The estimated cost of the total purchase is \$1,655,279.57, including the annual license, maintenance and support fees.

The scanners would replace the existing inventory of equipment originally purchased in 2008. It is an upgraded version of the existing system. The machines have far exceeded their expected lifespan of 10 years; however, excessive wear and tear has taken its toll in the form of ballot jams, overheated equipment and software that freezes. The constant disruption at poll sites and deployment of machine custodians to address the technical deficiencies requires a more substantive and long-term resolution of the problem.

The machines, software, license and peripheral equipment are listed on NYS OGS contract No. PC69386.

## REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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### Purchase Acquisition and Contract Authorization for machines for Board of Elections

..title  
..body

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Date: 01/09/2024  
Submitted By: Rachel Bledi and Kathleen Donovan  
Department: Board of Elections  
Title: Commissioners of Election  
Phone: 518-487-5070 (Rachel Bledi)  
Department Rep.  
Attending Meeting: Rachel Bledi and Kathleen Donovan

#### Purpose of Request:

- Adopting of Local Law
  - Amendment of Prior Legislation
  - Approval/Adoption of Plan/Procedure
  - Bond Approval
  - Budget Amendment
  - Contract Authorization
  - Countywide Services
  - Environmental Impact/SEQR
  - Home Rule Request
  - Property Conveyance
  - Other: (state if not listed) Purchase of Voting Equipment
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### CONCERNING BUDGET AMENDMENTS

#### Increase/decrease category (choose all that apply):

- Contractual
- Equipment
- Fringe
- Personnel
- Personnel Non-Individual
- Revenue

Increase Account/Line No.:  
Source of Funds:  
Title Change:

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**CONCERNING CONTRACT AUTHORIZATIONS**

**Type of Contract:**

- Change Order/Contract Amendment
- Purchase (Equipment/Supplies)
- Lease (Equipment/Supplies)
- Requirements
- Professional Services
- Education/Training
- Grant
- Submission Date Deadline
- Settlement of a Claim
- Release of Liability
- Other: (state if not listed) \_\_\_\_\_

**Contract Terms/Conditions:**

Party Election Systems & Software  
**11208 John Galt Blvd**  
**Omaha, NE 6813**

Additional Parties (Names/addresses):

Amount/Raise Schedule/Fee:                                 \$1,655,279.57  
Scope of Services:   Please be advised that the Albany County Board of Elections is seeking approval for the acquisition of two-hundred DS300 voting machines and related software and peripherals for use in connection with the creation and scanning of ballots along with the tabulation of election results. The estimated cost of the total purchase is \$1,655,279.57, including the annual license, maintenance and support fees.

Bond Res. No.:  
Date of Adoption:

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**CONCERNING ALL REQUESTS**

Mandated Program/Service:                                 Yes  No   
If Mandated Cite Authority:                                 NYS Election Law 7-200

Is there a Fiscal Impact:                                     Yes  No   
Anticipated in Current Budget:                             Yes  No

County Budget Accounts:

Revenue Account and Line:  
Revenue Amount:

Appropriation Account and Line: A1450 22900  
Appropriation Amount: \$1,655,279.57

Source of Funding – (Percentages)

Federal:	0
State:	0
County:	100
Local:	0

Term

Term: (Start and end date) 01/01/2024  
Length of Contract: 12/31/2024

Impact on Pending Litigation Yes  No

If yes, explain:

Previous requests for Identical or Similar Action:

Resolution/Law Number:  
Date of Adoption:

**Justification:** (state briefly why legislative action is requested)

Purchase total amount exceeds \$100,000, totaling \$1,655,279.57. The machines, software, license and peripheral equipment are listed on NYS OGS contract No. PC69386.



**Albany County NY Board of Elections**  
**Purchase Proposal Quote - NY OGS Contract No. PC69386**  
**Submitted by Election Systems & Software**

**Purchase Solution Includes:**

Quantity	Item Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
<b>Voting System</b>			
<b>DS300 Poll Place Scanner and Tabulator:</b>			
200	DS300 (Includes Internal Backup Battery, Paper Roll, Two (2) Standard 4GB Memory Devices, Installation, Shipping and Five (5) Year Hardware Warranty)	\$6,798.41	\$1,359,682.00
200	DS300 Ballot Box with Power Supply and AC Cord	\$940.59	\$188,118.00
<b>DS950 High-Speed Scanner and Tabulator:</b>			
1	DS950 (Includes Steel Table/Cart, Start-Up Kit, Dust Cover, Reports Printer, Battery Backup, USB Cable, Two (2) Standard 8GB Memory Devices, Installation, Shipping and Five (5) Year Hardware Warranty with Biennial Maintenance)	\$145,366.57	\$145,366.57
<b>Third Party Items</b>			
1	Third Party Hardware		\$26,498.00
<b>Services</b>			
10	Project Management Day	\$2,385.00	\$23,850.00
10	Voting System Hardware and Software Training Day	\$2,385.00	\$23,850.00
X	Trade-In Allowance. Equipment Being Traded-In by Customer Includes: 200-DS200 1-DS850		(\$112,085.00)
<b>Total Purchase Solution</b>			<b>\$1,655,279.57</b>
<b>Payment Terms</b>			
Amount due within thirty (30) calendar days of contract execution:			\$827,639.79
Amount due within thirty (30) calendar days of delivery of Hardware and/or Software:			\$827,639.79
<b>Annual License and Maintenance and Support Fees After Year 1</b>			
<b>Annual Post-Warranty Firmware License and Maintenance and Support Fees:</b>			
200	Firmware License - DS300	\$104.26	\$20,852.00
1	Firmware License - DS950	\$2,154.00	\$2,154.00
<b>Total Annual Post-Warranty License and Maintenance and Support Fees After Year 1</b>			<b>\$23,006.00</b>

**Footnotes:**

1. This quote is an estimate and is subject to final review and approval by both ES&S and the Customer.
2. Rates valid for 30 days and thereafter may change.
3. Any applicable (City & State) sales taxes have not been included in pricing and are the responsibility of the customer.
4. Subject to state, municipal, jurisdictional, provincial or territory laws to the contrary, the above pricing information is confidential, proprietary and trade secret information of ES&S and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which the document is directed to. This information may not be disclosed or reproduced either publicly or to any other individual or entity without the prior written authorization of ES&S.
5. The quantity of service days reflects a reasonable estimate for implementation and selected ongoing election services. Quantities may change depending on specific Customer needs.



## ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE

# DS300

Make / Model: ES&S DS300

Equipment Type: Hand-Fed Optical Scan Tabulator

[Back to Voting Equipment Database](#)

## Overview

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The **ES&S DS300** is a ballot scanning device. It is used in jurisdictions in which voters hand mark paper ballots and/or use ballot marking devices then hand-feed their paper ballots into a scanner. Ballots can be inserted into the DS300 in multiple orientations: face up, face down, header first, or footer first. The device simultaneously scans the front and back of a paper ballot, interprets voter marks, and communicates any issues that require the voter's attention back to the voter through an LCD display. If the voter has marked too many choices in a race, the display alerts the voter and offers the option to return the ballot for correction.

The DS300 scanner can also scan and tabulate the summary cards (or "ballot cards") printed by



ES&S ExpressVote ballot marking devices (BMDs). ExpressVote-produced ballots print a paper “summary card” of the voter’s choices with a barcode that encodes the voter choices. When the paper record is hand-fed into the DS300 scanner, it scans the barcode to interpret voter choices and record votes.

Because the DS300 device is a scanning device only, and does not have features that support marking choices on ballots, features that may be helpful to voters with disabilities are limited; the DS300 is not marketed as an “accessible voting device.” It does not have an audio-tactile controller and its audio features are limited to only making different sounds as ballots are scanned or returned to the voter when marks require additional attention.

After the voter inserts their paper ballot (or summary card) into the DS300 scanner, they have a chance to review any potential mismarks that require attention. After the voter cast their ballot, the DS300 scanner pulls the ballot through a motorized feed and deposits the ballot into an integrated ballot box. The DS300 device has tabulating capabilities, and when the polls close, the DS300 can print out the race results and other information on a paper tape (if configured to do so). A DS300 configured for an early voting location does not support precinct level results reporting; however, an election summary report of tabulated vote totals is supported.

The DS300 storage limitation for write-in ballot images is 3,600 images. To successfully use the write-in report, ballots must span three or more vertical columns. If the column is greater than 1/3 of the ballot width, the write-in image will be too wide to print on the report tape. The

DS300 uses a TDS ink cartridge for ballot stamping.

## Voting Process

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When the voter has finished filling out their ballot, they should check it to ensure their selections match their intentions. Next, the voter feeds their ballot into the DS300 machine. After the ballot is scanned and accepted, the voter's ballot cannot be redone. If the scanner is malfunctioning, voters should follow poll worker instructions, which may include inserting the ballots directly into the ballot box underneath the DS300 scanner.

As votes are entered, the DS300 stores the vote tallies on its internal memory card. Optional land line and wireless modems are available. When the polls close, the DS300's internal printer prints out the precinct's vote report on paper.

The DS300 is coded to detect and notify the voter when it encounters an overvoted race or issue on the ballot. An overvote is when more than the allowed number of selections in a race or issue has been marked. An audio alert will sound and the display will indicate that an over-voted race or issue was detected and offer the voter two choices: "Accept" or "Return."

If the voter selects Accept, the ballot will be counted, all properly marked races and issues will receive the appropriate votes, and the over-voted races and issues will receive an over-vote. The individual candidates or issue choices in an over-voted race will not receive any votes.



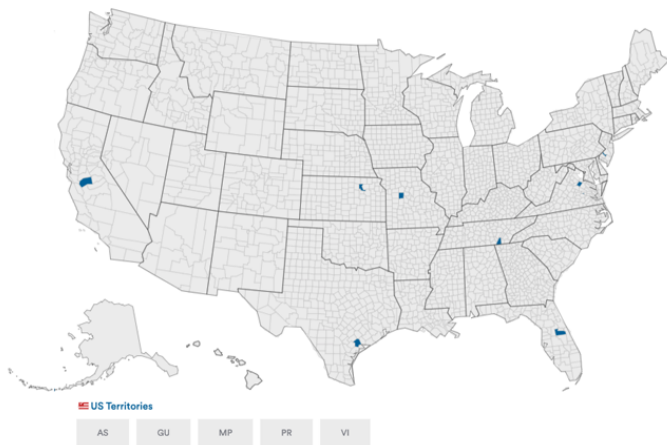
If the voter selects Return, the ballot will be returned uncounted, and the voter may contact the election official and have the ballot spoiled and receive a new one.

Overvoting should not be confused with undervoting. A voter undervotes when they cast fewer votes for a particular office than they are permitted to cast. No ballot or vote will be canceled as a result of an undervote.

## Resources

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ES&S DS300 usage in November 2024 (click for details)



## References

[National Technical Systems Report on the DS300 \(2022\)](#)

[Pro V&V Voting System \(EVS\) 6.3.0.0 Test Report for EAC VVSG 1.0 Certification Testing \(2022\)](#)

## Manufacturer Profile

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### **Election Systems and Software (ES&S)**

11208 John Galt Blvd  
Omaha, NE 68137

[essvote.com](http://essvote.com)

Election Systems & Software was founded in 1979 as American Information Systems Inc. (AIS), it merged with Business Records Corp. the following year and changed its name to ES&S. It is now a subsidiary of McCarthy Group, LLC, and McCarthy Capital. As of 2007 it was the largest manufacturer of voting machines in the United States, claiming customers in 1,700 localities. As of 2007 it had approximately 350 employees; 2005 revenues were \$117

million. ES&S announced its purchase of AutoMARK Technical Systems on January 28, 2008.

760-804-VOTE(8683)  
info@verifiedvoting.org



Privacy

## About

- Who We Are
- Our Mission
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- Election Protection
- Legal
- Careers

## Issues

- Voting Equipment
- Audits
- Paper Records
- Internet Voting
- Election Security

## Tools

- The Verifier
- Voting Equipment Database
- Audit Law Database

## Resources/News Donate

- Publications
- Press
- Videos
- Get Involved
- The Voting News