

Illinois State Board of Elections

Brent M. Davis | Director of Election Information | 217.558.1664 | bdavis@elections.il.gov



To: Steve Sandvoss, Executive Director

Re: Special Primary Post Election Report

Date: September 18, 2015

A special election was held on September 10, 2015, to elect a candidate for the vacancy in the 18th Congressional District.

Our office was staffed from 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day with four staff designated to provide assistance to voters and election officials. Less than ten calls were received related to the election, and all were concerning polling place lookup. We received zero calls with actual election related questions or complaints.

Unofficial results reflect that 75% of the votes were cast for Darin LaHood. LaHood was sworn into office on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS



From the desk of... Kyle Thomas
Director of Voting and Registration Systems
Phone: 217-782-1590
Email: kthomas@elections.il.gov

To: Steven S. Sandvoss; Executive Director

Re: Voting System Approval-Election System & Software 5300

Date: September 18, 2015

Election Systems and Software (ES&S) is requesting the Board grant approval for a new voting system, the EVS 5.3.0.0. The main components of this system include the DS200 digital scan tabulator (version 2.13.0.0), the DS850 central count digital scan tabulator (version 2.10.0.0), the ExpressVote ballot marking device (version 1.4.0.0), and the AutoMARK ballot marking device (version 1.8.6.0). This test campaign consisted of three elections, the General Primary, Consolidated, and General. Each election contained 100 precincts.

We have seen both the DS200 and AutoMARK in the past, as earlier versions are presently approved for use with ES&S's Unity System. The newcomers to Illinois are the DS850 and the Express Vote. The DS850 is much like other central count scanners, although it uses newer technology for digital image scanning vs. older optical scanning technology. The ExpressVote is a newer concept to the ballot marking device field. Its predecessor, the AutoMARK, accepts a standard scan ballot and the voter makes selections on its screen. After review, the voter chooses to have the ovals filled in by the machine. With the Express Vote, the voter inserts a blank piece of card stock (of which the length equals the standard scan ballot, but its width is much less), then makes selections on the touchscreen. After review, the voter chooses to print their ballot, which causes both typed names of their selections and bar codes to be printed on the card stock. This then becomes the voter's ballot, which can be tabulated by either the DS200 or the DS850 tabulators. The ExpressVote, like the AutoMARK will not allow a voter the option to over vote their ballot and warns them if they have under voted.

With the AutoMARK, it scans the ballot that the voter inserts to determine the ballot style which is made available to the voter for selections. The ExpressVote makes available the correct ballot style by one of two methods. The first method tested was the option for the election judge or jurisdiction staff member to select the proper style from the screen of the ExpressVote itself. The second method tested was for a component called the ExpressPass (version 1.1.0.0) to print a bar code across the top of the card stock. Once the voter inserts this card into the machine, the proper style is made available. We tested two different options with the ExpressPass. One allowed the staff to make the style selection from a computer or laptop connected to the ExpressPass printer, the other allowed the staff to select a voter from an Electronic Poll Book, which was connected to the ExpressPass printer. In both cases, the ExpressPass properly printed the correct bar code for the corresponding ballot style, and the ExpressVote accurately identified the proper

style. In both cases, the election worker can verify the proper selection was made, as the style number and precinct as well as split combination are printed on the card stock in a human verifiable manner. We encountered no errors in regards to the ExpressVote ballot marking device or its components and no errors were encountered in tabulation of said ballots produced by the ExpressVote. We would like to note that the ExpressVote kiosk was reviewed and staff found that all functions of the kiosk worked as expected. However, the kiosk has a bar code scanning option that was not part of this test and should not be used in Illinois. The vendor agreed the bar code scanning option would not be included on the kiosks in Illinois.

As with the introduction of other ADA components (Americans with Disabilities Act) to the State, we asked for assistance from local representatives of the ADA community. The Mary Bryant Home for the Blind graciously allowed for the ExpressVote to be utilized in a demonstration voting mode by two of their members from which we greatly appreciate their constructive feedback. Both were impressed at their ability to vote with no assistance.

As mentioned, we have tested and the Board has approved older versions of the DS200. Besides the fact it is modified to work with the EVS 5.3.0.0 voting system, one unique aspect of this version is the ability to have connected a cellular signal modem for remote transmission of results from a polling place back to a counting center. ES&S has given the option of three different carriers for this operation, AT&T, Verizon, and Sprint. With assistance from our IT department, ES&S was able to set up a simulated counting center environment, to which the DS200 was able to remote transmit results. For our test, ES&S utilized their Verizon version. All results were transmitted and reports were generated accurately for this portion of the test.

Multiple issues were encountered during this campaign. Upon investigation into each item, all but one which caused counting discrepancies were found to be directly related to human error. The first issue encountered during the General Primary portion of the testing involved missing votes for two candidates of two different offices. Once all likely scenarios had been exhausted to explain the situation, staff had to review the ballot images stored by the tabulators (ballot images for this system cannot be reviewed until the election has been finalized). Upon review of these images, it was clear that a temporary staff member had in fact performed four separate errors which accounted for the apparent miscount.

The next issue involved a delay in providing results for our ECanvass reporting (ES&S is generating the ECanvass results from the ballot images and not from their reporting module, from which all other results are reported) as the ballot images were not able to initially be uploaded from a flash drive for the DS200 tabulator. The issue originated from the fact that each DS200 imprints the flash drive with a unique key. If you run a precinct on two different DS200's, despite clearing votes, the flash drive will have two different keys imprinted, which causes difficulty uploading images for the ECanvass process. ES&S issued product advisory FYIEWR00029, which recommends closing no more than one flash drive on each DS200 as even their representative was unaware of this recommendation. If a precinct needs to be rerun, it should be rerun using a different flash drive on a different DS200 device. ES&S was able to develop a work around should this error occur in the field. The ECanvass results were provided which accurately reflected the results for the Primary.

Also during the Primary, the DS850 displayed a "hopper drive error" message and a "clear transport required" message when one of the sets of ballots was attempted to be run,

even though there was no obstruction in the pathway. After inspection by their tech personnel, it was determined that a loose connection inside the DS850 was the cause. This same issue arose during the General portion as well but was quickly resolved. No tabulation errors were encountered due to these instances.

During the tabulation of ballots for the General, utilizing the DS850, a discrepancy was created by human error. The ES&S representative attempted to tabulate ballots for both the regular scan ballots and the ExpressVote ballots (as mentioned earlier, these ballots are of a different width). When doing so, the machine missed picking up one of the ExpressVote ballots when a questionable mark was encountered (the DS850 places questionable ballots into a separate bin for inspection) and failed to separate it into the proper bin, because the hopper was set to standard width instead of the narrower width required when processing the ExpressVote ballots. This caused a miscount on the ballots cast for that set. Upon investigation, the root cause of the issue was identified and ES&S has added a warning to their user manual clearly indicating not to mix different sized ballots during the same batch.

Also in the General, another discrepancy was caused by temporary staff error of running an extra blank ballot in place of the properly marked ballot. This caused a dropped vote for one candidate as the ballot in question was a President only ballot. This was verified by SBE staff to be human error, once the images were reviewed.

The one instance of a non-human error caused discrepancy also happened to occur in the last of the three elections we ran, the General. In this case, a ballot tabulated by the DS850 picked up an extra vote for one candidate. Upon review of the ballot images captured by the DS850, the oval clearly contained a mark, of which the machine tabulated. Once that same ballot was physically inspected, no mark was present. This can only be explained as a foreign object which found its way onto the ballot for that particular run (each ballot is run multiple times through each tabulator type utilized) but none of the others. We have encountered similar circumstances in the past, however like this one, it is extremely rare. The DS850 had no issues beyond what is mentioned above.

In total, this test of three elections equaled a ballots cast of 340,507, tabulated by a combination of the DS200 and DS850. The ballots counted in these elections contained a total of 31,718,758 ballot positions and 4,595,339 votes. Voted ballots were created by temporary and full time staff both by hand and by the two types of ballot marking devices. The first ballots arrived May 19th to begin the marking. The running of ballots began June 18th, and the test was finalized on September 16th.

As with any voting system, prior to Board approval, it must first be tested to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) of at least the 2002 standards by an approved Voting System Testing Laboratory (VSTL). This system was tested by NTS Huntsville, first as the EVS 5.2.0.0 then under a "Trusted Build" as the current EVS 5.3.0.0. NTS Huntsville found the system meets said requirements.

ES&S has completed our testing, produced proper technical bulletins addressing concerns we raised, modified the user manual to cover areas of concern, and has met the testing requirements of an approved VSTL. With that, it is my recommendation that the Board grant a two-year interim approval for the EVS 5.3.0.0, as requested by ES&S.

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS



From the desk of.... Steven S. Sandvoss, Executive Director
Phone: 217-557-9939
Email: ssandvoss@elections.il.gov

To: Charles W. Scholz – Chairman,
Ernest L. Gowen – Vice Chairman
Members of the Board

Re: Revisions to SBE Policy Manual

Date: September 18, 2015

Included with this Memo are two pages that contain revisions to the proposed amendments to the State Board of Elections Policy Manual. The first page revises the last paragraph of the Overtime Policy contained on page 177 of the Board packet and the second page is a revision of the Smoking policy contained on page 178 of said packet.

Thank you for your consideration of each.

In the case of official State business performed in the Principal or Permanent Branch Office of the SBE outside the employee's normal work hours, overtime shall begin following the end of the employee's workday, and shall end upon departure from the respective SBE office. For work done earlier than the employee's workday, overtime allowances are permitted for time spent in the actual performance of State business. If such State business is performed on a Saturday, Sunday or State holiday, overtime shall begin upon departure from the employee's residence by direct route, and end ~~as provided in the first sentence of this paragraph~~ upon return by direct route to the employee's residence. In no case shall any overtime include time spent by the employee on non-work related matters.

5.10 Smoking Prohibition. In accord with the ~~Illinois Clean Indoor Air Smoke Free Illinois~~ Act, smoking is prohibited in the offices of the State Board of Elections except in designated areas.

5.10.1 In the principal office (Springfield), smoking is prohibited in all areas of the building and within 15 feet of the entrances (front and back). All smoking remnants must be extinguished in the outside smoking receptacles provided.

5.10.2 In the permanent branch office (Chicago), smoking is prohibited in all areas of the office and within 15 feet of the entrances to the building.

5.10.3 For purposes of this Section, the term "Smoke" or "smoking" means the carrying, smoking, burning, inhaling, or exhaling of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, electronic cigarette, hookah, weed, herbs, or other lighted smoking equipment.