



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Minnesota Secretary of State
Steve Simon

2020 Legislative Report on
VEGA-2 Election Equipment Grant Account Awards

COST OF REPORT PREPARATION

Estimated costs to prepare the report are provided in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197. The total cost for the Office of the Secretary of State to prepare this report was approximately \$2,684.74. These costs are exclusively staff time needed to prepare the written report.

Background

\$2,000,000.00 from the Voting Equipment Grant Account (VEGA-2) was made available for grants to counties and municipalities. The legislature authorized use of these funds to offset up to 50% of the cost of optical scan precinct counters, optical scan central counters, or assisted voting devices; up to 75% of the cost of electronic rosters. See Minn. Laws 2019, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 10, Art. 1, sect. 6

Overview of Election Equipment Grant Account

Because the amount requested was in excess of the \$2,000,000.00, grants were awarded based on a pro-rata rate of .5257 of the amount requested, resulting in \$1,678,095 being awarded initially for optical scan ballot counters and optical scan assistive voting devices and with \$321,904.76 initially being awarded for electronic roster equipment.

Awards Declined

Seven jurisdictions (2 counties and 5 municipalities) declined their awards and, therefore, were not sent any funds. The total amount was \$132,714.85 (\$112,597.46 for optical scan equipment and \$20,117.39 for electronic roster equipment).

Reallocation of VEGA-2 Awards

Nine counties requested to reallocate their grant awards between optical scan equipment and electronic roster equipment. These reallocations resulted in the amount awarded for optical scan equipment being \$1,669,207.81 and the amount awarded for electronic roster equipment was \$330,792.19.

Report of VEGA-2 Grant Expenditures

Of the 65 jurisdictions that received VEGA-2 Grant funds, Expenditure Reports have been received from 62 of them at the time of this report. As of January 15, 2021, \$1,275,821.23 of the VEGA-2 Grant Funds have been spent on optical scan voting equipment, and \$287,605.88 on electronic roster equipment. When all reports have been received and all unused Grant funds have been returned a supplemental report will be provided. This supplemental report will include a summary of the VEGA-1 Grant during 2020 as well.

The quantity and type of equipment purchased was as follows:

Optical Scan Equipment Purchased:

- Democracy Live (MNCCC/SeaChange) – Omni Ballot Dominion – 648
- Dominion – ICE (Combination Assistive Voting Device and Ballot Counter) – 19
- ES&S – DS200 (Ballot Counter – Precinct or Central Count) – 82
- ES&S – DS450 (Ballot Counter – Central Count) – 4
- ES&S – DS850 (Ballot Counter – Central Count) – 1
- Hart InterCivic – Verity Central (Ballot Counter – Central Count) – 3

Electronic Roster Equipment Purchased:

- Know Ink Poll Pads – 415

The attached VEGA-2 Grant Tracking Spreadsheet contains the details for amounts spent and equipment purchased for each of the jurisdictions that were awarded VEGA-2 Grants.

