



BOBBIE HOLSCLAW
JEFFERSON COUNTY CLERK

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The Office of the Jefferson County Clerk is requesting an increase to the 2021 Capital Budget for voting equipment. We are asking this for 2021 due to the supply demand of the equipment and timing of delivery to ensure that it is received before the 2022 election.

The revenue that we will be using to purchase such equipment will come from the 2021 surplus which is 20% over the budgeted amount. The surge in revenue is due to an increase in recording documents, motor vehicle transactions, along with other fees collected throughout the office.

Most of the need for the equipment purchases comes from the legislative requirement for our agency to conduct three (3) days of excuse-free early voting on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday prior to Election Day. The County Clerk is consulting with the County Board of Elections and recommending that we conduct early voting using regional vote centers where everyone can vote, regardless of where they live, like we did for the 2020 General Election. For Election Day, however, the County Clerk is consulting with the County Board of Elections and recommending that we conduct voting using traditional precinct-specific locations where voters cast ballots at assigned polling locations based on their residential addresses. That approach creates more convenient voting options for our citizens, and several logistical problems for us.

The equipment our office would like to purchase is listed below:

Express Votes and DS200 tabulators – With our current inventory, there is not enough to deploy for early voting and election day voting. A separate inventory of units specifically for early voting will need to be purchased so that we can have enough machines to cover both voting periods. Voting units must remain locked for 30 days after an election.

Electronic Pollbooks – Electronic pollbooks need to be configured differently for early (excuse-free) voting and Election Day (precinct-specific) voting. It is not possible, given the time constraints involved, for our staff to retrieve the units that are deployed for early voting, re-configure them for precinct-specific voting and then re-deploy them to Election Day polling locations. A separate inventory will need to be purchased for both voting periods. Electronic pollbooks will be distributed countywide. At this time, our current inventory doesn't meet our needs. As we learned during the last two elections conducted at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is virtually impossible for us to conduct early voting without the assistance of electronic pollbooks.

Ballot-on-Demand Printing – Because early voting is required, each voting center must be provided a complete set of ballots that include every possible ballot style. For the 2021 Primary Election, for example, there will be over 3,000 ballot styles. There are approximately 600,000 registered voters in Jefferson County. We can greatly mitigate both the cost of pre-printing ballots, and the logistical problems of delivering ballots, by employing ballot-on-demand printing technology. Ballot-on-demand will allow us to print specific ballots as voters check in, eliminating the need for expensive pre-printed ballots.

We ask that you consider this amendment to the budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobbie Holsclaw". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bobbie Holsclaw
Jefferson County Clerk