



December 12, 2022

Ms. Leslie Mitchell
Purchasing Agent
Williamson County
1320 W. Main Street
Suite 130
Franklin, TN 37064

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

As per your Request for Proposal for a new voting system for Williamson County, please accept our response and recommendation.

A citizen-driven organization, Tennessee Voters for Election Integrity's purpose is simple: To share with state legislators, election commissions and government officials opportunities that we have uncovered in our research to plug holes we've found in Tennessee's election systems. And for these leaders to make (and lead) necessary changes in machinery and methods that will strengthen Tennessee's leadership in election integrity while improving citizen trust and support of our election processes.

We're advocates for :

- A return to precinct voting and away from problematic voting centers.
- Locking voter rolls and moving registration totally offline during early/election day voting.
- Cleaning up the voter rolls further.
- Removing hackable voting computers – Scanners, BMDs, DREs, Election Management System.
- Returning to hand-marked paper ballots -- High-security, currency-grade, watermarked paper with randomized precinct/voter numbers for citizens to track their ballot. Move the technology from the machines to the ballots and new processes.
- Optimum: Counting ballots by hand immediately post-election in precincts. Interim: Optical scanners/tabulators with plenty of guardrails.
- Any electronic voting equipment MUST be updated to current security standards and checked via Security Risk Audit using citizen/security/IT experts... before it can be used in an election.
- No single vendor can generate, scan, count and compile ballots. Diversification is needed.
- ACCURACY is more important than CONVENIENCE!
- Videotape/live stream the casting and counting of ballots in a way no voter selections are ID'd.
- Post ballot and key poll officer reports online next day for public access: The People's Audit.
- Return to election day versus election season.

We believe your rush into a permanent contractual arrangement with an existing voting machine system vendor is ill-advised. You need to extend the rental contract at least six months while conducting a robust, due diligence, comprehensive appraisal of a future voting system for the fiduciary wisdom of the county. Our response shows how that could be done.

In the meantime, you can implement the 25 security fixes we recommended in our October 1, 2022 recommendation, as well as our eight (8) documentation upgrades we suggested in our November 10, 2022 recommendation.

But especially don't lock us into a permanent contract with a vendor you've rejected before.

Our people-only recommendation is based on the proven facts that:

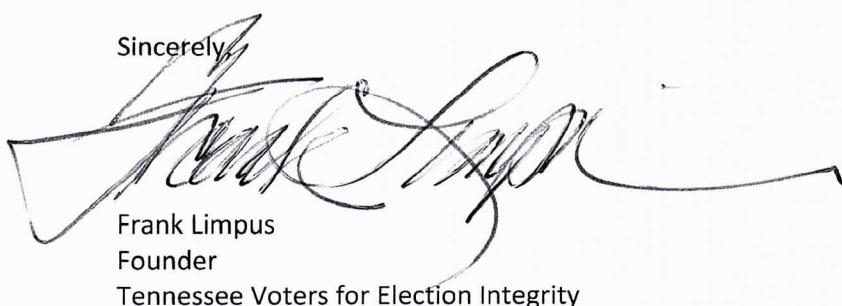
- All voting machine vendors are completely opaque, untrustworthy and secretive.
- Machines have been proven to be too risky, costly and not helping the county realize a sound ROI.
- No one – including the Election Assistance Commission, their Voting System Testing Labs, the Tennessee State Election Commission are protecting citizens from the hazards of machines.
- The voting process needs to be re-worked, simplified without machines.
- And our recommendation and cost projection (compiled without benefit of your budget numbers) contained herein lays out how that might be accomplished.

So, we recommend you:

- Remove all machines
- And switch to high-security hand-marked paper ballots voted and counted immediately post-election in precincts on election day
- Or continue renting for another six months-to-a-year
- And conduct a comprehensive appraisal and include external purchasing and technology experts to ensure the risk to citizens is eliminated or greatly reduced.
- You have three small elections in 2023 with which you can accomplish this. Our response can be the starting point of that discussion and move.

We're happy to answer any questions. Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Limpus".

Frank Limpus
Founder
Tennessee Voters for Election Integrity



WILLIAMSON COUNTY CITIZENS' VOTING SYSTEM RFP RESPONSE

Here's how Williamson County citizens would answer the WCEC's RFP for a replacement voting system as the ES&S rental agreement ends February 2023. No machines, high-security hand-marked paper ballots voted and counted in precincts (vs. voter centers) at the end of election day.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

Current Election System Configuration

Early Voting Locations

- 7 Early Voting Locations
- 4 Registrar Stations Each Location
- 8 Ballot Marking Devices Each Location
- 2 Scanners/Tabulators Each Location

Election Day

- 25 Convenience Vote Center Locations
- 4 Registrar Stations Each Location
- 8 Ballot Marking Devices Each Location
- 2 Scanners/Tabulators Each Location

Voting System Specification Questions

1. **Company Information and Certification Credentials.** Vendor must meet all certifications as required by the State Election Commission of Tennessee and the State Coordinator of Elections. (Vendor must include the specific version of software that the system or systems are operating). Our answers to your questions are in red.
 - A. Please provide software versions of all individual components included in your voting system. No software needed. Paper and pencils and a ballot box are it.
 - B. Which version of the VVSG (Voluntary Voting System Guideline) provided by the US Election Assistance Commission are you currently certified to? Paper and people don't need to meet VVSG. 1, 2.0, 2.1 or any future version of the guidelines.
 - C. Please provide any other certifications, industry standard or protocol that your voting system may adhere to. Paper and people don't need to be certified.
 - D. Fully describe your company ownership. List any individual or organization with more than 5 percent foreign ownership or control. There is no ownership of paper and Williamson County citizens. So absolutely, no foreign control.

2. Voting Machines

- A. Describe the procedure with your touch screen ballot marking devices in conjunction with a precinct count optical scan system.
No touch screens, ballot marking devices or precinct optical scan system are needed.
- B. Does your scanner tabulation system allow for hand-marked ballots at voting locations in addition to ballots prepared by ballot marking devices?
No scanner tabulation system – its people that count. Just like they have for 200+ years before the machines took over a simple process. We seek to de-complicate.
- C. Describe the ADA capabilities of your ballot marking devices.
We could use existing BMD for any ADA needs in producing a ballot... so the capabilities haven't changed and they can be counted by hand.
- D. How many precincts/ballot styles may be displayed on your ballot marking devices at any one time?
No machines so no worries about the number of precincts/ballot styles that need to be displayed. Paper can display as many styles as you like.
- E. How many contests may be displayed on screen for each ballot?
No machines so no worries about the number of contests needed to be displayed. Paper can display as many contests as you like.
- F. How is the ballot marking device activated for each voter if there is a power failure?
Power failure isn't a problem for a piece of paper and a pencil. They're always able to operate.
- G. If the voter wishes to deselect a candidate for some reason, how does the voter change their vote?
The voter will cleanly erase the mark and mark a new selection if a change is desired.
- H. Describe the memory device used for the storage of data on each ballot marking device and each optical scan reader.
No memory device needed for storage. Ballots are simply converted by WCEC into PDFs for storage and for displaying online after the election to allow for The People's Audit.
- I. Describe the container and the mechanism by which the voted ballots are stored at the precinct after the ballots have been cast by way of the optical scanner.
Paper ballots are slipped into a locked, sealed ballot box and remain there until counting. A chain of custody will account for all of the ballot boxes.
- J. How are election datasets and tabulation results stored? Is the data held in an encrypted format or clear text?
No datasets needed. Encryption not needed. Cover sheet attests to numbers. PDFs are made of the reports and they can be stored on CDs, USB sticks or on the cloud.

- K. Please explain how your workstations, servers and other election machines have been security hardened.

No security hardening needed. Paper ballots are tracked before using, marked and counted by hand and all overseen by poll watchers. Very simple process with comparatively little cost.

- L. Does your system have the ability to provide a Cast Vote Record?

No cast vote record needed. Ballot security numbers tracked at registration. If a record is needed, ballots can be inputted onto an excel chart. And PDF copies of ballots are posted online.

- M. Describe options relative to the touch screen ballot marking device and the booths or stands to hold those devices.

No touch screens needed. So, you can repurpose your current BMD booths into paper and pencil privacy voting booths at no cost.

- N. Can a software verification hash script be run to verify the certified software version is installed after the voting is completed as well as during system setup?

No software is present so no software verification hash script needs to be run.

- O. Can a software verification be performed by Election Commission staff themselves using standard software utilities rather than a proprietary script that you supply?

No hash script is needed with paper and pencil. Election Commission staff can spend time doing other duties than running hash scripts.

- P. If votes are tabulated from barcodes or QR codes that contain the same information as on the ballot, are these codes created using an easily readable, standard or are they encrypted using a proprietary algorithm?

No bar codes, QR codes, proprietary or non-proprietary algorithms are needed. And with paper, Williamson County will truly have a voter-verifiable paper audit trail.

- Q. Where are your hardware components sourced (manufacture and assembly) including internal electrical/electronic components?

No hardware components, no internal/electrical/electronic components are needed. High-secure, hand-marked paper ballots can be obtained at Authentix. Pencils from Staples.

- R. What are our options for the procurement of physical ballot paper? Are you the single source supplier?

You select any physical paper ballot you want. We recommend getting it from Authentix, an authority in authentication solutions for governments, central banks and commercial products.

Future Upgrade

- A. Does your company have a means to make on-going changes/updates to the system as deemed required by law?
No changes are needed. You decide if any changes are needed and make them. We don't. because paper, pencils, ballot boxes are just about as simple as it can get.
- B. Is your voting system expandable and scalable?
Yes, you can add as many ballots, privacy stations and ballot boxes as you want.
- C. Describe your process for the regular application of security patches. How frequently are patches applied?
No security patches are needed because there are no machines. Your poll employees and volunteers provide all the security that's needed.
- D. Will you have the ability to upgrade systems to VVSG (Voluntary Voting System Guidelines) 2.0?
No need to upgrade to VVSG 2.0 because there are no machines. With this Citizens' System, you've simplified your system, instead of making it more complex.

Warranties

- A. What warranties exist at purchase?
No warranties are needed. Paper and pencils don't break down.
- B. Any warranties provided for that time period?
No warranties so there are no limits to your process. And no lawsuits are needed to sue some election voting machine company that won't honor its warranties.

License Fees, Support Fees, Hardware Fees, Additional cost per Hardware Unit

- A. Does our company claim any rights to collect future payments for a license fee to use any hardware items or any software fees?
No future payments needed. No hardware nor software. Just buy pencils and ballots when needed.
- B. Does your company claim any rights to collect future payments for any support fees?
No, we have no claims to future payment for support fees.
- C. Does your company claim any rights to collect future payments for any hardware fees?
No, we have no claims to future payment for hardware fees.
- D. Does your company claim any rights to collect future payments for any product or service involved with this purchase.
No, we have no claims to future payment for products/services involved. Besides, you're not purchasing machines, software, hardware, algorithms, etc. etc. etc.

Election Programming

- A. What programming software is provided to Williamson County with this purchase?
No programming software is provided because none is needed.
- B. If programming software is not provided in this contract, what programming cost will Williamson County pay for programming each election?
No programming cost so no worries about unexpected charges.
- C. For counties that will not program their own election, what companies are available to provide the election programming for those counties?
No programming needed so no need to worry about programming companies. Or costs.
- D. What training is provided to Williamson County for programming?
No training is needed for paper and pencils.
- E. What support is provided to Williamson County after purchase?
No support needed so none provided. No machines... you guys have got this.
- F. Will upgrades to software and programming be included in the maintenance cost?
No software so no costly upgrades or maintenance are needed. Besides, aren't you tired of all that maintenance? Couldn't your employees be doing other things?

Training cost for poll officials

- A. What training is included in the proposed contract for Election Day Precinct Officials?
No training is needed for paper and pencil. We've just simplified a precinct official's job.
- B. What training is included in the proposed contract for the Administrator of Elections and their office staff?
No training is needed for Administrator of Elections and their office staff.
- C. What training is included in the proposed contract for the Machine Technicians?
No machines so no need to train machine technicians. Heck, for that matter, do you even need technicians anymore?
- D. Is the training included in the proposed contract available on site for the county election office or is it available out of state?
No training is needed either on-site or out-of-state.
- E. The training included in this proposed contract is available through what election date?
No training needed.

- F. The training included in this contract is provided in what format or version (lecture, video, DVD, PowerPoint, manuals, online, etc.)?

No training is needed so no lectures, video, DVD, PowerPoint, manuals, online, etc. Go focus on something else.

- G. Should Williamson County wish to contract for additional training beyond what is included in this contract, what additional training is available at what price?

No training or additional training needed so no cost.

Election Day Support

- A. What contractual support is provided for Williamson County if at noon on Election Day we experience a major event at a precinct involving your system.

No support needed for pencil, paper, privacy booth and ballot box. You already handle registration on your own. So, there should be no major breakdowns or major events. Unless a major event is simply efficiently flowing voters through numerous voting booths and out the door after they've dropped their ballot into the ballot box.

- B. This support is provided through what election date under the terms of this contract?

No support needed.

- C. What contractual support is provided for Williamson County if after the polls are closed, they experience a major event in closing out an election precinct?

No support needed. Every other "major event" we've heard of involves machines. No machines, no major event.

- D. This support is provided through what election date under the terms of this contract?

No support needed.

- E. What contractual support is provided for Williamson County if at the central election office after collecting the vote tally from a majority of their precincts, we experience a major computer programming problem with two precincts left to go?

No contractual support is needed at the central election office for vote tally. You receive precinct numbers by paper report and mark them down on an excel chart. Keep doing that until all precincts are in. Then you have your county's controller/auditor check your math.

Absentee Voting Tabulation

- A. Describe the options regarding your absentee voting tabulation systems.

No voting tabulation system. No need for complicated absentee tabulation options. You count and adjudicate at the same time.

- B. How many ballots may be processed in one hour on your tabulation system?

You process as many ballots as you require; you use your own people. No machines to glitch and stop the process for hours while the issue is fixed.

- C. Should the tabulator or scanner become inoperative, describe the secondary emergency mechanism for tabulation.

No tabulator or scanner to become inoperative, so no secondary emergency mechanism for tabulation is needed.

Additional Cost

- A. Who pays the shipping cost on the delivery of all hardware items being purchased by Williamson County?

No shipping costs back and forth. Save your money.

- B. If Williamson County is expected to pay the shipping cost, what are those costs?

No shipping costs. But vendors will probably charge you a lot for theirs in order to make their margins.

- C. What additional supply cost will Williamson County experience for the future operation of this voting system we are purchasing not included in this contract?

No additional supply costs now or in the future. If so, there's a Staples down the street.

Items Excluded and Not Part of this Contract

- A. What fees, conditions and terms are in addition to vendor's response to the RFP if any, and would be the responsibility of the Williamson County election office?

No vendor, so no fees, conditions, terms are needed.

Payment Schedule and Expected Delivery Date

- A. What is the total cost of the voting system that is being proposed based on the number of voting locations shown under "Current Election System Configuration," on page 1? Include unit pricing for each component in the event of future expansion. Include maintenance cost, service hour pricing and any additional costs that should be considered during evaluation of your proposal. Please include purchase options, deductions, savings and previous credits that you wish Williamson County Election Commission to consider.

No machines, so no machine costs for any of your 34 locations. People costs are found on the following sheet. No unit pricing for future expansion... so expand all you want! No maintenance cost, service hour pricing or any additional costs. No purchase options, deductions, previous credits. Savings will be enormous over any of our competitors or your past elections.

- B. What payment schedule exists? Does Williamson County pay any percentage when signing the contract? What payment is expected on delivery of the machines?

No payment schedule, no contract, no percentage needed to be paid. No machines so no delivery payments. Could it get any easier?

- C. What is the expected delivery date from the time Williamson County signs the contract?

No contract so no needed delivery date. Heck, you can get this done starting tomorrow.

- D. If Williamson County is holding a Brentwood Municipal Election in May 2023, what is the latest date they can sign a contract to take delivery of the Voting Machine Systems for use in early voting starting in mid-April of 2023? Can your company honor this request?

How long does it take to purchase paper, print it for your May 2023 election and set up your precincts? You don't need to depend upon an external vendor.

- E. Williamson County would request that delivery of software, early voting equipment and training be in place by March 31, 2023. Can your company honor this request?

No software, no machines, so no need to be waiting for March 31, 2023 delivery. Training could be held next week since the complications have been eliminated.

- F. Describe your implementation plan for delivery, training, support and any other items needed to complete setup for use of new voting system.

No delivery, training, support or other items needed to set up a new voting system that has no machines and depends only on paper and people. You already have privacy booths. Just develop the ballot and order pencils.

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ESTIMATED COSTS VIP CONSTITUTIONAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY VOTING SYSTEM MODEL NO MACHINES/PAPER BALLOTS/HAND COUNTING IN PRECINCTS		
Item	Sub-total	Total
General assumptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCEC has recalculated from 43 to 34 precincts Volunteer employees ("EEs") paid \$125/day Tables, chairs, IT support in schools provided by WC schools Assume 6 EEs per precinct [EV & ED] (4 registrars, 1 Ballot box, 1 PO) Initial paper ballot purchase of 3M ballots for use over multiple years 	\$826,110 Ballot price expected to decrease as other counties share the cost. Our coalition already has a sponsor for a high-security, hand-marked paper ballot in the 2023 General Assembly.	
Estimated set-up costs – One-time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authentix <u>high security ballots</u> (\$.25 ea. x 3M = \$750,000)(Can be adjusted) Extra <u>privacy screen/table</u> (capital expense) to augment existing supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (\$50 ea. x 10 more/precinct x 34 precincts - \$17,000) Use existing privacy booths already owned by WCEC <u>Ballot boxes</u> (ED=68)(Absentee=5)(EV=14)(Nursing=2) (capital exp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89 boxes x \$30 ea. = \$2,670) If needed: 34 rental <u>BMDs</u> for ADA (\$1,660 x 34=\$56,440) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would require annual rental vs. purchase cost (capital exp.) 		
Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation green bar lists for ea. precinct (Staff and office budget) Train & prep all EEs (6 EEs/precinct x \$125 x 34 precincts x 1day) Staffing work registration EV (6 x \$125 x 14 days x 7 precincts) Staffing work registration ED (6 x \$125 x 1 day x 34 precincts) 	\$000 \$25,500 \$73,500 <u>\$25,500</u> \$124,500	\$124,500
Ballot creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution: EV/Absentee Nov'22: 2,013 + 47,316 = 49,329 = 50,000 Distribution: ED Nov'22: 36,670 = 40,000 90,000 ballots/election + extra as needed (Roughly 300K/year) Handling/prep/distribution/support (staff handling; no EEs needed) Unknown: \$2,000 		\$2,000
Ballot counting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prep precinct to count/oversee process (1 EE x 34 precincts x \$125) Count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ED: 24 EE x 1 day x 34 precincts x \$125 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (6 tables/precinct)(816 EEs)(5 Hrs.) EV/Absentee: 100 EE x 1 day x 1 precinct x \$125 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (25 tables)(100 EEs)(10 Hrs.) 	\$4,250 \$102,000 <u>\$12,500</u> \$118,750	\$118,750
Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff compilation of numbers/and reporting; no EEs needed 	\$000	\$000
Sub-total Contingency (10%) Rough Total (per election)		\$245,250 <u>\$24,525</u> \$269,775

CURRENT WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION VOTING COMPUTERS COST PER RENTAL AGREEMENTS February 24, 2022 and September 29, 2022 (No Election Employee Time/Cost Included)					
	Machine	Bags	Installation	Shipping	Total
DS200 Scanners					
(2/24/22)	70 x \$2,186	70 x \$80	70 x \$115	26% of \$19,600	
	\$153,020	\$5,600	\$8,050	\$5,096	\$171,766
(9/29/22)	5 x \$1,625	5 x \$35	83% of \$1,925	83% of \$11,300	
	\$8,125	\$175	\$1,598	\$9,379	\$19,277
DS450 Scanner					
(9/29/22)	\$16,795		17% of \$1,925	17% of \$11,300	
	\$16,795		\$327	\$1,921	\$19,043
Expressvote BMD					
(2/24/22)	200 x \$1,060	200 x \$50	200 x \$105	74% of \$19,600	
	\$212,000	\$10,000	\$21,000	\$14,504	\$257,504
Software					
(2/24/22)					\$6,200
Software Support					
(9/29/22)	100 4G Memory Devices/Sticks				\$3,000
(9/29/22)	2 5G Memory Devices/Sticks				\$90
Third Party Items					
(2/24/22)	EMS 3 rd Party Hardware				\$500
Services					
(2/24/22)	Project Management Day (45 @ \$1,795)				\$80,775
(2/24/22)	Equipment Operations Training Day (1 @ \$1,795)		(\$114,215)		\$1,795
(2/24/22)	Software Training Day (1 @ \$1,795)		(\$224/hour)		\$1,795
(2/24/22)	Election On-Site Support (6 @ \$4,975)				\$29,850
TOTAL					\$591,595
Questions					
• Why are machines and bag prices lower in September than in February?					
• Why are there no cover bags for scanners in September yet there are in February?					
• What, specifically, is in the EMS 3 rd party hardware?					
• What was done on a project management day?					
• What occurred on the two-day election on-site support for the three elections (May, Aug, Nov)?					

PER VOTE COST PER ELECTION
All Machines vs. No Machines All People

All machines including approximate approx. cost of election workers from our Citizens RFP

- Total costs 2022 ES&S machines rented by WCEC \$806,195
- Total cost election workers 3 elections w/o the Citizens counting employees* \$373,500
- Divide by three elections yields per election cost \$1,179,695
- Divide by number voters per election
 - May 2022 (20,550) \$19.14
 - Aug 2022 (37,110) \$10.60
 - Nov 2022 (85,999) \$ 4.57
 - Average cost per vote per election \$11.44

No machines all election workers (only)

- Total cost per 2022 election w/no machines & citizens workers \$270,000
- Divide by number voters per election
 - May 2022 (20,550) \$13.14
 - Aug 2022 (37,110) \$ 7.26
 - Nov 2022 (85,999) \$ 3.14
 - Average cost per vote per election \$ 7.85

**The number of poll workers WCEC uses in an election is unknown since the WCEC budget numbers do not clearly delineate how many paid election employees they use per election or for all three elections. Therefore, we have used our registration (only) poll worker count for this figure (multiplied by three elections in 2022) which we know is lighter than what we suspect the county uses in an election. Our poll worker count reduces the number of poll worker heads necessitated by WCEC's use of machines.*