Election
Signature
Retrieval
Systems



# Election Signature Retrieval Systems

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## Introduction by the Clearinghouse

This report is the third in our series on Innovations in Election Administration being published by the FEC's National Clearinghouse on Election Administration.

The purpose of this series is to acquaint State and local election officials with innovative election procedures and technologies that have been successfully implemented by their colleagues around the country.

Our reports on these innovations do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the Federal Election Commission either of the procedures described or of the vendors or suppliers that might be listed within the report. Moreover, the views and opinions expressed in these reports are those of the author and are not necessarily shared by the Federal Election Commission or any division thereof.

We welcome you comments on these reports as well as any suggestions you may have for additional topics. You may mail these to us at:

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or else call us

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## Election Signature Retrieval Systems

Productivity, the word so often heard in management in the '80s continues with us into the '90s. With shrinking budgets managers are constantly asked to do more with less. Many computer systems have delivered less than promised in the areas of reducing labor costs and processing times. With Signature Retrieval Systems promises seem to be fulfilled in the experiences of the majority of election jurisdictions nationwide that have chosen to install these systems.

The labor intensive, time consuming task of checking the validity of voter's signatures on petitions, candidate nominations, absent voters and mail ballot elections has become a very significant problem for elections administrators. As the popularity of voting by mail and the initiative process continues to grow the workload also has risen.

The increased workload has caused many jurisdictions to choose computers to aid in the verification of signatures. Leading the way were Pinellas, Orange and Dade Counties in Florida. These systems provide an image of the voter's signature on a computer monitor screen that is manually compared to a voter's signature on another document, eliminating the need to search through paper files or microfilm. Many agencies have found that without these systems they would not be able to meet the legal deadlines for verifying signatures because of the volume of work.

Some jurisdictions have reported a 300% improvement in productivity. Palm Beach County,

Florida states that one person can check 1,200 signatures per day with their automated signature retrieval system (SRS). Under their manual process one person could check only 400 signatures per day. Manpower hours in this jurisdiction have been reduced overall by one third. Most agencies surveyed, like Monterey County in California, report significant savings in their absent voter and petition checking process with these systems.

Generally, the signature retrieval systems operate as follows. After a voter registration document is checked to make sure it is completed properly, the document is scanned, with a document scanner or video camera. Scanning, also called digitizing, is taking an electronic copy of a document or signature by converting it to a series of dots.

To associate the signature with the voter record, usually, it is necessary for the operator to enter data from the document before scanning. In other systems the operator enters data, on the same screen on which the image is displayed, as is true with the Los Angeles County, California system.

At time of scanning, the system allows the operator to examine and adjust the image before causing it to be stored on magnetic or optical disk. Several systems store the document on optical disk and the signature on magnetic disk. Doing this improves responses times for retrieving signatures that are required much more frequently,

than is the whole image of the document. Response time is the amount of time the computer requires to retrieve the requested information and display it on the screen.

Those jurisdictions that store the image on optical disk, do so to have a duplicate of their paper document and, in some cases, to eliminate microfilm. Some jurisdictions make a backup of the optical disk platter. The backup platter is stored in an off-site location, much as they do with backups of the magnetic data files. This can provide them with a means to recover should their facility be destroyed by fire or other disaster.

Once stored, the document or image can be retrieved and displayed on a computer screen. A person can use the displayed signature image to validate a signature on another document.

While most of the systems are used for petitions and absent voter processing, Sarasota County, Florida has extended the use of their hardware and software investment. They have implemented a separate system for tracking Loyalty Oaths, Appointments of Treasurer information and Treasurers reports for Candidates and PAC's using their signature retrieval equipment.

The more sophisticated systems allow signature retrieval with the data entry functions for tasks such as checking petitions and returned absent voter ballots. In these cases, the operator can immediately update the petition or absent voter data base with the results of the signature check. With some systems, one checks the signature, makes a notation and then later enters the results of the check to the appropriate data base.

Signature retrieval system hardware can include the following: personal computer with monitor(screen), keyboard, mouse(pointer device), floppy disk and hard disk; backup tape unit; optical disk unit; document scanner or video camera; and a laser printer.

#### Purpose and Approach of Report

The purpose of this report is to help state and local election administrators, especially those jurisdictions without data processing staff, by providing a review and benefits assessment of the current state of signature digitization technology.

Agencies already using signature retrieval technology were surveyed and have willingly provided input to this article. We have consolidated and reported their experiences with these systems. This article shares their best ideas and cautions to those who come behind them.

It is important to clarify that this report is not evaluating or comparing systems currently offered in the marketplace. No endorsements of vendors or their systems are made or intended. Vendors providing these systems were usually a good source of information and referral.

Besides identifying agencies where the technology is currently being used, the report explains background, history, technology, benefits, costs and problems associated with signature retrieval systems in elections.

We contacted all the states and the territories to ask for referrals to jurisdictions where these systems were currently in use. Two questionnaires were prepared. One was sent to the fifty Secretaries of State to ask them to identify jurisdictions where the systems are in use in their state. We received replies from thirty five states.

When specific referrals were received from the state office, we sent a detailed thirteen page questionnaire to the local agency asking about their system and experiences associated with installation. Fifty agencies in ten states were sent the longer questionnaire. Twenty-two were returned by local jurisdictions from the states of Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, New York, Oregon and Washington. Several sites, in Florida and California, were visited where these systems are working in production.

The information received was summarized to provide the information needed for this article. It

makes recommendations about what to look for should you be considering installation of a signature retrieval system, in your jurisdiction.

#### **Definitions**

The following definitions intend to clarify usage of terms used in this report.

**Signature Digitization** - is the function of scanning a signature or document to encode the image of a signature in a computer. The captured image is much like the image on a television screen. The image is stored on magnetic media, such as disks or tape, or on an optical storage device.

**Signature Retrieval** - this term, as used, includes digitizing, retrieving and displaying a document or signature on a screen or report.

**Signature Verification** - the process where a person compares a signature on a screen to a signature on another document.

Automated Signature Verification - the process where a computer compares a signature on one document to another signature on a data base. Currently installed signature retrieval systems cited in this article do not have this capability. In the opinion of the authors, we believe that it will be at least a decade before these systems are economically feasible.

The reason for the delay is two-fold: one, we don't write our signature the same way each time we sign our name. This requires the computer to match things that are not the same. Second, making the comparison at speeds comparable to those being achieved with existing systems. This type of matching will require much faster computers with artificial intelligence.

Image Compression and Expansion - Images are a form of computer graphics representing the data in dots or pixels (picture elements). With the data scanned and displayed, measured in dots-per-inch, much of the image consists of "white space." Most image scanning and retriev-

ing systems use image compression to reduce the amount of magnetic or optical disk space required to store the image. Image compression also reduces the amount of data that must be transmitted from storage to be displayed thus improving response time for displaying an image.

A simple explanation of compression and expansion is as follows. With compression, a blank line on a screen requiring eighty characters can be reduced to a few characters of a formula. Compression of an image occurs before storing it on a storage device.

Expansion happens after an image is read from storage and before the image is displayed on a screen or printed. It uses the mathematical formula to put the "white space" back in the blank line.

In most systems, compression is done with software, although some use special computer hardware boards that are usually faster and can provide greater compression of the image.

#### **Background and Beginnings**

#### The Technology

Signature retrieval systems go back to the earliest days of microfilm, which is an application of Document Image Management (DIM). Microfilm, beginning in the early 1970s', as a computer driven technology, was first used to address the needs of paper look-up tasks.

Signature retrieval systems use what is known in the computer industry as Document Image Processing (DIP). The DIP technology became possible in the 1920s' with the transmission of pictures over trans-atlantic cable. Practical applications came during the 1960s' space program.

Phillips, a Dutch company, invented the optical disk in 1969. The optical disk is used for storing the image of a document. The first Signature Retrieval System in a business application occurred in the early 1970s', in Sweden. When IBM's World Trade Corporation installed a sys-

tem used to verify checking account signatures for a banking system.

Signature retrieval technology became economically feasible with the arrival of personal computers, in the early 1980s'. These systems combined personal computers with optical disks, document scanners and laser printers. This is the base technology for signature retrieval systems.

Online access was allowed to documents stored on an optical or magnetic disk to be retrieved via a computer terminal through its data base index. The laser printers provided excellent hard copy reproduction of the digitized data.

Automated signature verification will use Document Image Analysis (DIA). DIA includes extraction of lines and curves in images, classification of objects using boundary information, texture analysis and analysis of images for estimating the motion of objects. These are the processes a computer will need to use to compare one signature to another. For more information on these technologies, periodicals such as "OPTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS," can be very informative.

#### Development begins in Florida

Development and implementation of Signature Retrieval Systems for use in elections began, in Pinellas County, Florida, in 1986. Our survey shows that many counties in Florida have since installed these systems. Pinellas, Dade and Orange Counties have been the innovators and trailblazers in using these systems.

Petition signature checking requirements have been the impetus in many election agencies to install signature verification systems. Recent experiences with right-to-die petitions in the State of Washington suggest that legal deadlines could not have been met without such a system in place.

#### Majority of Systems are PC Based

Most of the systems seen by the authors have been Personal Computer (PC) based, although main frame and mini-computers may be used. The scanning or digitizing of documents and/or the signatures, is done on a PC. Most systems display signatures or documents on a PC. Although, some systems use main frame and minicomputer terminals for displaying the information. Main frames and mini's are used primarily for storing the data, while compression and expansion of data usually occur on the PC.

## Acceptance of Electronically Reproduced Images by the Courts

Generally, information from agencies returning the questionnaire has shown acceptability of electronically reproduced images have, yet, to be tested in the courts, in some states.

The State of Florida has passed enabling legislation that generally reads, "an electronically generated reproduction of an original voter registration . . . which reduction is certified by the supervisor of elections who is custodian of the record, is admissible as evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding . . . with the same effect as the original voter registration record" (Witnesses, Records and Documents section 92.295).

Florida also allows destruction of the original master record cards, after microfilming, if they have been maintained digitally on electronic, magnetic or optic media. (Registration Office, Officers and Procedures section 98.412)

Other agencies, like San Diego County, California, Registrar of Voters have found that the California Government Code allows destruction of the uncancelled affidavits, after microfilming, while the Elections Code does not permit this. Their solution is that they have proposed legislation that will eliminate the difference between the two governing codes.

In informal discussions with Federal Election Commission National Clearinghouse and United States Department of Justice staff it was stated by the Justice Department staff that the original voter documents should be kept for at least twentytwo months after a person last voted, as required with ballots and other election materials.

Some jurisdictions, with whom we have communicated, have a problem with the retention of canceled affidavits. They have indicated they do not plan to remove them from their paper files because it is too costly. If the documents are not removed, they will eventually become a problem to someone.

Many jurisdictions have shown they have savings, in filing of the original documents, by filing them in the order received. This eliminates the need for sorting and filing of documents. Agencies place them at the end of the file.

#### Description of Signature Retrieval Systems

The systems that are available range from signature retrieval system software only, for scanning and retrieving a document (you buy your own hardware), to complete election systems with hardware. Costs vary from a few thousand to a few million dollars. Specific costs reported by the agencies in the survey can be found in the appendix. The following is a brief description of some variations that are available.

Signature retrieval systems, that use optical disk and digitize the whole document, can be used to replace microfilm. Some advantages of optical disk are that it does not require developing and the images are available immediately. Optical disk also may be more environmentally friendly because of the elimination of the developing chemicals and process.

#### **Turn Key System**

Turn key systems are those that can provide both voter registration and signature retrieval module, in one package. Frequently, these systems also provide modules for absent voters, petitions, polling places, polling place workers, precincts or election districts, and candidate filing. These modules may all be included in one package or each can be purchased as a separate option to "customize" the system as needed by the jurisdiction.

#### **Interfacing System**

These systems usually provide signature retrieval only and are intended to interface with an existing voter registration system. These may require separate screens for displaying the voter data and signature. Again, depending on how the interface is accomplished it may appear to be a "seamless" system.

#### Software only

Some vendors are supplying software only, which has to be installed on the acquiring jurisdiction's computer hardware. This can be an option if the jurisdiction has computer hardware or if the jurisdiction can buy the hardware at a lower price by receiving government discounts. If you decide to have new software written to fit your specific needs or if you are the first customer for new vendor software be aware as Collier County, Florida experienced that "little" things will come up and must be corrected by the vendor or programmer before the system is considered fully operational.

#### **Equipment Required**

The equipment or hardware varies widely from one signature retrieval system to another. Numerous computer and computer peripheral manufacturers are represented by the systems.

Computers - There are many different manufacturer's computers used. It is important that you buy a computer with enough memory to service the needs of your agency. Not enough memory or fast enough processing capabilities will result in slow retrieval times for signatures to be displayed on the computer screen. This results in staff waiting for the computer to provide the requested signature. Time is wasted resulting in lowered productivity and poor focus on the task. Ask the vendor to recommend hardware if you are buying software only. Consider requesting that equipment compatible to other

office computers you already have installed be provided. Be sure that your workload is clearly stated so the vendor can recommend the right equipment for your site.

Scanners or Video Cameras - This equipment is used to "scan" or digitize the document orsignature. The scanner or camera converts the document to an electronic image that can be stored on magnetic or optical media. More scanners may be required, on a rent or lease basis, for conversion as was the case in Fulton County, Georgia and Amador County, California.

Again, there are a large variety of manufacturer's and equipment. The scanners can vary from automatically fed flat-bed scanners, that can scan large documents at rates of one a second, to a hand held scanner that is used to scan a signature only. Its speed is dependent upon the manual dexterity of the operator.

Video camera scanning, while used, is the exception rather than the rule. The quality of the video image is comparable to that of scanners, but none have been seen that provide for automatic feeding of documents.

**Mouse** - Most of the systems have a mouse device that is used to identify the area to be scanned, if not an automated function. The mouse is also used to crop the signature image. The mouse can be used like an eraser to eliminate extraneous printing, near the signature, that may have been digitized into the image.

Monitors - High resolution graphics monitors give the best image display, providing the digitizing was done at a good resolution. Three hundred dots per inch is considered very adequate. Higher resolutions require more space and time to transmit. Color display terminals also can be easier for the operator to use by being able to highlight several conditions using different colors.

*Optical Disks* - The optical disks used are WORM (Write Once Read Many) type platters. The archival quality of the platters has not yet been proven,

because of the time they have been available on the market, but it is expected to be comparable to microfilm. The optical disk, like the magnetic disk is easily duplicated for backup and retention purposes. Consider offsite, storage of a duplicate backup optical disk.

There are two primary sizes of optical disk platters, 12 inch and 5.25 diameters. The hardware for optical disks ranges from a small desk top unit holding one 5.25 platter; to a very large floor unit holding over fifty twelve-inch platters. The large units automatically retrieve platters, much like the old jukeboxes selected records.

While optical disks need to be handled with care, they are less vulnerable to handling than magnetic disks. The laser light used to write and read the data has a focal point just below the surface of the platter. Maricopa County, Arizona utilizes a large "Jukebox" like optical disk system that is also used for other departmental functions.

Magnetic Disks - Here we are addressing magnetic disks, usually, used with personal computers. All of the signature retrieval systems we encountered use non-removable hard disks to store voter data and signature images, storing the image on magnetic disk. The amount of data that can be stored on a hard disk is dependent on the size of the hard disk. At this time, the sizes range from a small, obsolete, 10 megabyte (MB or million bytes) drive to drives that will hold a gigabyte (1 billion bytes) of data. The flexible or "floppy," removable, diskette is frequently used as backup or for temporary storage of images until they are edited and written to the hard disk.

**Printers** - Laser printers will provide the best reproduction of images. This type of printer is highly recommended for this application.

**Backup Tape Units** - These units are good for backing up large data files. A word of caution regarding these backup tape units. There is no standard for writing the data to the tape, so a tape created on one manufacturer's machine is un-

likely of being read on a different manufacturer's machine. If your agency already has backup tape hardware for other systems, you may need to require the same type of unit, for compatibility.

Election's staff in Pima County, Arizona caution that you ensure adequate vendor software, and in some cases hardware support is available in your area from your selected supplier.

#### Materials required

The materials required for a signature retrieval system are the same as those for any computer system. Depending on the hardware, you will need paper, magnetic diskettes, magnetic tape cartridges, optical disk platters, printer ribbons and toner cartridges.

#### **Furniture**

Often overlooked in the acquisition of new equipment, is the need for furniture such as desks, work stations and tables on which to mount the equipment. Desks or work stations for data entry should have a height of approximately twenty-seven inches. There are devices that will allow you to adjust the height of the keyboard that can be placed on or mounted below a regular desk or table. You may have to experiment with locating the equipment, but a L-shaped pattern often works well. Chairs should be comfortable and easily adjusted as are the pneumatically controlled chairs.

Be aware of lighting, a window behind an operator can cause uncomfortable glare on a monitor screen, as can overhead lights. There are hoods and anti-glare screens that can be useful in reducing these problems.

#### **Voter Registration Document**

Many agencies have discovered that their old voter registration format presented ongoing problems for the signature retrieval system. Described below are some problems previously encountered and their resolution.

#### **Document Format**

Some agencies have redesigned their voter registration document using white paper with sharp black printing, to provide the greatest contrast for scanning. This accommodation to the computer system results in a pay back to the agency in a clear easily read image on the monitor screen, when comparison is required.

The reasons for the redesign are multiple, often old documents are in poor condition or have many different formats. Erie County in New York State found that double backing on the original registration forms resulted in scanner misfeeds.

Consistency in format of the document is also beneficial, especially if the signature is digitized and stored separately, from the document. When the whole document is going to be digitized and stored, minimizing printing and lines on the document will reduce the amount of storage space required for the "electronic" image.

When there are large blocks of printed information, such as instructions, on the voter registration form, it is possible with an electronic image to store the instructions, once only. Then you do not have to store it with every document on which it appears.

#### Signature Block

The signature block can be crucial. Ideally, the block should be one inch in height by at least three inches in length. Use a very light, horizontal line, about 1/2 inch shorter than the block width, centered in the block, on which the voter's signature is to be written. This will allow digitizing the signature without picking up other printed material near the signature block. This provides a cleaner image requiring less disk storage space. Pasco County, Florida found during conversion that they had the following signature problems:

tha	at they had the following signature problems:
	Signatures  requiring  more  space  than  allowed.
	Some signatures were too light.
	Sometimes there were no signatures.

Their solution was to send out "signature cards" to the electorate to obtain a signature acceptable for the project. Hillsborough County, Florida suggests collecting signatures at Presidential Elections using purpose designed precinct registers (white with no extraneous material encroaching on signature) and good black ink pens.

#### **Motor Voter**

Motor Voter, the registering of voters on a driver's license application has been adopted in some states and is likely to be adopted in more. The format of the motor voter document can affect signature retrieval systems. For instance, the size and color of the document, or the size and location of the signature block may require, additional steps to separate the documents, before scanning. Equipment may have to be adjusted for each different document to allow for changes in color or location of the signature.

Elections administrators should be allowed to provide input for any proposed document changes to accommodate Motor Voter registration. An advantage of this program, according to officials in Clackamas County, Oregon is that the registration crunch before elections will be alleviated.

#### **Uses In Elections**

#### **Petition Signatures**

The primary use of signature retrieval systems are to check petition signatures to decide that the person signing a given petition is the same person who registered to vote. Prior to obtaining their system, Lee County, Florida had to "Alphabetize petitions and then pull each individual voter record to verify each signature. With this process 100 signatures were verified per hour. With digitization, 100 signatures can be verified in 20 minutes or approximately 220 signatures per hour."

The computer can keep track of the number of valid signatures processed and to determine whether the signer meets residency requirements

for the petition. Also whether the candidate, initiative, referendum of recall measure qualifies for the ballot.

#### **Absent Voter Signatures**

Comparison checks for validating absent voter applications or returned ballots. Mail ballot elections are more efficiently conducted with computerized signature retrieval.

#### **Nomination Signatures**

Candidate nominating papers are checked against the registration signatures.

#### **Polling Place Signatures**

Erie, Monroe and Niagara Counties, in New York, provide a roster with facsimile signatures printed next to the voters names for the polling places. When the voter votes on election day, it is then a simple process for the polling place workers to compare the voter's signature to the printed facsimile.

#### **Agencies Using Systems**

During preparation of this paper we visited working installations of these systems in Pinellas and Dade Counties in Florida; and Los Angeles, San Diego and Placer Counties in California. Pinellas County was the first election agency to install an operational system. The pioneering efforts started in 1986, by Pinellas County was closely followed by Orange and Dade counties in Florida.

Twenty-three states have told us they either have none or are not aware of any signature systems in use, in their state. We were informed that Iowa, does not require signature comparison for any aspect of their voting process.

Since 1986, many jurisdictions have installed these systems across the United States. Many other Florida Counties have systems as well as jurisdictions in the States of Arizona, California, Georgia, Indiana, Nevada, New York, Oregon and Washington. Most of the systems in use have been developed or acquired at the local level. Sometimes state officials are unaware of their existence.

#### **Experience**

Once the system is installed, all existing active voter registration documents must be scanned either wholly or in part to form the basis of the information that will be recalled during the signature checking process. Some systems have scanners that feed the document through the scanner station. Others have hand held scanners requiring a person to pass the scanner mechanism over the signature area of the voter document.

Many agencies have encountered a variety of difficulties at this stage. Over the years, formats of voter registration documents have changed the location of the signature on the document. Paper color can cause degradation of the scanned image, background color is picked up by the scanner. The digitizing of background causes more disk space to be used, than required for the signature only.

Additionally, over time the actual signature may have faded. This difficulty has been overcome by techniques such as photocopying the original document and enhancing the images on white paper before the signature or document is scanned into the system.

Fatigue of workers scanning the documents is another factor that must be considered when planning the document conversion. Fatigue results in errors on the file that will cause problems later. Based on recommendations, we suggest that workers be given a five minute rest break every hour. This is beyond their regular morning and afternoon breaks and lunch. This leaves about 6.5 productive hours in a normal eight hour work day for conversion. Placer County, California managers insisted that their staff take hourly breaks due to the repetitive nature of the conversion work in order to eliminate errors on the file. The conversion process of the initial scanning of

existing documents is mentioned, most frequently, as the main problem area for installing signature retrieval systems.

Brevard County, Florida found that the capture process was difficult on the employees because of the repetition. Their solution was to schedule each employee for a limited time on the conversion task. They could spend more time but it was not mandatory.

Whenever possible, ensure that all necessary equipment is purchased and delivered according to your schedule. Niagara County, New York's conversion process was slowed by the delay in purchase of their in-house scanning equipment.

Misplaced, lost or unscannable documents have frequently been cited as problems, in document conversion. At least one jurisdiction sent new registration forms to electors to fill out, to complete the installation of their system. (Clackamas County, Oregon)

One county suggested having a detailed plan for the conversion effort and to check 100% of the images to make sure they have been identified with the correct voter. (San Diego County, California)

A couple of counties said they had documents with signatures that were too large or light to be digitized. One county reduced the large signatures on a copy machine before scanning. Darkening of light signatures was achieved using a copy machine. (Dade and Pasco Counties, Florida)

Another jurisdiction said the blue paper used for their voter registration document was picked up as background during the scanning. Other printing on the document was digitized with the signature. This problem could only be solved with a new form. (Pinellas County, Florida)

Mojave County in Arizona suggested that you make sure the system you select is compatible with your existing software and hardware.

Be prepared to expend effort and time to backup data and signatures on a regular basis. Backup

will probably have to be done outside normal business hours. (Fulton County, Georgia )

We have also learned some jurisdictions are considering updating the signatures from polling place rosters. (Hillsborough County, Florida)

#### **Benefits**

Signature retrieval systems save money and time. When large petitions with thousands or hundreds of thousands of signatures for a statewide petition are required to be processed, these systems can enable an agency to do this within the legal deadlines required by the state.

Signature retrieval systems are one of the most productive automated systems an election's administrator can install. Productivity improvements of 400% are reported, in checking petition signatures. Thurston County, Washington reports that they were able to reduce staff from four regularly assigned employees to a person working on the task three quarters of their time. Manhour savings resulted in 1440 hours per year.

What follows is a list of areas within your agency where the installation of a signature retrieval system can benefit the management and administration of the agency:

- Document or signature retrieval and processing speeds were reported which indicated improvements of two to four times over manual processes.
- Signatures are more accessible to staff when needed.
- Accuracy of updating the correct record when changes occur is enhanced.
- Space for record storage in ledgers or filing equipment is reduced. This frees up expensive office space for other uses. If paper retention is required, by law in your area, records can be stored in warehouse type facilities.
- Speed of processing during election peaks is improved.

- More ability to meet legal deadlines as the workload increases. In San Diego County, California, prior to system installation AV's took 1.1 minutes each to process. After installation .35 minutes was required for each document. Similarly, petitions went from 3.2 minutes down to 2.2 minutes.
- Transportation costs, packaging and processing of sending poll ledgers out to precincts can be eliminated by producing a laser printed signature on the precinct register. Monroe County, New York, with 350,000 registered voters, was relieved of pulling poll ledgers, packing and sending them out in hundreds of carrying cases to the polls. Delivery costs, telephone line and operator costs and key punching costs were eliminated. This resulted in savings equalling \$50,000 per year.
- Computerized systems with terminals are easier to work with than heavy ledgers. Frequently with old paper files there are problems with dust, paper fleas, poor lighting all contributing to decreased staff efficiency and possible errors.
- Copies of computer files or optical disks can be made and stored offsite, providing better backup for the agencies records in case of fire or other disaster.

Based on our on-site interviews and questionnaires all jurisdictions have shown significant savings achieved by installing these systems. Some have reported labor savings that have the systems paying for themselves in one to three major elections.

#### Costs

Costs can range from about \$5,000 for software alone to several million dollars for hardware, software and conversion of documents for a very large jurisdiction. Most vendors sell packages including hardware and software. They offer assistance with training, implementation and file conversion from paper or microfilm to the

computer. Allow for a certain amount of your time and that of key staff going into the selection, contract negotiation and installation of this equipment.

If you are wondering if your jurisdiction is large enough to justify the expense of this type of system, consider Amador County, California. Located in the foothills of the Sierras they have 17,000 voters and are in the process of converting to a signature retrieval system. They feel that already the system is extremely helpful. They have experienced what many others have regarding conversion problems and warn that you budget adequately, for staff for this effort.

Plan for additional costs, for the conversion effort, because it may be necessary to bring in more workers and to work regular staff overtime. You also may use more supplies at this time than in normal production.

The following chart details some of the costs experienced by some of the jurisdictions responding to the survey. Keep in mind that some agencies implemented more extensive systems than others, as a result costs varied widely. The information is offered so that you may "ballpark" your potential costs if you decide to install this type of system in your agency.

#### Implementation Strategies

The State of New York, State Board of Elections has developed regulations that New York counties must follow when acquiring a signature retrieval system. This is the only state we know of where this is currently being done.

Dade County, Florida elections officials suggest that you visit jurisdictions of the same size as yours, having the same legal requirements, who have their scanning equipment in place before making a purchase. San Diego County, California suggests that you allocate one day for each visit. Also, visit the site without the vendor.

We are not going to attempt to tell you how to prepare and evaluate a Request for Proposal or other instrument for a bid. The requirements for this process vary widely from one jurisdiction to another. We do suggest that you have a written agreement, approved by your legal counsel.

When you begin your acquisition process you should consider the following when preparing the agreement or contract specifications.

■ How often is whole document needed? (Usually not very often. It probably does not need to be stored in the computer.)

			COSTS		
COUNTY NAME	VOTER TOTAL	HARDWARE/ SOFTWARE	CONVERSION	TOTAL	PER VOTER
Maricopa Co, AZ	1,100,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1.09
Pima County, AZ	384,000	\$ 236,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 386,000	\$ 1.01
Los Angeles Co, CA	3,300,000	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ .94
San Diego Co, CA	1,200,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 275,000	\$ .23
Brevard Co, FL	193,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 34,313	\$ 146,313	\$ .76
Palm Beach Co., FL	414,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 105,000	\$ .26
Monroe Co, NY	350,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 475,000	\$ 1.36
Clackamas Co, OR	150,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 64,500	\$ .43

- Are signatures required at polling places? (If so, can you use a report on which the signature has been printed by the system?)
- Do the courts accept documents or signatures reproduced from digitized data? (You should check this with your legal counsel.)
- Know your processing volumes so you can predict what type of response times you will need to accomplish your work.
  - ☐ When and how many of your documents come in at specific times? (Most usually come in at busy election times).
  - ☐ How many different signature checking functions are required to be done, simultaneously? (Petitions, Absent Voters)
  - ☐ Will you need to digitize and retrieve signatures at the same time? (You may need to enter a voter registration document, while checking signatures for candidate filing.)
- Identify any hardware and software you may currently have so compatibility can be determined.
- Decide if you need to have backup or extra computer hardware. How seriously would you be affected by an equipment breakdown? How long will it take to get equipment repaired or replaced should part of your system breakdown during a peak election process?
- Include a comprehensive conversion plan with time schedules. (You may need additional equipment, workers, a fall back or contingency plan and expect problems.)
- Develop acceptance testing criteria for the system. Include it in your specifications or agreement, before you buy, so the vendors will know what you expect the system to be capable of performing.
- Visit or talk with election administrators who have signature retrieval systems in operation. Their experience can be very helpful.
- Allow yourself enough time to install the sys-

tem and to convert your data in an orderly manner. Consider installing the system at a slow processing time.

■ Require that training be provided to several of your staff, specify numbers.

Once a decision to buy a system has been made. Require a solid, written agreement for the installation of the system and conversion of the data.

The vendor usually provides training in the use of the system as part of the contract. Manuals for the ongoing operation of the system also should be required.

Facility modifications to install electrical, phone lines, air conditioning and space need to be determined. They should be completed before the arrival of the equipment. Allow space for staff, equipment servicing and supply storage when deciding needs for the equipment.

The contract should specify when the equipment hardware and software will be delivered. Who will setup the equipment? Who will install software you currently own? Who will work on the conversion? How will the new system work with any system you already have?

The criteria making up the final acceptance and sign off for the new system should be part of the contract. The vendor will know what to expect ahead of time. Consider making partial payments for the equipment throughout the installation process with final payment contingent upon the system working to your satisfaction.

Decide what equipment and software service level is needed. Your level of service may need to change depending on when you are conducting an election and when you are not. On-site service requiring a technician to arrive on-site after a short specified period after placing a call, is the top level of service. Other service options may require you to bring the equipment to the vendor's location. Quickness of response plus on-site customer engineers probably will be the most expensive service agreement you can have. Put service

level requirements in your agreement. Ask for what you need and negotiate with the vendor for what best serves your agency.

#### **Conclusions**

Many jurisdictions are maintaining a duplicate copy of the voter registration document on microfilm or microfiche. Some jurisdictions are already using optical disk, for the duplicate copy of the voter document.

We believe, the trend in the future will be to store the voter document image on optical disk. The advantages being, the image does not need chemicals to develop. The image can be immediately available. Data could be keyed from the document image, confirming the image is readable. It also may be possible to scan the image and encode data for the voter data base.

Signature retrieval systems, as with all systems, have problems associated with implementation. Murphy's Law seems always to apply. Based upon our findings the rewards the systems can provide are well worth the effort.

## **Appendix 1**

Election Signature Retrieval System Jurisdiction Contacts

#### **ARIZONA**

#### MARICOPA COUNTY - 1,100,000 Registered Voters

Maricopa County Department of Elections
Mr. Glenn Humbert
Assistant Director - Data Systems
111 South Third Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2223
602 506-1552

#### MOHAVE COUNTY - 55,000 Registered Voters

Mohave County Mr. Claus Behrens Registration Supervisor P.O. Box 70 Kingman, AZ 86401 602 753-3470

#### PIMA COUNTY - 384,000 Registered Voters

Pima County Recorder Mr. Jay Miller Information System Coordinator 115 North Church Street Tucson, AZ 85701-1199 602 740-8151

#### **CALIFORNIA**

#### AMADOR COUNTY - 17,000 Registered Voters

County of Amador County Clerk-Recorder Mr. Sheldon D. Johnson County Clerk-Recorder 108 Court Street Jackson, CA 95642 209 223-6464

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY - 3,300,000 Registered Voters

County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Mr. Micheal Petrucello Assistant Registrar-Recorder, Technical Services P.O. Box 30450 Los Angeles, CA 90030

#### SAN DIEGO COUNTY - 1,200,000 Registered Voters

County of San Diego Registrar of Voters
Ms. Ingrid Gonzales
Assistant Registrar of Voters
5201-I Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
619 694-3402

#### **FLORIDA**

213 725-5666

#### BREVARD COUNTY - 193,000 Registered Voters

Brevard County, Supervisor of Elections
Ms. Shirley P. Baccus
Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 1119
Titusville, FL 32781-1119
407 264-5005

#### COLLIER COUNTY - 75,000 Registered Voters

Collier County, Supervisor of Elections Ms. Mary W. Morgan Supervisor of Elections Collier Government Center 3301 Tamiami Trail East Naples, FL 33962-4971 813 774-8450

#### DADE COUNTY - 600,000 Registered Voters

Dade County Elections Department Mr. David C. Leahy Supervisor of Elections 111 NW 1 Street, Suite 1910 Miami, FL 33128 305 375-3150

#### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - 294,000 Registered Voters

Hillsborough County, Supervisor of Elections Mr. Chuck Smith Elections Operations Manager 419 Pierce Street, Room 195 Tampa, FL 33602 813 272-5850

#### LEE COUNTY - 159,000 Registered Voters

Lee County, Supervisor of Elections Mr. Bernie R. Feliciano Deputy Registrar P.O. Box 2545 Ft. Meyers, FL 33902 813 335-2594

#### PALM BEACH COUNTY - 415,000 Registered Voters

Palm Beach County, Supervisor of Elections Ms. Jackie Winchester Supervisor of Elections 301 North Olive Avenue, Room 105 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 407 355-2650

#### PASCO COUNTY - 149,000 Registered Voters

Pasco County, Supervisor of Elections Mr. Kurt S. Browning Supervisor of Elections 705 East Live Oak Avenue, Room 212 Dade City, FL 33525 904 521-4302

#### PINELLAS COUNTY - 435,000 Registered Voters

Pinellas County, Supervisor of Elections Ms. Dorothy Walker Ruggles Supervisor of Elections 315 Court Street, Room 117 Clearwater, FL 34616-5190 813 462-3551

#### SARASOTA COUNTY - 166,000 Registered Voters

Sarasota County, Supervisor of Elections Mr. E. Michael Berrios Network Administrator P.O. Box 4194 100 South Washington Boulevard Sarasota, FL 34230-4194 813 951-5300

#### **GEORGIA**

#### FULTON COUNTY - 308,000 Registered Voters

Fulton County, Department of Registration and Elections Mr. John P. Sullivan Chief, Registration Division 141 Pryor Street SW, Suite 4085 Atlanta, GA 30303-3450 404 730-7072

#### **NEW YORK**

#### ERIE COUNTY - 500,000 Registered Voters

Erie County Board of Elections Mr. Dan Gregorio Deputy Commissioner 134 West Eagle Street Buffalo, NY 14202 716 858-7780

#### MONROE COUNTY - 350,000 Registered Voters

Monroe County Board of Elections
Ms. M. Betsy Relin / Mr. Ronald J. Starkweather
Commissioners of Elections
39 West Main Street, Room 106
Rochester, NY 14614
716 428-5884

#### NIAGARA COUNTY - 102,000 Registered Voters

Niagara County Board of Elections Ms. Lucille L. Britt / Mr. Douglas O. Jayne Commissioners of Elections 59 Park Avenue Lockport, NY 14094 716 439-6137

#### **OREGON**

#### CLACKAMAS COUNTY - 150,000 Registered Voters

Clackamas County Elections Division
Mr. Ben Marberry
Elections Manager
835 Portland Avenue
Gladstone, OR 97027-2195
503 655-8510

#### **WASHINGTON**

#### THURSTON COUNTY - 80,000 Registered Voters

Thurston County
Ms. Sheryl Moss
Director of Elections
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98501
206 786-5408

## **Appendix 2**

Election Signature Retrieval System Vendors

#### **Arthur Anderson**

1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10100 212 708-4000

#### **Business Records Corporation**

Mr. Ed Charbonneau 1001 Eastshore Highway Berkeley, CA 94710 510 527-5150

#### **Datavision Corporation**

Mr. Bob Brisco 72 Hosmer Place Post Office Box 664 Marlboro, MA 01752 508 480-0404

#### **DIMS**

Mr. John Hice, President 2350 East Main Street, Suite 202 Ventura, CA 90003 805 653-1990

#### Fidlar & Chambers

Mr. Larry Lawrence/Mr. Bob Diveley 501 Goodlette Road North Bldg G, Suite 15 Naples, FL 33940 813 263-5055

#### Filenet Inc.

Mr. Brian Schlosser/Mr. Ron Baxter 6621 North Scottsdale Road Scottsdale, AZ 85253 602 951-8814

#### Genesys Data Technologies, Inc.

Mr. Robert Clark 301 785-0661 11350 McCormick Road Hunt Valley, MD 21030 800 767-4384

#### **IBM**

Mr. David L. Wilson 3109 Martin Luther King Boulevard Tampa, FL 33607 813 872-2140

and

150 State Street Rochester, NY 14614 716 726-8152

#### Identitech, Inc.

Mr. Bob Riley 407 462-2112 1333 Gateway Drive Mail Stop 1022 Melbourne, FL 32901

#### **Image Business Systems**

Mr. David LaCarta, Ms. Diane DeCarlo, Mr. Jim Hendrickson 417 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10016 212 696-2500

#### **National Time Sharing**

Dr. Charles DeWald, 716 297-0553 Mr. Bruce Cowe, 716 692-2274 1342 Military Road Niagara Falls, NY 14304

#### PI Technology Inc.

Mr. Arun Sinha 5775 East Los Angeles Avenue Suite 103 Simi Valley, CA 93063 805 582-0775

#### Signaware Inc.

Mr. John St. Clair 300 South Duncan Avenue Suite 275 Clearwater, FL 34615 813 461-4211 fax 813 449-9713 800 637-6564

#### SQN Peripherals, Inc.

Mr. Joe Uhland 65 Indel Avenue Post Office Box 423 Rancocas, NJ 08073 609 261-5500

#### Systemhouse Inc.

Mr. Bill Devitt, Vice President and General Manager Mr. Al Lavell, Director, Marketing and Sales Cerritos Town Center 12750 Center Court Drive, 7th Floor Cerritos, CA 90701 213 860-3635

#### Votec

Mr. John Medcalf, San Diego 619 674-5532 Ms. Darlene Van Dam, Los Angeles 818 348-3907 21625 Yucatan Avenue Woodland Hills, CA 91364 800 827-0435

## **Appendix 3**

Summary of Questionnaire Responses — Jurisdictions Using Signature Retrieval Systems

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CALIFORNIA 10S ANGELES COUNTY 3,300,000 6,300 1050	8" x 5" 1" x 3 1,4" BLACK & RED/WHITE CASSETTE & FRAME 1,100,000 240,000 28,42%	SIGNATURE 287,000 508,000 667,814 67,814 67,814 67,814 71 ES	WHOLE FORM IN 1992 MAGNETIC DISK OPTICAL DISK & FILM N/A MAGNETIC TAPE OPTICAL DISK & FILM N/A	1988 1990 NO SYSTEMHOUSE, INC
CALIFORNIA AMADOR COUNTY YES 17,000 28 102 102 103	8" x 5" 1" x 3 1/4" BLACK & RED/WHITE NO BY VOTER NAME 3,600 1,650 40-60%	S1GNATURE 2,660 2,500 15,000 7,500 7,500 7,500 7,500	SIGNATURE YES MAGNETIC DISK N/A DISK N/A 140 MB MAGNETIC TAPE N/A MAGNETIC TAPE N/A 5 0R 6 LESS THAN 2 SEC N/A	1991 PLANNED MAR 1992 NO NES BUSINESS RECORDS COR
ARIZONA PIMA COUNTY YES 384,000 12 424 425 725	5" x 8" 3.8" x 3" 8.10E/WHITE BY VOTER NAME 12,000	SIGNATURE 0 0 400 2,700 84,000 18,000 18,000 18,000 YES	FORM YES SEE DOCUMENT OPTICAL DISK N/A 325 GB OPTICAL DISK YES YES YES N/A 5·17 SEC CHG OF ADDRESS CARDS	1989 1990 NO GENESYS DATA TECH IN NO BI
ARIZONA MOHAVE COUNTY 55,000 55,000 55,000 51,000 51,000	S" x 8" 3" x 1/2" BLACK/WHITE BY VOTER NAME 12 000 6,000 BEFORE PRIMARY 25%	SIGNATURE 2,500 1,400	SIGNATURE SIGNATURE NO MAGNETIC DISK MISS ON B NA MAGNETIC TAPE NA	1988 1988 N Y YES G VOTEC
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CANTY SAN DIEGO CONTY YES YES YES YES HOURS 1 TO 40 HOURS	VENDOR &	4,500,000 1,250,000	MONTHS 5 MONTHS	\$225,000 00,000 11 30% LABOR CUT 30-80%	14381 DATA GENERAL MV30000 5/2 30 EPSON/HYSE AT-286 2115 DINS MOBEL 1 1ET 11 SOFTWARE 1200 MSI 1200-444H4T0
LOS ANGELES C	VENDOR &		18	\$2,300,000 \$800,000 LABOR CUT 30%	IBM 4381 IBM PS/2 30 BELL & HOWELL 2115 HP LASERJET 11 HARDHARE LMS1 1200 CAERE 821
CALIFORNIA AMADOR COUNTY YES YES YES YES 4 HOURS		ORIGINAL 16,900	1 MONTH	000, 558 000, 558 000, 558	DELL 32SD DELL 316SX SCANMAN HANDHELD HP LASERJET II HARDWARE N/A
AKIZONA PIMA COUNTY YES 12 HOURS	VENDOR	ORIGINAL 963,000	SHINOM 6	\$236,000 \$150,000 LABOR CUT 70-80%	IBM PS/2 80 & 70 IBM PS/2 80 FUJITSU M3096E HARDWARE SONY WDA-E610
ARIZONA MOHAVE COUNTY TES YES 1 HOUR	VENDOR	ORIGINAL 55,000	• •	\$25,000  LABOR CUT 60%	IBM SERIES/1 COMPAD DESKPRO (CAMERA) EPSON LQ1170
ARICOPA COUNTY nued N/A N/A N/A 3 HOURS		ORIGINAL 1,000,000	4 Months Multi-shift	\$1,100,000 \$100,000 Faster Checking	
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	FLORIDA PALM BEACH COUNTY YES 15 MINUTES	OR1GINAL 400,000	\$65,000 \$40,000 LABOR HOURS CUT 1/3	IBM 3090/200 IBM DATAVISION
	FLORIDA LEE COUNTY YES YES 10 MINUES	ORIGINALS & COPIES 200,000	00,000 FASTER	DTK 386 MITEX 386 HOWTEK SCANMASTER HP LASERJET 11 SOFTWARE ATG 6001
	FLORIDA HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY TES		\$52,500 FASTER,MORE ACCURATE	HP VECTRA RS/25C HP VECTRA ES/12 HP SCANJET PLUS HP LASERJET 111 SOFTWARE
	FLORIDA DADE COUNTY H	ORIGINAL 700,000	\$60,500 1NCL \$74,000 F	IBM 3090/600 IBM PCAT KODAK 2000 IBM 3800 SOFTWARE
MARCH 1, 1992	FLORIDA COLLIER COUNTY  YES  1/2 DAY	ORIGINALS &	6 MONIHS \$85,000 \$6,500 COST CUT \$0.90/\$16	COMPAG 386 IBM AT & INTAL 386 HOWIEK COLOR HP LASERJET 11 SOFTWARE OPTIMUM 1000M
2	FLORIDA BREVARD COUNTY nued YES YES YES YES	ORIGINAL 198,899	4 MONINS \$112,000 \$34,000 ABOR HRS CUT 60%+	SAMSUNG 80386 SAMSUNG 80386 RINCETOW GR LS300 CITIZEN 120 0 HARDWARE
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308,000 282 282 5-10 5% NO NO SIGNATURE YES MAGNETIC DISK 8" x 5" 0.4" x 3.4" GREEN/WHITE NOTER NAME 80,000 10,000 20.900 22.50% M/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 1989 1991 NO SIGNAWARE NO 801H 20,884 54,693 54,693 ... 1,300 N/A 652 MB N/A GEORGIA FULTON COUNTY CARTRIDGE 2 BY VOTER DATA NO SIGNATURE NO NO MICROFILM 5,000 5,000 1,2 GB N/A 1,2 GB N/A MAGNETIC TAPE YES 3 N/A 3 SEC 3 SEC N/A NO CANDIDATES & PAC'S YES 166,000 107 5-10 7-10% YES YES 8.5" x 4.5" 3.5 x .5" GREEN/WHITE Y VOTER NAME 22,000 30-60 36-60 25-40% SIGNATURE 0 1989 1989 NO CHAMBERS 18,000 800 350 43,000 FLORIDA SARASOTA COUNTY YES \_ ∞ŏ OPTICAL FIDLAR YES SIGNATURE NO MAGNETIC DISK MICROFILM 8.5" × 7"
/8" × 7/8"
JE/LT BLUE
NO
YES
35,000
25,000
WITHIN 60 680 620 MA 620 MA N/A B DISKETTE MICROFILM N/A 1/2 - 1 1/2 - 1 N/A N/A NONE SIGNATURE 9,000 2,500 1,650 1985 APRIL 1986 NO SIGNAWARE 7ES ,000 ,319 26+ 5.5% YES FLORIDA PINELLAS COUNTY 8.5" x 4 1/8" x 7 DK BLUE/LT B APRIL کہ MAG TAPE JURISDICTIONS USING SIGNATURE RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS AS OF MARCH 1, 1992 8 3/4" x 5" 7/8" x 11/16" GREEN/BUF NO YES 30,000 JAN & FEB YES SIGNATURE YES MAGNETIC DISK MICROFILM 700 7ES 149,000 78 10 THAN 1% YES SIGNATURE 0 12,000 4,000 2,500 FLORIDA PASCO COUNTY ¥¥ ¥¥ 620 LESS SYSTEM FEATURES
INTEGRATED WITH VOTER REGISTRATION
DIGITIZE WHOLE FORM OR SIGNATURE
SIMULTAREOUS SCANNING & REFRIEVING
SIGNATURE HAGE STORED ON
DOCUMENT HAGE STORED ON
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OTHER FORMS SCANNED ON VOTER LISTS
OTHER FORMS SCANNED AND RETRIEVED SIZE OF DOCUMENT
SIZE OF SIGNATURE BLOCK
COLOR (TYPE/PAPER)
DOCUMENTS SENT TO POLLING PLACE
DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - EVEN YEARS
PEAK LOAD - DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY
- PERCENT OF DOCUMENTS SIGNATURES CHECKED IN 1990
VERITY NAME OR SIGNATURE
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RETURNED ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS
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DECLIDED TO IMPLEMENT
SYSTEM FIRST OPERATIONAL
DEVELOPED SYSTEM IN-HOUSE
TURNKEY SYSTEM ACOUIRED
DEVELOPED WITH SYSTEM INTEGRATOR STATE JURISDICTION JOTER REGISTRATION DOCUMENT

STATE JURISDICTION	NEW YORK ERIE COUNTY	NEW YORK MONROE COUNTY	NEW YORK NIAGARA COUNTY	OREGON CLACKAMAS COUNTY	WASHINGTON THURSTON COUNTY
MAY USE AS CONTACT REGISTERD VOTRS POLLIG PLACES ELECTIONS PER TEAR AND AND TRAIN MAJOR ELECTION ENABLING LEGISLATION REQUIRED COURTS ACCEPT DIGITIZED FACINILES	7 ES 500,000 1,138 3.8% 7 ES 7 FES UNKNOWN	7ES 350,000 50 20 52 . 08% . 7ES UNKNOWN	YES 101,000 185 2-3 5% UNKNOWN	150,000 170 170 5-6 10-11%	YES 80,000 70 70 22% 80 N NOT TESTED
VOTER REGISTRATION DOCUMENT  SIZE OF SIGNATURE BLOCK  COLOR (TYPE/PAPER)  DOCUMENTS SENT TO POLLING PLACE  ORIGINAL RETAINED  DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - EVEN YEARS  PEAK LOAD - DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY  PERCENT OF DOCUMENTS	5" x 9.5" 1/4" x 2 3/4" BLACK BUFE IN POLL BOOKS 38,000 77,000 36.06 36.42%	9 1/2" x 4 3/4" 1/2" x 3 1/4" BLACKYFELLOW IN POLL BOOKS 50,000-86,000 30,000-35,20 30,303	5" × 9" 1/3" × 3"  NO VOTER × ELECT DIST 25,000 30,600 30,600 30,500 50,500	2" × 6" 3" × 7/8"  PURPLE-BLUG/WHITE BY VOTER ID BY 30 000-40,000 25,000-30,000	REGIST 15,
SIGNATURES CHECKED IN 1990 VERFY NAME OR SIGNATURE ABSENT VOTER BALLOT APPLICATIONS RETURNED ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS CANDIDATE NOWINATIONS INITIATIVE PETITIONS REFERSIOUM PETITIONS REFERSIOUM PETITIONS RANDOM SAMPLING LACCES RANDOM SAMPLING LECTIONS RANDOM SAMPLING LECTIONS RANDOM SAMPLING LECTIONS CONCURRENT SIGNATURE CHECKS REQUIRED	17,946 11,942 1,027 1,027 311,102	BOTH 10,000 10,000 300 300 0 0 225,000		SIGNATURE 20,000 19,400 1,500 1,500 3,600 6,00 139,000	SIGNATURE 200 31,000 0 0 0 20,000 7 N
SYSTEM FEATURES INTEGRATED WITH VOTER REGISTRATION DIGITIZE WHOLE FORM OR SIGNATURE SIMULTANEOUS SCANNING & RETRIEVING SIGNATURE INAGE STORED ON DOCUMENT INAGE STORED ON AVERAGE BYTES TO STORE - SIGNATURE DISK SPACE REQUIRED FOR SIGNATURES	S MAG & OPTI	MAG & OPTICAL D OPTICAL D OPTICAL D'	SIGNAT OPTICAL D LESS THAN 155	YES SIGNATURE YES MAGNETIC DISK MICROFILM 900-1000 N.A	SIGNATURE YES MAGNETIC DISK 1,000
BACKUP MEDIA FOR - SIGNATURES ALL SIGNATURE IMAGES ONLINE SCANNED PER MINUTE - SIGNATURES SECOMDS TO RETRIEVE - A SIGNATURE SIGNATURES PRINTED ON VOTER LISTS OTHER FORMS SCANNED AND RETRIEVED	MAG TAPE & OPTICAL TES TES N/A 25.30 N/A Y/A Y NONE	OPTICAL DISK OPTICAL DISK OPTICAL DISK NO NO SO CURRENT DISK 11 SEC SAME YES	OPTICAL DISK N/A		MIRROR SYSTEM & TAPE NAM YES NAM NAM NAM SECONDARY
SYSTEM DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT SYSTEM FIRST OPERATIONAL DEVELOPED SYSTEM IN-HOUSE TURNKEY SYSTEM ACQUIRED DEVELOPED WITH SYSTEM INTEGRATOR	1990 1992 SIGNI I NAT'L TIME SHARING	1988 1990 ND IMAGE BUSINESS SYS	1989 1990 NO NO NAT'L TIME SHARING	1988 FEBRUARY 1990 NO NA/A VOTEC	1986-87 1989 NO VOTEC

	MASHINGTON THURSTON COUNTY 10 MINUTES VENDOR	ORIGINAL 78,000 3 8.0 1/2 WEEKS	\$54,000 INCLUDED ABOVE 1,440 HOURS/YEAR	RS 386 SX SS SX EO CAMERA SERJET II SOFTWARE
	THURS	ĸ		UC COMPUTERS 386 SX UC COMPUTERS 386 SX SANYO VIDEO CAMERA HP LASER/ET 11 AP LASER/ET 11
	OREGON CLACKAMAS COUNTY YES 20-30 MINUTES VENDOR	PAPER COPY 155,000 7.5 5 WEEKS	\$58,000 \$6,500 \$20,000 1ST YR	UNISYS AIZ VOTEC VOTEC (CAMERA) SOFTWATE
	NEW YORK NIAGARA COUNTY YES YES 1 DAY VENDOR	ORIGINAL 100,000  3 MONTHS	N/A \$125,000	BM PS/2  HP SCAN-JET  HP SCAN-JET  SCHTUARE  SPINNACLE MICRO R650  WELCH-ALLYN SCANTEAM
	MONROE COUNTY YES YES 1/2 HOUR VENDOR & STAFF	ORIGINAL 600,000 6 24 3 MONTHS	\$400,000 \$75,000 \$50,000/YEAR	IBM RS-6000 IBM PS/2 70 IMPROVISION XEROX 4050 SOFTUARE MAXTOR LF4500 F
	NEW YORK  RUE COUNTY  TES  YES  16 HOURS  VENDOR	ORIGINAL 500,000 000 4 MONTHS	\$216,000 TOO NEW TO MEASURE	FASTDATA 386 FASTDATA 286 HP SCANJET PLUS HP LASERJET 11 SOFTWARE
JUNISUICTIONS USING STANATURE RETRIEVAL S	STATE JURISDICTION SYSTEM DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED - CONTINN VENDOR PROVIDED HARDWARE & SOFTWARE VENDOR PROVIDED TRAINING TIME REQUIRED TO TRAIN NEW WORKER WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY	CONVERSION EFFORT DOCLMENT USED FOR INITIAL CONVERSION NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS CONVERTED SCANNING WORKSTATIONS USED STANNING WORKSTATIONS USED TIME REQUIRED TO COMPLETE CONVERSION	ESTIMATED SYSTEM COSTS APPROXIMATE COST OF SYSTEM APPROXIMATE COST OF CONVERSION SAVINGS	SYSTEM HARDWARE MAINFRAME, MINI OR FILE SERVER MAINFRAME OR CAMERA SCANNER OR CAMERA IMAGE COMPRESSION OOTICAL DISK

	,		

#### For information about other

## Innovations in Election Administration

#### contact

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