

Evaluation Summary for Electronic Voting System

Services Information

Services Description and Scope of Services:

The vendor will provide a comprehensive electronic voting system to manage the administrative process for casting, counting, compiling, and reporting votes in all elections in the County.

Deliverables:

The vendor will provide a fully integrated system that consists of:

- precinct ballot counters
- central ballot counters
- ballot marking devices
- ballot printers
- elections system management software and associated components
- implementation services, staff training, and documentation
- post-implementation technical support and maintenance

Public Engagement:

Over the course of demonstrations held in August 2025, municipal clerks, their deputies, and election judges had the opportunity to review and test the proposed systems. Accessibility advocacy groups and voters with disabilities were also invited and provided feedback.

Schedule:

We will work with the selected vendor to develop a timeframe for implementation and deployment. New equipment is expected to be purchased in the first quarter of 2026. A comprehensive training will be developed for County staff, Municipal Clerks, and election judges. The equipment will be first utilized for the August 11, 2026 State Primary Election.

Selection Summary

Request for Proposals (RFP):

On May 9, 2025, Dakota County initiated an RFP process for new voting equipment. Five proposals were received by the stated deadline of June 13, 2025. The companies who responded were: Clear Ballot, Dominion Voting Systems (DVS), Election Systems & Software (ES&S), Hart Intercivic, and SeaChange's Omniballot.

Review Team selection process:

The received proposals were reviewed by a Selection Committee comprised of Election Department staff and leadership. Proposals were reviewed and ranked independently by each committee member, with support and feedback from the County IT department. The committee met on September 18, 2025, to discuss the proposals, share information regarding individual member evaluations, and to reach consensus on how to proceed. Two finalists emerged: Dominion Voting Systems (DVS), which is the County's current provider, and Election Systems & Software (ES&S).

One challenge with the equipment proposed by Dominion Voting Systems is that the precinct tabulator would require upgrading to a larger display screen. The existing display does not comply

Attachment: Vendor Selection Summary

with provisions of the EAC's VVSG 2.0 which require a minimum diagonal display size of 7.9 inches for messages to voters and election judges. The vendor was unable to provide a cost for this upgrade but verified that it would require on-site visits from multiple trained technicians. As equipment is stored at twelve separate sites, upgrading 200 tabulators would require a significant expense.

Although Dominion Voting Systems proposes a lower initial purchase price, it is unclear if they will remain a less expensive option over the term of the contract when considering the cost of the screen upgrade. After all factors were considered, the Committee selected Election Systems & Software (ES&S) as the solitary finalist.

The evaluation committee evaluated the proposals based on the following criteria:

- In-person demonstration
- General requirements
- Pricing
- Project team, organization, and expertise of key personnel
- Quality control and support
- Training and documentation
- Performance on similar projects

Summary of five-year proposed costs among the top two finalists:

	Election Systems & Software (ES&S)	Dominion Voting Systems (DVS)
Ballot Tabulators & Peripherals	\$1,751,300	\$1,452,298
Assisted Voting Devices & Peripherals	\$1,022,500	\$1,206,827
Central Count Scanners	\$273,450	\$110,000
Ballot Printers	\$29,075	\$13,080
Election Server & Software	\$113,806	\$38,480
Election Day Support	\$96,635	\$68,369
Installation, Shipping, and Training	\$94,300	\$73,000
Licensing & Warranty Costs	\$758,899	\$852,534
Future Upgrade to Tabulator Screen	Not Needed	(Cost Unknown)
Discount	(\$300,000)	(\$718,044)
	\$3,839,965	\$3,096,544

Evaluation Results:

Although all responses received were well-done, the breadth of experience offered by Election Systems & Software (ES&S) is unparalleled by any of the other respondents. ES&S equipment is used in 78 counties in Minnesota. They have technicians and support personnel that live within the state of Minnesota, and no other vendors have this. They understand Minnesota election laws and regulations, have the capacity to provide superior service, and are highly regarded and trusted by their existing clients.

Recommendation:

Scoring staff unanimously recommends the firm of ES&S be awarded a contract for an electronic voting system. Their proposal best meets the County's requirements for security, accessibility, usability, and long-term support. ES&S demonstrated strong reliability during testing and received the most favorable feedback from election officials and accessible voters.