Memo

To: Brad Raffensperger, Secretary of State

From: Chris Harvey

cc: Jordan Fuchs, Deputy Secretary of State

Date: 2/25/2019

Re: Statewide Voting System Pre-printed Hand-Marked Ballot Solution

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Some in the legislature have advocated for a Hand Marked Paper Ballot solution for our new statewide, uniform system. As part of our due diligence, your staff has worked to analyze available data to ascertain the costs of implementing such a solution.

Initial Costs

Any solution will require uniform equipment and machinery in all 159 counties and 2365 precincts to actually run any election.

Here is the list of necessary equipment and initial cost attached to it.

Device	Units	Unit Cost Low	Unit Cost High	Total Cost Low	Total Cost High
ePoll Book	8,000	$1,000	$1,200	$8,000,000	$9,600,000
Polling Place Scanner	3,500	$4,000	$6,000	$14,000,000	$21,000,000
Central Scanning Device	163	$30,000	$50,000	$4,890,000	$8,150,000
Ballot Marking Device (for ADA Compliance)	4,730	$3,500	$4,500	$16,555,000	$21,285,000
Total Initial Equipment Costs				**$43,445,000**	**$60,035,000**

Keep in mind this is initial purchase costs only. There is no allowance for implementation, training, warranties, maintenance, security, election management software integration, election reporting software integration, etc.

Paper Costs

The ongoing costs of pre-printing ballots to be hand-marked by voters is a variable cost. We made some assumptions to compare apples to apples for a statewide implementation.

First, we estimate $0.55 per ballot for the costs of pre-printing ballots. This cost will vary among our 159 counties. The $0.55 is believed by our office to likely be on the low side.

Second, not being able to know the potential outcomes of elections, we can not know how many runoffs we will see locally or statewide. Also, we do not include any other elections in the analysis such as special elections, municipal, SPLOST, etc. We just know there will be many over a 10-year period.

Third, we assume static population change. So for this analysis, we are settling on 7,100,000 voters. However, we are aware that there will be over one million new voters over the next ten years.

Fourth, for this cost of pre-printed ballot analysis we focused on the statewide elections over a 10-year period. When doing pre-printed ballots, we have to print a potential ballot for every active registered voter and print extra to account for Advanced Voting, Provisional Voting and Ballot Spoilage. That additional number normally runs about 20%. Also, for Primaries, there have to three types of ballots printed; Democratic, Non-Partisan, and Republican.

Type of Election	# of Types of Ballots	Anticipated # of Elections	# of Ballots Printed Total	Total Cost over 10 years
Presidential Preference Primaries	2	2	34,080,000	$18,744,000
Primaries	3	5	127,800,000	$70,290,000
Primary Runoffs	3	3	76,680,000	$42,174,000
Generals	1	5	42,600,000	$23,430,000
General Runoffs	1	2	17,040,000	$9,372,000
Total 10-year Print Costs				**$164,010,000**

These print costs are exclusively borne by the counties running the elections.

Conclusion

The low-end cost of equipment and printing is $207,455,000 and on the high-end cost is $224,045,000. It should be noted that these costs for printing will fall to the counties. Further, executing such a solution will be logistically difficult and expensive for the counties to bear.