



ELECTIONS BULLETIN

TO: Town and City Clerks

FROM: Kathy DeWolfe

RE: Update on Voting Machines (optic scan tabulating machines) in 2004
& Voting Systems accessible to the blind and disabled in 2006

DATE: December 15, 2003

If your town is currently using paper ballots and counting ballots by hand count of election officials for each election and your town intends to continue to count ballots in this manner, you do not need to read the rest of this memorandum. The following information is for towns that either currently use voting machines, or towns where there may be a vote to start to use voting machines in your town.

As part of our State Plan to implement the requirements of HAVA, the voting systems working group and the Advisory Committee have looked at the different types of machines that are being used throughout Vermont. Our office has also suggested that we can prepare ballots much more efficiently if the towns that use machines to tabulate or count votes all use the same machine. This will also reduce printing costs for ballots for each election.

It was the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that is also concurred in by our office that we use some of the federal funds to purchase voting machines for towns that are using voting machines (or that vote to use a tabulating machine) so that all of the machines used would be the same machine. As of the present time, the largest number of voters in Vermont are in municipalities that use the Accuvote optic scan machines. It was the consensus of the working group, Advisory Committee, and our office that we have surveyed, that the Accuvote machine would be the best machine to use to standardize in Vermont.

Our office has now received approval to enter into a sole source contract with LHS Associates, the distributor of Accuvote machines in New England, to purchase Accuvote optic scan machines for the municipalities that are currently using Optec IIP machines, Optec Eagle machines, or ES & S machines.

It is our intention to allow all Optec III P towns to switch to the Accuvote machine either before March Town Meeting or before the September Primary. If you are interested in switching for the March Town Meeting, you will need to either email Melanie Jacobs at mjacobs@sec.state.vt.us, or me at kdewolfe@sec.state.vt.us or send us a fax at (802)828-5171 on or before December 31, 2004 telling us that you want to switch for town meeting AND that you can attend one of the two training sessions: January _____ at 1 p.m. at _____

Or January at 9:00 am at _____.

It is our plan to deliver Accuvote machines to the municipalities using Optec Eagle or ES&S Model 100 machines, during May and June. Two training sessions will be offered :