



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Minnesota Secretary of State
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Statewide Electronic Roster Usage in the 2014 General Election

Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for the Office of the Secretary of State to prepare this report was approximately \$147. Most of these costs involved staff time in gathering the data and preparing the written report. Incidental costs include paper, copying and other office supplies.

Estimated costs are provided in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 3.197 (2014), requiring the cost for preparing a report to be provided at the beginning of a report to the legislature.

Required Report

This report was prepared in accordance with Minnesota Laws 2014, Chapter 228, Article I § 2, which states:

The secretary of state must evaluate the use of electronic rosters in the 2014 state general election, and submit a report detailing the results of the evaluation to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees in the house of representatives and the senate with primary jurisdiction over elections no later than April 1, 2015.

History of Electronic Rosters in Minnesota

Electronic rosters, also known as “electronic poll books” or “ePollbooks,” are an electronic version of the paper polling place roster. Prior to a 2013 pilot project established by Minnesota Laws 2013, Chapter 131, Article 4, Section 1, the only municipality utilizing electronic roster technology in Minnesota was the City of Minnetonka. Many other states have utilized electronic rosters and report election administration benefits from the electronic rosters both on election day and in the post-election processing of data. In order to evaluate the use and potential benefits of

electronic rosters in Minnesota elections, the 2013 pilot project examined five different types of electronic rosters in five different cities conducting 2013 municipal elections. As reflected in the evaluation of the 2013 pilot project, the experiences of the municipalities using the electronic rosters varied greatly based on the type of electronic roster used.

Following the 2013 electronic roster pilot, the 2014 the legislature authorized the use of electronic rosters throughout the state. See Minnesota Laws 2014, Chapter 228.

Electronic Roster Requirements

In order to be able to use the electronic roster technology in a state or local election, a county, municipality, or school district must first notify the Office of the Secretary of State at least 90 days before the first election in which the county, municipality, or school district intends to use electronic rosters. Minn. Stat. § 201.225, subd. 6 (2014). Once a county, municipality, or school district notifies the Office of the Secretary of State, the notification is valid for all subsequent elections unless revoked by the county, municipality, or school district. *Id.* If precincts within a county, municipality, or school district that were not included in the initial notification intend to use electronic rosters, a new notification must be submitted. *Id.*

In addition to notifying the Office of Secretary of State of intended use 90 days before an election, the county, municipality, or school district that intends to use electronic rosters must certify to the Office of the Secretary of State at least 30 days before the election that the electronic rosters meet all statutory requirements. *Id.*

The 2014 law set minimum technology requirements for electronic rosters, specifically requiring that an electronic roster must:

(1) be able to be loaded with a data file that includes voter registration data in a file format prescribed by the secretary of state;

(2) allow for data to be exported in a file format prescribed by the secretary of state;

(3) allow for data to be entered manually or by scanning a Minnesota driver's license or identification card to locate a voter record or populate a voter registration application that would be printed and signed and dated by the voter. The printed registration application can be either a printed form, labels printed with voter information to be affixed to a preprinted form, or a combination of both;

(4) allow an election judge to update data that was populated from a scanned driver's license or identification card;

(5) cue an election judge to ask for and input data that is not populated from a scanned driver's license or identification card that is otherwise required to be collected from the voter or an election judge;

(6) immediately alert the election judge if the voter has provided information that indicates that the voter is not eligible to vote;

(7) immediately alert the election judge if the electronic roster indicates that a voter has already voted in that precinct, the voter's registration status is challenged, or it appears the voter resides in a different precinct;

(8) provide immediate instructions on how to resolve a particular type of challenge when a voter's record is challenged;

(9) provide for a printed voter signature certificate, containing the voter's name, address of residence, date of birth, voter identification number, the oath required by section 204C.10, and a space for the voter's original signature. The printed voter signature certificate can be either a printed form or a label printed with the voter's information to be affixed to the oath;

(10) contain only preregistered voters within the precinct, and not contain preregistered voter data on voters registered outside of the precinct;

(11) be only networked within the polling location on election day, except for the purpose of updating absentee ballot records;

(12) meet minimum security, reliability, and networking standards established by the Office of the Secretary of State in consultation with MN.IT;

(13) be capable of providing a voter's correct polling place; and

(14) perform any other functions necessary for the efficient and secure administration of the participating election, as determined by the secretary of state.

Electronic rosters used only for election day registration do not need to comply with clauses (1), (8), and (10). Electronic rosters used only for preregistered voter processing do not need to comply with clauses (4) and (5).

Minn. Stat. § 201.225, subd. 2 (2014). As required by the 2014 law, the Office of Secretary of State worked with MN.IT to develop minimum security, reliability, and networking standards for electronic roster usage including management controls, data transmission controls, polling location workstation controls, and vendor location controls.

The legislation also required that all precincts using electronic rosters maintain a paper backup system approved by the Office of Secretary of State. Minn. Stat. § 201.225, subd. 5(b) (2014). The Office of Secretary of State approved the use of either a back-up printed PDF roster or Greeter's List for the back-up paper roster. If no printed PDF roster back up was provided, the Greeter's List must be printed for use as the paper back up. In order to ensure a robust paper back-up system, the Office of Secretary of State prepared a procedural guide, listing the needed back-up supplies for both pre-registered voters and election day registrations, and proposing a procedure to use the Greeter's List in the event that the electronic rosters became inoperable.

Electronic Roster Usage in 2014

Twenty-one municipalities, representing nine counties and fifty precincts submitted a formal notification of intent to use electronic rosters by the 90-day pre-election deadline. Those submitting an intent to use electronic rosters were:

- Blue Earth (2): Mankato P-6 and P-9
- Carver (1): Chanhassen P2B
- Carver (1): Laketown Twp
- Clay (1): Dilworth
- Clay (3) Moorhead P-5b; 6a; 7 and 8
- Crow Wing (1): Lake Edward Twp
- Crow Wing (3) Red Precinct; White Precinct and Blue Precinct
- Dakota (1): Burnsville P-8
- Hennepin (3): Bloomington W-2 P-21; W3 P-29; W-4 P-32
- Hennepin (3): Brooklyn Park 1-R; Central 5; East 4-O
- Hennepin (3): Edina P-8; 14 and 17
- Hennepin (5): Minneapolis W3 P1; W6 P3; W9 P2; W9 P5; W9 P7
- Hennepin (4): Minnetonka W 1F; 2B; 3D and 3F
- Hennepin (2): St. Anthony P-01 and P-02

- McLeod (1): Brownton City
- McLeod (1): Plato City
- McLeod (1): Silver Lake City
- McLeod (1): Winsted City
- McLeod (3 EDR): Hutchinson City (for Election Day Registration)
- Ramsey (4): St. Anthony P-1; St. Paul 1-2; 1-6 and 4-6
- St. Louis (5): Duluth P-5; 12, 16; 22 and 29

As these twenty-one municipalities moved through the testing process, Bloomington gave notice on September 10, 2014 that it no longer intended to use electronic rosters in the 2014 election. Similarly, Clay County and its two participating municipalities gave notice on September 11, 2014, that they no longer intended to use electronic rosters in the 2014 election.

Ultimately, counties submitted certifications for 32 precincts certifying that the electronic rosters met the minimum statutory requirements by the 30-day deadline. Those submitting a certification that the electronic rosters met the minimum statutory requirements were:

- Blue Earth: Mankato P 6 (KnowInk Ipad Air 16 gb)
- Blue Earth: Mankato P 9 (KnowInk Ipad Air 16 gb)
- Carver: Chanhassen P 2B (ESS ExpressPoll)
- Carver: Laketown Twp (ESS ExpressPoll)
- Crow Wing: Lake Edward Twp (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Crow Wing: Red Precinct (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Crow Wing: White Precinct (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Crow Wing: Blue Precinct (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Dakota: Burnsville P8 (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Hennepin/Mpls: Minneapolis W3 P1 (VOTEC Vote-Safe)
- Hennepin/Mpls: Minneapolis W6 P3 (VOTEC Vote-Safe)
- Hennepin/Mpls: Minneapolis W9 P2 (VOTEC Vote-Safe)
- Hennepin/Mpls: Minneapolis W9 P5 (VOTEC Vote-Safe)
- Hennepin/Mpls: Minneapolis W9 P7 (VOTEC Vote-Safe)
- Hennepin/Mtka: Minnetonka W3 PD (VOTEC)
- Hennepin/Mtka: Minnetonka W3 PF (VOTEC)
- Hennepin/Mtka: Minnetonka W 1 PF (KnowInk)
- Hennepin/Mtka: Minnetonka W2 PB (KnowInk)
- McLeod: Brownton City (ESS Lenovo Express Poll)
- McLeod: Plato City (ESS Lenovo Express Poll)
- McLeod: Silver Lake City (ESS Lenovo Express Poll)

- McLeod: Winsted City (ESS Lenovo Express Poll)
- McLeod: Hutchinson City P1 (ESS Lenovo Express Poll)
- McLeod: Hutchinson City P2 (ESS Lenovo Express Poll)
- McLeod: Hutchinson City P3 (ESS Lenovo Express Poll)
- Ramsey/St. Paul: St. Paul W1 P2 (KnowInk Ipad)
- Ramsey/St. Paul: St. Paul W1 P6 (KnowInk Ipad)
- St. Louis/Duluth: Duluth P-5 (ESS ExpressPoll)
- St. Louis/Duluth: Duluth P-12 (ESS ExpressPoll)
- St. Louis/Duluth: Duluth P-16 (ESS ExpressPoll)
- St. Louis/Duluth: Duluth P-22 (ESS ExpressPoll)
- St. Louis/Duluth: Duluth P-29 (ESS ExpressPoll)

Although 32 precincts certified that the electronic rosters met the minimum statutory requirements, between October 6, 2014, and election day the participating counties notified the Office of Secretary of State that they would no longer be using electronic rosters in 20 of the original 32 certified precincts. In the end, electronic rosters were used in only 12 precincts in the 2014 general election.

Those jurisdictions that ultimately used electronic rosters in the precinct polling place were:

- Blue Earth: Mankato P 6 (KnowInk Ipad Air 16 gb)
- Blue Earth: Mankato P 9 (KnowInk Ipad Air 16 gb)
- Crow Wing: Red Precinct (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Crow Wing: White Precinct (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Crow Wing: Blue Precinct (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Dakota: Burnsville P8 (KnowInk Poll Pad)
- Hennepin/Mtka: Minnetonka W 1 PF (KnowInk)
- Hennepin/Mtka: Minnetonka W2 PB (KnowInk)
- Ramsey/St. Paul: St. Paul W1 P2 (KnowInk Ipad)
- Ramsey/St. Paul: St. Paul W1 P6 (KnowInk Ipad)
- St. Louis/Duluth: Duluth P-22 (ESS ExpressPoll) – Preregistered Voters Only
- St. Louis/Duluth: Duluth P-29 (ESS ExpressPoll) – Preregistered Voters Only

Conclusion

Although there was limited usage of electronic rosters in 2014, that is likely because of the short timeframe between the passage of the legislation authorizing the use of electronic rosters and election day. The Office of Secretary of State expects an increase in the use of electronic rosters in 2016, and will supplement this report with additional information on county and municipality intent to use electronic rosters in 2016.