

IT Project Proposal Report - Detail

Agency: 009 - SECRETARY OF STATE

Budget Cycle: 2009-2011 Biennium

Version: AF - AGENCY FINAL REQUEST

IT Project : Election Night Reporting System

General Section

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Agency Priority :
NITC Priority :
NITC Score :

Expenditures

IT Project Costs	Total	Prior Exp	FY08 Appr/Reappr	FY10 Request	FY11 Request	Future Add
Contractual Services						
Design	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programming	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Data Conversion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Contractual Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Telecommunications						
Data	0	0	0	0	0	0
Video	0	0	0	0	0	0
Voice	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wireless	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Telecommunications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training						
Technical Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0
End-user Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Training	0	0	0	0	0	0

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IT Project Costs	Total	Prior Exp	FY08 Appr/Reappr	FY10 Request	FY11 Request	Future Add
Other Operating Costs						
Personnel Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	180,000	0	0	90,000	90,000	0
Subtotal Other Operating Costs	180,000	0	0	90,000	90,000	0
Capital Expenditures						
Hardware	0	0	0	0	0	0
Software	350,000	0	0	350,000	0	0
Network	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	100,000	0	0	100,000	0	0
Subtotal Capital Expenditures	450,000	0	0	450,000	0	0
TOTAL PROJECT COST	630,000	0	0	540,000	90,000	0

Funding

Fund Type	Total	Prior Exp	FY08 Appr/Reappr	FY10 Request	FY11 Request	Future Add
General Fund	630,000	0	0	540,000	90,000	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	630,000	0	0	540,000	90,000	0
VARIANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Secretary of State is the Chief Election Official for the State of Nebraska. As the Chief Election Official there are many functions that occur during an election cycle. One of most important functions is the reporting of election results on election night to the public, media and candidates. The Election Night Reporting (ENR) System is an integral program that allows the Secretary of State to perform these duties. The current ENR System has been in place since 1996. With new technologies and program languages available, we believe that this project could allow us to better report election results to public, media and candidates. We are currently looking at vendors to host this service for our office.

The Election Night Reporting System allows the public and the media the ability to check election results frequently (default = 5 mins). The ENR System was created by volunteers for the State of Nebraska in 1996. The State of Nebraska was one of five states that performed this reporting service to the public at that time. Since 1996, the Secretary of State's Office has made the investment in software upgrades every election cycle to add the functionality needed (e.g. creating comma separated values (.CSV) files for the media to import election night data into their equipment). The investment per election cycle has been between \$15,000 to \$25,000.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTCOMES (15 PTS):

To procure a new Election Night Reporting System that will allow the Secretary of State to display in depth statewide election results via the web for the State, public and media. The system would have the ability to display numerical and graphical results by vote and race types along with maps to illustrate voter turnout by State, County and Precinct. It would also allow for the secure transmission of election data from the counties to the state. This project is very important to our agency because it allow the public to see an open elections process.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION / BUSINESS CASE (25 PTS):

A new Election Night Reporting System would give the public better access to election night race information (President, Congress, Governor, Amendments...etc). The addition of precinct information gives real time data for better statistical analysis for future elections. The current system is very technical to operate. It requires one IT person to run the system and to support all of the internal functionality. The volunteers that created the system in 1996 are no longer available for support. The current system does not display data in a graphical format, nor does it utilize mapping functionality. Four years ago, our office was one of top states for election night reporting, today we are about even. By the 2010 Election cycle, the State will be behind the curve.

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TECHNICAL IMPACT (20 PTS):

The new Election Night Reporting (ENR) System project would allow the Secretary of State to present real time election night totals (data) to the public and the media by numerical, graphical and geographical formats. Currently, all county election officials have to manually input their county's election totals into our current ENR System (not including precinct totals). The new ENR System would allow all county election officials to import their election night totals from their own Election Reporting Manager (ERM) system directly into the ENR System utilizing ERM's native format which would include precinct totals. Using the old system, manually keyed results from the counties could be sometimes keyed in error. In the new ENR System, the counties will upload a file to the system, no manually keying is necessary. The State would also have a review function to allow errors to be spotted before being published to the web.

PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION (10 PTS):

The Secretary of State's would be issuing an RFP in the summer of 2009, so that the new ENR System would be fully implemented by the Winter of 2009 for the 2010 Elections.

RISK ASSESSMENT (10 PTS):

If the ENR System is hosted by a third party vendor, the State would work with the vendor to encrypt the communication tunnel and by encrypting the data in transit using the latest information security techniques. Network communications from the Counties and State to the internet are crucial because of upload process from the counties to the ENR System. The Vote Tabulation equipment is not connected to any network. Information would be taken from the Vote Tabulation PC by USB key to a PC with internet connectivity for the uploading of election reporting data to the ENR System.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND BUDGET (20 PTS):

We are seeking General Fund dollars for this project.