



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO. B-1

For the meeting of: APR - 4 2006

Date: March 10, 2006
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Carolyn Crnich, Recorder/County Clerk-Registrar
Subject: Transfer from Contingencies for Purchase of VotePad Assistive Devices

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. Approve the purchase of Vote Pad Assistive Devices for use by disabled voters.
2. Direct Auditor Controller to process the attached transfer from contingencies.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: General fund contingency. This expense may be reimbursed through the Help America Vote Act funds. (HAVA)

DISCUSSION: The Elections Advisory Committee has discussed the necessity of HAVA compliance and recommends the VotePad assistive device as the most reasonable solution at this time. This low-tech solution offers disabled voters the opportunity to vote in private and on the same ballot as other voters. Because it is not a "computer system", there will be very little cost associated with programming, drayage, storage or annual maintenance. There are no licensing fees or annual maintenance fees associated with this product. Some jurisdictions in other states have been subjected to annual maintenance fees of up to \$90,000 for systems similar in size and type to those considered by your Board in the past.

Though the VotePad device has not yet been approved for use by the Secretary of State, it represents our best effort to comply with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 by providing some form of assistance to the blind, deaf and physically impaired voter.

The timeline for approval of the system is unknown but we expect to submit our plan to the Secretary of State within two weeks of your Board's conceptual approval. Humboldt is one of several counties seeking

Prepared by Carolyn Crnich CAO Approval Phillip Smith-Hanes

REVIEW: Auditor County Counsel Personnel Risk Manager Other

TYPE OF ITEM: Consent, Departmental, Public Hearing, Other
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor
Seconded by Supervisor
And unanimously carried by those members present,
The Board hereby adopts the recommended action contained in this report.

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. Meeting of: Dated: Lora Canzoneri, Clerk of the Board By:

approval for use of the VotePad with their certified voting systems. Because of impending deadlines and time necessary to prepare the VotePad devices and audible assistance devices for use in the polling places, it is recommended that we approach this as a pilot project, making only one set of accessible devices available at the Elections Department for early voting and for use on election day.

We believe that offering even a few of the devices at strategic locations will demonstrate good faith efforts to meet HAVA requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The cost of the VotePad Pilot Project is \$3,730 including sales tax which will be from the County General Fund. The proposal includes materials to prepare ballot sleeves for the June 6, 2006 Primary Election and only enough materials to serve one polling site (the Elections Department). We have received assurance from the Secretary of State's office that the cost of these devices will be reimbursable with HAVA funds.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: California Secretary of State

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) Without the suggested enhancements to our system, we will remain non-compliant with the accessibility requirements of the HAVA and face possible legal action against the County for such non-compliance. While many jurisdictions are in a state of noncompliance at this time, the Department of Justice has shown a willingness to enforce HAVA by contacting the Secretary of State's office which in turn has contacted the Elections Department inquiring about our specific plans for compliance.

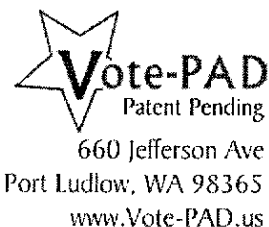
(2) Purchase the Diebold TSx touchscreen voting machines that were proposed as a "last resort" alternative that was approved by this Board in April 2005. Since that action was taken, the TSx systems have been certified conditionally by the Secretary of State but this County has taken no action to purchase or negotiate to purchase the system for use in Humboldt County due to issues identified by the Elections Advisory Committee. I have been named as a Defendant/Respondent in an action filed March 21, 2006 in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco No. CPF06-506171 Holder v. McPherson regarding the certification of the TSx machines, among other issues. The recommendation to purchase the VotePad devices was intended to supplant the purchase of the Diebold equipment and was put before you before we were aware of the action being filed.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Itemized list of materials included in proposal
2. Information on VotePad
3. Request for budget Appropriation Transfer

March 31, 2006

To: Carolyn Crnich
Humboldt County Registrar of Voters
825 Fifth Street, Fifth Floor
Eureka, CA 95501



Quote for Vote-PAD Sale to Humboldt County

Purchase price. Vote-PAD, Inc. proposes to sell to Humboldt County two (2) Vote-PAD packages, customized as indicated below, for a total purchase price of **\$3,476.50** plus applicable Humboldt County sales tax.

- ◆ Only twenty Vote-PAD booklets and ten extra ballot sleeves will be included in the order. All ballot sleeves will accept ballots that are 8.5" x 14".
- ◆ Materials sufficient for two stations and twenty booklets for one election will be included.

The attachment shows and lists the items that are included in a standard package.

Yearly preparation costs. The cost for the county to prepare ballot sleeves and provide election specific instructions in audio, Braille, and large-print is estimated to be approximately \$88 per ballot style, depending on the complexity of the ballots. This includes hiring people at \$15.00 per hour to prepare the ballot sleeves, create instructions, print the large print instructions, and create the audio tapes; as well as \$15.00 per Braille booklet ordered through a Braille transcription service. Tools are provided to help automate many of these processes.

Please note: Purchasing the Vote-PAD saves you ballot programming costs, software licensing fees, drayage costs, environmentally appropriate storage costs, yearly maintenance fees, and other possible hidden fees. While Vote-PAD does not provide estimates of the costs incurred by alternate solutions, these tend to be significantly higher and more complex than the simple preparation costs for the Vote-PAD.

Quote provided by:

Ellen Theisen

Ellen Theisen
President
Vote-PAD, Inc.

March 31, 2006

Date

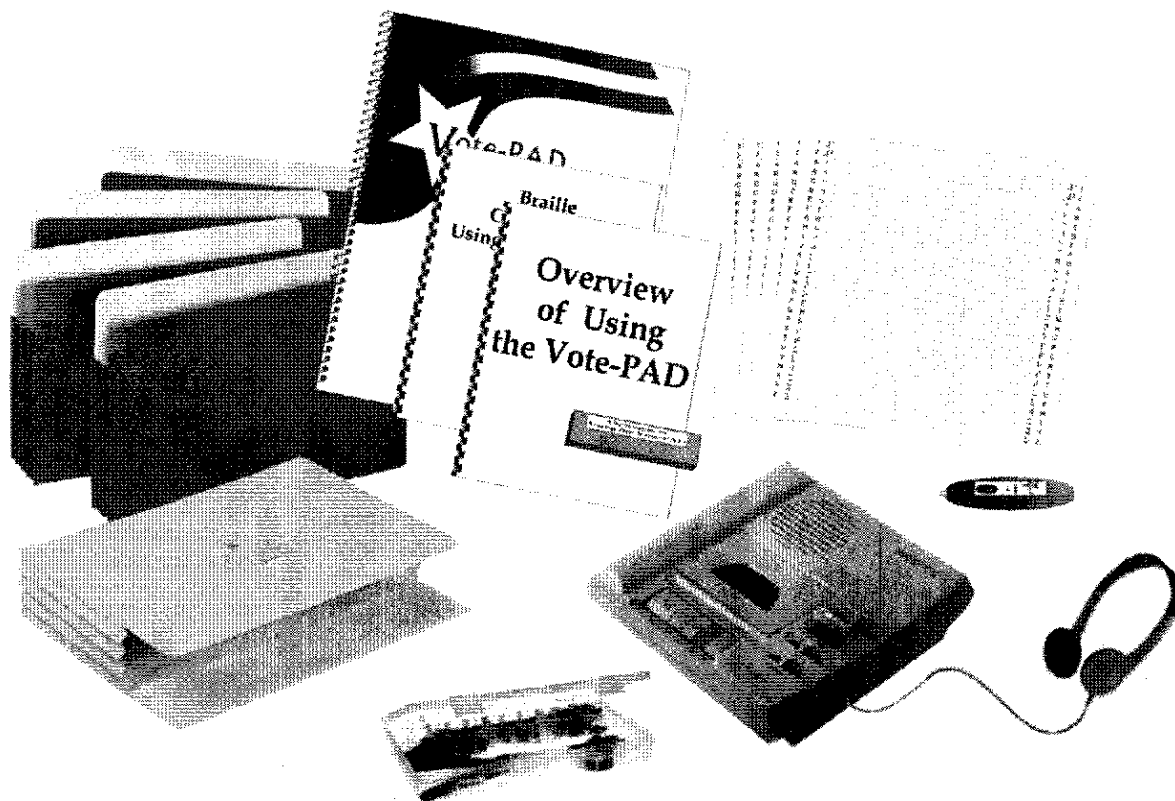
Humboldt County Package Includes	Quan in Order
Booklets for ballot sizes:	20
8.5" x 11"	0
8.5" x 14"	20
8.5" x 18"	0
9.75" x 22"	0
Booklet addons	
Bumpons - triangle	300
Bumpons - oval	3,000
Page-turning aids	42
Additional sleeves	10
8.5" x 11"	0
8.5" x 14"	10
8.5" x 18"	0
9.75" x 22"	0
Other consumables	
Write-in sheets	20
Audio tapes	12
Removable Labels	250
Pencil grips	25
Removable Tape	2
Replacement foam ear pads	20
Poll site tools	
Braille Overview booklet	2
Audio Overview tape	2
Large-Print Overview booklet	2
Poll worker guide	2
Poll worker quick reference	2
Pocket folders	5
Plastic utility box	2
Tape player/headset	2
Verification wand	2
Non-skid mats	4
Magnification sheet	2
Preparatory tools	
Tool set	2
Instruction Assistant	1
TTS - Natural Reader	1
User Guide	1
DVD	
Poll worker training	1

A Standard Vote-PAD Package

Up to Five Years of Elections

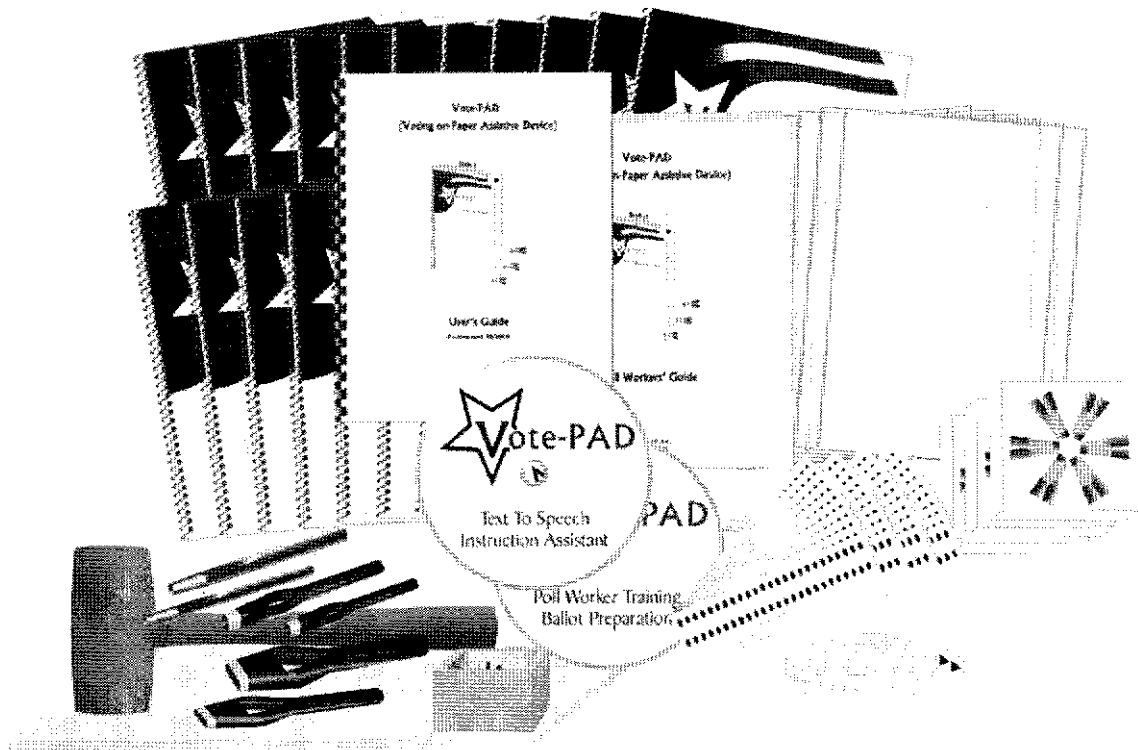
The standard Vote-PAD package includes all the materials needed for 20 ballots. In a small jurisdiction this can represent as many as five years of elections. We invite customized orders to fit your special needs.

Supplies for the polling place:



- | | | | |
|---|---|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Coil-bound Vote-PAD booklets with front cover, back cover, and one ballot sleeve. | 10 | Write-in sheets |
| 1 | Audio set, including tape player and headset | 5 | Expansion pocket folders |
| 1 | Verification wand with batteries | 1 | Plastic utility box |
| 1 | Braille booklet with general instructions | Not shown | |
| 1 | Audio tape or with general instructions | 3 | Non-skid mats |
| 1 | Large-print booklet with general instructions | 2 | Packages of removable tape |
| | | 1 | Magnification sheet |
| | | 1 | Package of 40 foam ear pads |
| | | 1 | Package of 25 pencil grips |

Supplies and tools for the Election Director:



19 Additional coil-bound Vote-PAD booklets with front cover, back cover, and one blank ballot sleeve. Sizes are available for the following ballot sizes:

8.5" x 11"

8.5" x 14"

8.5" x 18"

9.75" x 22"

Other sizes will be developed as requested.

2000 black oval bumpons, and 200 black triangular bumpons, with tweezers to apply them.

5 Spare sleeves

3 Packages of page-turning aids (red-tipped clamps) with six clamps in each package.

Tool set for punching holes in ballot sleeve. Thin, strong plastic anvil plate slips into sleeves to absorb punches. Chad tray provides posts to tap chad out of the punches as it collects the chad.

Vote-PAD User's Guide, bound and Vote-PAD Poll Worker's Guide, loose leaf for easy copying

Natural Reader Text-to-Speech program with NeoSpeech Kate Voice, and Vote-PAD Instruction Assistant, Excel workbook with macro for creating audio and Braille instructions, and

Demo video showing how to customize a Vote-PAD sleeve for an election, how a poll worker sets up a Vote-PAD for people with disabilities

Not shown:

1 Package of 250 removable labels, and

6 Blank audio tapes

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
REQUEST FOR BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFER/ADJUSTMENT

#A

DEPARTMENT: Elections DEPARTMENT #: 1100-140 DATE: 03/28/06

1. The reason for this appropriation transfer request is:

	<u>Copies Required</u>
<u> </u> /Transfer within object accounts (with Auditor Approval)	Original only
<u> </u> /Transfer between object accounts (with CAO & Auditor Approval)	Original + 1
<u> </u> /Transfer between funds (with Board Approval)*	Original + 1
<u> x </u> /Transfer to or from Contingencies (with Board Approval)*	Original + 1
<u> </u> /Increase/decrease budget unit appropriation (with Board Approval)*	Original + 1
<u> </u> /Establish/transfer funds in Fixed Assets <\$10,000 (CAO Approval)	Original + 1
<u> </u> /Establish/transfer funds in Fixed Assets >\$10,000 (with Board Approval)*	Original + 1

2. TRANSFER FROM:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name of Budget Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>1100</u>	<u>990-2010</u>	<u>Contingencies-General Fund</u>	<u>\$3,730.00</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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TRANSFER TO:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name of Budget Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>1100</u>	<u>140-2123</u>	<u>Special Departmental Expense</u>	<u>\$3,730.00</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. In the space below, state (a) reason for transfer request, (b) reason why there are sufficient balances in affected accounts to finance transfer, and (c) why transfer cannot be delayed until next budget year.

- (a) Purchase of election supplies per attached agenda item.
- (b) Contingency funds specifically set aside for unanticipated expenses.
- (c) Need supplies for June primary election.

4. Approved by Department Head: (signed) *Carolyn Conice*

5. Account balances verified by Auditor-Controller: Date: 3-31-06 (signed) *[Signature]*

6. /Approved /Not approved X /Recommended /Not Recommended

County Administrative Officer: Date: 3/31/06 (signed) *Phillip Smith-Haines*

INSTRUCTIONS

SEND ORIGINAL AND REQUIRED COPIES OF ALL TRANSFERS DIRECTLY TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

* Requires copy of Board Order to be attached.