



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(revised 08/02/10)

## Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 3/29/11  
Agenda Item #: B-3  
Est. Start Time: 11:00 am  
Date Submitted: 3/8/11

**Agenda Title:** **Informational Board Briefing on Elections Office New Technology**

*Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.*

**Requested Meeting Date:** 3/29/11 **Amount of Time Needed:** 20 min  
**Department:** DCS **Division:** Elections  
**Contact(s):** Tim Scott  
**Phone:** 503.988.6858 **Ext.** 86858 **I/O Address:** 414/1/ELECT  
**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** Tim Scott, Elections Manager; Cecilia Johnson, Director of Community Services

## General Information

- 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?**  
Informational Board briefing.
- 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.**

Oregon has approximately \$10,000,000 of federal grant money left from disbursements through the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) over the last 7 years. The philosophy behind holding onto this money was to help sustain the ongoing costs of the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration system (OCVR). However, there is talk of federal sweeps of any unused HAVA money. The current Secretary of State and State Election Director believe that it is time to use this money to help County elections offices improve the administration of elections. One piece of technology that has been helping Vote by Mail jurisdictions in Washington and California is high speed inbound mail sorters. For large jurisdictions this technology can provide increased efficiency in the sorting and signature verification of ballot envelopes. At the beginning of this year State Elections published an invitation to bid in an attempt to acquire 7 mail sorters for Oregon's 7 largest county

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elections offices. A successful bidder was chosen, Bowe Bell and Howell, and we are currently working with them to get the sorter delivered, installed, tested and ready for the May election. HAVA funds are being used for all up front costs (hardware, installation, training, etc) and possibly the first year of the annual licensing and maintenance agreement. The county will then be responsible for covering ongoing licensing and maintenance costs. The only program offer being impacted is Elections.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

If the state is able to cover the first year annual maintenance, Elections will have to begin covering that in Period 11 of FY12, otherwise elections would pay ½ of the first year maintenance costs in FY11 and the other half in FY12. Annual maintenance starts at \$25,800 for the first year going up to \$33,576 for the 6<sup>th</sup> year. Annual maintenance costs will be more than offset by reductions in temporary staff wages. Our initial projections for cost reductions are in the neighborhood of \$45,000/year. Future reductions are likely one we realize the full capability of the sorter.

There are some required building modifications necessary for installation of the machine in FY11 that will be covered by an existing budget surplus. We are still working with facilities to obtain estimates of costs but they should be in the range of \$25,000 - \$60,000.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

We anticipate that the sorter will increase the speed with which we are able to release results on election night. This will have a positive impact on press issues.

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

HAVA is a federal program administered by the State.

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**Required Signature**

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Elected Official or  
Department/  
Agency Director:



Date: 3/8/11

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