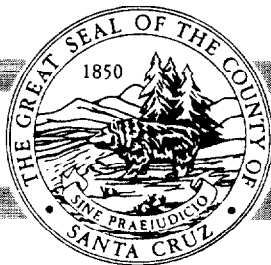


ELECTIONS AND  
REGISTRATIONS

## COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

## GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

RICHARD W. BEDAL  
COUNTY CLERKGAIL L. PELLERIN  
ELECTIONS MANAGER701 OCEAN STREET — ROOM 210  
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-4076

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FAX (408) 454-2445

E-MAIL: [scrufa.RCD110@hw1.cahwnet.gov](mailto:scrufa.RCD110@hw1.cahwnet.gov)

September 17, 1999

## AGENDA: SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## Re: BALLOT COUNTING BACKUP

Dear Members of the Board,

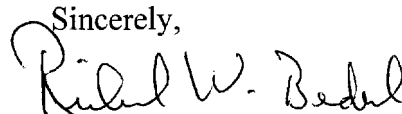
Ballot counting on election night is accomplished on the computer located in the Elections Department. Although it has been very reliable, the department desires a backup system in the event of hardware or software failure. Up until now a backup system was very costly, but our software vendor has recently made available a ballot counting system that can run on a PC. An added benefit is that it is portable and can be used to count ballots offsite, such as in Watsonville for the upcoming special elections being held in South County on November 2. Such a system costs approximately \$2,500. There are adequate funds in Office Supplies to pay for it.

The county purchased the existing ballot counting system in 1989, and it has been very reliable. In the last few years, however, one or two of our four card readers have failed to operate on election night. Luckily, the readers failed later in the evening and the vote tally was only delayed less than an hour. However, with the age of the system, the department has become increasingly concerned that the entire system could fail at the most inopportune time. The ballots could still be counted at a later time when the system was operational (or at Santa Clara County which has a similar system), but the candidates and voters would not take kindly to a delay of several hours or more. It would be more prudent to have an onsite backup.

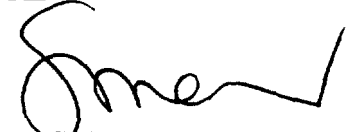
An added benefit to a PC ballot counting system is that it is portable, allowing the department to easily move the ballot counting process when necessary during an emergency. Additionally, ballot counting can become more accessible to voters and other interested parties during smaller, special elections. For instance, during the recent Watsonville City election, the vendor provided the necessary hardware at no charge for counting the ballots in Watsonville. It was well received by the voters in that area as well as the city's officials. If the Board approves this purchase, it is anticipated the ballots for the upcoming election in South County on November 2 will also be counted in Watsonville. Security for the ballot counting PC, wherever it

is being used, will be the same as that for the computer currently maintained in the Elections Department.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the transfer of \$2,500 from Office Supplies to Equipment, and authorize the County Clerk to purchase a PC for ballot counting purposes.

Sincerely,  
  
Richard W. Bedal  
County Clerk-Recorder

RECOMMENDED:

  
SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
County Administrative Officer

**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**  
**REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OR REVISION**  
**OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AND/OR FUNDS**

0033

Department: Elections Department

Date: Sep 16, 1999

TO: Board of Supervisors / County Administrative Officer / District Board

I hereby request your approval of the following transfer of budget appropriations and/or funds in the fiscal year ending June 30, ~~19~~ 2000

AUDITORS USE ONLY			
DOCUMENT #	AMOUNT	L/N	T/C HASH
BD	5000.0002		43

BATCH #	
DATE	

		T/C	INDEX	SUBJECT	PRJ/UCD	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
T R A N S F E R	T O	021	214000	8404		2500.00	<del>Office Supplies</del> Equipment
	F R O M	022	214000	3493		2500.00	Office Supplies

Explanation: Funds needed to purchase a PC for backup of ballot counting

Name Richard W. Bebel Title County Clerk-Recorder

Auditor-Controller's Action: I hereby certify that unencumbered balance(s) is/are available in the appropriations/funds and in the amounts indicated above.

Auditor-Controller, by Linda Chou, Deputy Date 9/16/99

County Administrative Officer's Not Recommended to Board Approved r o v e d

County Administrative Officer Date [Signature]

State of California } ss. As the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, I do hereby certify that the foregoing request for  
County of Santa Cruz } transfer was approved by said Board of Supervisors as recommended by the County Administrative Officer by an order  
duly entered in the minutes of said Board on

\_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy Clerk

Distribution:  
White-Board of Supervisors  
Yellow-Auditor-Controller

Green-County Administrative Officer  
Pink-Originating Department

Goldenrod-Departmental Control Copy