



BOONE COUNTY *Kentucky*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COUNTY SEEKS GRANT FOR NEW VOTING MACHINES

BOONE COUNTY, KY — The Fiscal Court decided Feb. 17 to apply for a grant to obtain 63 new eScan machines, a form of voting machine that has a paper ballot backup - something Secretary of State Trey Grayson has encouraged counties to consider when they adopt voting system.

The State Board of Elections has provided HAVA funds to help counties transition to the technology. Boone County will receive approximately \$4,500 per precinct to purchase new voting equipment which will cover a majority of the costs of the machines. The county would pay about \$15,000 in shipping and other costs, while the bulk of the \$270,000 cost would come from the HAVA grant.

“This new equipment is user-friendly and provides voters with a very important tool in today’s elections—a voter verified paper record,” said Secretary of State Trey Grayson. “I applaud the County Clerk and Fiscal Court in Boone County for taking the lead and moving to these systems.”

The equipment, called eScans, is a precinct-based voting system that digitally captures voter selections on printed ballots and integrates vote totals from absentee-by-mail and electronic voting systems to produce a single set of election reports. The new systems should help reduce the time for unofficial vote totals to be tabulated on election night.

Voters will recognize the ballot casting procedure as similar to standardized tests where citizens fill in an oval to mark their selection. With the digital scan technology, the system reads the ballot, tabulates the results, and preserves a digital image of the ballot. Multiple voters will be able to mark ballots at one time, reducing lines at the polls. With eScan, voters know instantly if their ballot was accepted or rejected and have the opportunity to change or correct their ballot before it is cast and counted.

It would be less costly to prepare for each election, County Administrator Jeff Earlywine said, and the machine would have unlimited capacity to handle growing precincts and that they would also take up half the storage space of the old machines.

Judge-Executive Gary Moore said, “These systems should reduce wait times at the polls, provide quicker results, and bring even greater accountability to our election process.”

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If you would like more information about this topic please contact Blair G. Schroeder, Boone County Public Information Officer, at (859) 334-2282 or email him at BSchroeder@BooneCountyKY.org.