

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**SECRETARY of STATE JAEGER ANNOUNCES SIGNING OF  
\$5.3 MILLION STATEWIDE VOTING SYSTEM CONTRACT**

Bismarck, N.D. – Secretary of State Al Jaeger has announced that he has signed a contract, valued at \$5.3 million, for a new statewide voting system. The voting system, supplied by Election Systems and Software (ES&S), will meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) as it was passed by congress and signed by the President in October of 2002.

According to the State Plan for HAVA compliance submitted to the federal government in August of 2003, North Dakota will use a “phased-in” approach to implement the new voting system.

The first phase will be fully implemented in two pilot counties, Williams and Grand Forks, in time for the June 8th election. It will consist of an optical scan device and a touch-screen device. Williams County had been using punch-card voting devices, which are not allowed under HAVA.

Another phase in 2004 may involve approximately 19 other counties which have expressed interest in using the optical scan device, representing almost half of the state’s polling locations. All of the state’s counties have been invited to a meeting in Bismarck on Tuesday, January 13, to obtain more information about this option and to meet with representatives of ES&S.

In the final phase, all counties will be full compliance by January 1, 2006, as required by HAVA.

A diverse twenty-member committee appointed by Jaeger in September of last year developed the state’s requirements for the new system. A seven-member evaluation committee then analyzed the proposals submitted by vendors on December 1st. It was determined ES&S had submitted the best proposal and a contract was finalized on January 8th.

According to Jaeger, “The state is indebted to the selfless dedication of the county election officials, advocates for the disabilities community, and other interested citizens who have worked many hours to improve efficiency and equality of voting opportunities. Their efforts will ensure that the effectiveness and the integrity of elections in North Dakota will be maintained.”

“We look forward to helping North Dakota transition to the latest in voting technology,” said ES&S President and CEO Aldo Tesi. “The equipment available today has never been more secure, reliable, and accurate – or easier for voters to use.”

Congress has appropriated funds to cover 95% of the cost of the system. The remaining 5% of the cost will be split evenly between the state and the county.

Jaeger added, “This is a major event for North Dakota and the state is leading the way for other states in complying with HAVA. Our progress is unparalleled and due mostly to the solid relationship between the state and counties, a bond that is largely unique to North Dakota.”

Information about North Dakota’s HAVA plan and its implementation is available on a special website at [www.discovernd.com/hava](http://www.discovernd.com/hava).

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### **About Election Systems & Software (ES&S)**

Election Systems & Software, Inc. (ES&S), based out of Omaha, NE, is the world's largest and most experienced provider of total election management solutions. For over 25 years, ES&S – as an election-only company and the industry leader – has grown to support a customer base of more than 2,100 jurisdictions in the United States.

Based on the primary voting tabulation systems they have installed, ES&S customers represent approximately 50 percent of the precincts and registered voters in the nation. ES&S voting systems have counted approximately 56 percent of the U.S. national vote in each of the last four presidential and congressional elections, amounting to more than 100 million ballots cast in each election.

Currently, 45 of the North Dakota's 53 counties use ES&S election equipment.

For more information on ES&S election solutions, visit their website at [www.essvote.com](http://www.essvote.com) or call (800) 247-8683.

### **About the iVotronic™ Touch Screen Voting System**

More than 28,400 iVotronic™ Touch Screen Voting System units are used across the country. The patented ES&S iVotronic, which weighs only 14 pounds and has a 15-inch screen, is secure, portable, and multilingual.

Its Audio Ballot feature easily supports voters who are visually impaired, and its portability enables curbside and wheelchair access voting. To ensure voter intent and ballot correctness, the iVotronic prevents the voter from over-voting and alerts the voter of under-voted races.

To achieve these results, the ES&S iVotronic Touch Screen Voting System uses a unique, patented Personal Electronic Ballot (PEB) activator cartridge. This patented, closed, election-specific system is not commercially available.

The iVotronic voting units are multi-password protected, and they are not networked. In addition, ES&S's proprietary application protocols and secure, redundant memory devices make the company's voting solutions significantly less susceptible to external penetration.

For more information on the iVotronic™, visit [www.essvote.com/pdf/iv051603.pdf](http://www.essvote.com/pdf/iv051603.pdf).

### **About the Model 100 Ballot Counter**

The ES&S Model 100 is a precinct-based, voter-activated paper ballot counter and vote tabulator. Utilizing advanced Intelligent Mark Recognition (IMR) visible light scanning technology, the Model 100 Precinct Ballot Counter is a proven mainstay for jurisdictions worldwide utilizing precinct level voting and tabulation.

The Model 100 has been fully tested by an independent testing authority, certified to meet or exceed the rigorous standards of the U.S. Federal Election Commission, and proven through the use in thousands of actual elections worldwide. More than 21,200 Model 100 units are accurately and reliably supporting elections throughout the world today.

For more information on the Model 100 Ballot Counter, visit [www.essvote.com/pdf/m1000516.pdf](http://www.essvote.com/pdf/m1000516.pdf).