

Legislation Text

File #: 24-0111, **Version:** 1

Item Description:

Neg Agmt PR00005776 with DMT Solutions Global Corporation d/b/a BlueCrest for absentee ballot mailing system software, equipment, and services; 5-year agreement, NTE \$1.6 million

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Agreement PR00005776 with DMT Solutions Global Corporation d/b/a BlueCrest for absentee ballot mailing system software, equipment, and services in an amount not to exceed \$1.6 million, be approved; that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the County; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

Background:

Hennepin County mails out absentee ballots for all elections in Hennepin County. For state elections in 2024, Hennepin County is estimating that it will send 24,000 primary absentee ballots and 110,000 general election absentee ballots. Currently, this is a manual process with employees doing the following for each request: affixing the correct labels on the absentee ballot mailing envelope and signature envelope, pulling the correct ballot for the voter's precinct, and enclosing the correct materials for the voter's registration status. The BlueCrest absentee ballot mailing system automates this process.

The system will improve service efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness. The system will reduce potential balloting material errors, reduce waste, and will result in cost savings to the County over the contract period.

A public RFP was issued in May 2023. BlueCrest, a proven leader in this market, was the lone proposer and was selected following a product demonstration. Negotiations between Hennepin County and BlueCrest are in progress and ongoing. Authorization to complete negotiations makes possible the County's ability to acquire and implement the system in advance of the 2024 presidential election.

Current Request:

This request seeks to provide authority to the County Administrator to negotiate contract PR00005776 for the purchase of absentee ballot mailing system services with BlueCrest and for the Chair of the Board to sign the contract on behalf of the County.

Impact/Outcomes:

This board action request to contract with BlueCrest directly impacts the County's ability to administer accurate and secure elections. This request aligns with Hennepin County disparity reduction efforts by ensuring efficiency and integrity of a key component in the administration of elections in our county, allowing residents the ability to continue to confidently participate in our democracy, hold elected officials accountable, and have a voice in important issues affecting themselves and their communities. Elections and voting directly impact all disparity domains.

Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval