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NEWS RELEASE

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UTAH RELEASES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR STATEWIDE VOTING SYSTEM

Today, the Voting Equipment Selection Committee issued a request for proposal (RFP) for a statewide voting solution to replace Utah's current punch card systems.

The RFP includes detailed requirements for security and accuracy, accessibility for voters with disabilities, reliability and privacy without limiting proposals to one type of voting system.

"Members of the Voting Equipment Selection Committee have worked diligently to develop an RFP that addresses both the needs of Utah voters and the requirements of federal and state law," said Lt. Gov. Gayle McKeachnie. "By leaving the door open for numerous systems including optical scan and electronic voting equipment, I am confident the state will select a system that Utahns will feel comfortable using."

Among numerous issues addressed in the RFP, security and accuracy are the top priority. All vendors interested in submitting a bid will be required to allow an independent security analysis of their voting solution.

"The Voting Equipment Selection Committee has been very deliberative in drafting this RFP," said committee chair and state Chief Information Officer Val Oveson. "We have been very collaborative in addressing all issues related to the purchase of a new statewide voting solution and are excited to see the RFP's timely release."

The deadline for vendors to submit a bid to the state of Utah is Aug. 10, 2004. A final decision regarding a purchase contract will not be made until the end of 2004. The Voting Equipment Selection Committee will host both equipment demonstrations and a public hearing before making any decisions regarding the final selection of a voting solution.

An executive summary of the RFP follows. For more information or a copy of the RFP, please visit www.purchasing.utah.gov or contact the State Purchasing Office at (801)538-3026.

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