



Voting Counts

*...when Your Vote is Counted.*

**EDA & AUDIT-AZ'S MISSION:** TO RESTORE PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND OVERSIGHT OF ELECTIONS, WORK TO ENSURE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN TO VOTE, AND TO HAVE EACH VOTE COUNTED AS INTENDED IN A SECURE, TRANSPARENT, IMPARTIAL, AND INDEPENDENTLY AUDITED ELECTION PROCESS.

**EDA & Americans United for Democracy, Integrity, and Transparency in Elections  
The Arizona Election Transparency Project Budget**

By John Brakey, Jim March

Tuesday, June 03, 2008

Dear Supervisor Chairman Richard Elias, and members of the board Supervisors,

I'm here today to discuss the practicality and low cost of utilizing graphic scanners as a solution for our fatally flawed voting system we have in Pima County. As you already know Jim March, others and I for over a year have been promoting this system as a way to achieve practical system that would save the county millions of dollars.

Last December 19th the headline in the Tucson citizen read "Pima County to spend up to \$10 million to improve ballot security". That included the purchase of an entirely new voting system for about \$5 million.

Immediately after hearing this we opposed this idea due to the fact we know there is nothing else out there at this time that is any better. Yes, we are voting on a fatally flawed system and that the only solution at this time is transparency, transparency and more transparency. In fact we now know that as bad as that Diebold system is, it's better than many other voting systems that exist at this time. I know that it's hard not to gag over that idea, but right now, it's better for all of us to work with the devil we know rather than the devil we don't.

From the painful process of litigation that we all had to endure, many important ideas have been developed. These ideas have the potential to create a trustworthy election system for the 2008 primary and general elections in Pima County, and the potential to assist other counties, statewide as well as nationally. Please understand that it is now time to use all the information that has been gleaned to date to work on solutions to put safeguards in place to assure transparent and auditable counting of the 2008 primary and the November Presidential Election. Personally, I don't know of any county in our country that is as advanced as we all are of understanding of the problems and that has the potential to put a model together that doesn't exist anywhere else.

I can assure you that if we could set aside our differences, learn from our mistakes, and work together in good faith we could rapidly build a secure, transparent voting system that we could all be very proud of.

Attached below is a plan and estimates of costs to graphically scan every ballot cast in the September primary and the November presidential election. It is a much lower estimate that was stated in your last board of supervisors meeting of May 20 in which he was stated that the cost to graphically scanned would be \$1.00 per side of ballot basically stating if the turnout is what we expect in the November presidential election at it would cost approximately \$1 million.

The estimate that Jim March and I have put together gets the cost down to \$0.121 per ballot including labor and that if we charge of all the equipment just to one election. However, if we were to depreciate all the equipment over 5 major elections the cost would come down to \$0.045 per ballot side or \$0.09 for both sides and I believe that we could possibly even get it lower - and at the same time and cost have the team that does this also do the post election outside audit of the process.

The numbers and equipment are all listed below.

We propose that on election day, 10% of the precincts shall be randomly selected by random drawing mid afternoon. That evening as the polls close, a special group of pre-selected audit workers will travel to those precincts with a laptop computer and small duplex scanner in a small case the would weight approximately 30 lbs. At the close of polls will scan those paper ballots plus all spoiled ballots, the pollworkers certified report, the "Consecutive Number Register" (CNR) a.k.a. "The Poll List" provisional roster, the precinct generated Accuvote election summary result tape and also scan the zero report tapes that were generated that morning from both precinct voting machines.

Please note: that we are not asking for the precinct "signature roster" to be scanned.

When finished, each pollworker will be given a CD with all work scanned.

Three CDs will be also be generated and signed by the precinct pollworkers, with precinct number and one marked master CD that is to be uploaded ASAP election night and done by a special audit workers who is not a employee of the election department.

Like the larger scanners used to process the mail-in and provisional votes, these smaller systems and scanners must not have optical character recognition ability and must write the output scans to write-once media. Copies of this media will be made available at the polling location to those interested, and made available later by the same means as the larger graphic scan collections on the internet, marked as to the precinct they came from and method of scanning.

**The rest of the precinct paper vote**, as it arrives at the jurisdiction's main election processing scanner, shall be scanned on the same large graphic scanners that process mail-in and provisional votes, handled in the same manner but identifiable as to precinct and scan type.

**In all cases**, interested parties may obtain copies of write-once output media of these scanned ballots immediately upon ballots being scanned and write-once media written, for the cost of the write-once media. It is the intent of the legislature to ensure prompt "right then and there" access to this material, without delay.

**In all cases where** mail-in or provisional paper ballots are processed on "mark sense" optical scan systems approved under the provisions of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), those paper ballots shall immediately, upon being picked up from the output hoppers of those scanners, be deposited into the input hopper of a commercial scanner that is able to scan graphic images of the ballots and store them to write-once media for distribution to the public. This final graphic scan of ballots shall be open to public view, and technical representatives from political parties, candidates and/or stakeholders shall be allowed to do technical inspections of these systems at the time and place of the pre-election Logic and Accuracy tests.

**IMPORTANT!!** Now that party oversight will include getting the election databases, the graphic images scan of early ballots **MUST BE DONE** in batches NUMBERS that match the batches that were run through the Diebold central count scanners for all the Vote By Mail (VBM) and show up under the GEMS "Administration reports" as "central count status report by deck" - this is the accounting for all VBM.

**Definitions:** the graphic scanner will be of any standard commercial type, so long as neither the scanner or the computer it is connected to have the ability to do "optical character recognition" or otherwise be able to determine which pattern of marks corresponds to which vote selection, so as to ensure that the machines cannot be programmed to cheat. These scanning systems must not be networked to each other or to any other system under any circumstances. The write-once media as of this writing includes CD-R, DVD-R or other media which accepts data once but from then on cannot have its contents changed or over-written. Distribution to the public will include downloadable archives as single-file compressed archives (.ZIP or similar format) from the website of the jurisdiction's elections department.

<i>quantity</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>unit price each</i>	<i>total equipment</i>	<i>special labor</i>	<i>weight in lbs</i>
40	Inexpensive laptops	\$450	\$18,000		6
40	XEROX DocuMate 600 x 1200 dpi 48bit USB 2.0 Interface Fast Duplex Sheetfed Scanner - Retail	\$669	\$26,760		8.6
40	Carrying case for both units	\$250	\$10,000		10
40	Contingency budget	\$100	\$4,000		
40	Person to do the precincts election night	\$150		\$6,000	
\$58,760	subtotal for equipment to do 10% of precincts election night				24.6
3	Central count Duplex graphic scanners that can do 125 ballot per minute both sides; Panasonic KV- S3085 (see specification below)	\$13,911	\$41,733		
3	Inexpensive laptops computers to hook up to Central count Duplex graphic scanners	\$1,000	\$3,000		6
3	Contingency budget	\$1,000	\$3,000		

560 man hours Labor to graphic scan all the other ballots from precincts and from central count vote by mail (VBM) starting election day. 8 persons for a max of 7 days = 560 man hours. These same people would also perform the audit and would come from other department other than the election department as once done under Larry Bahill when he was Pima County Election Director and approved by political parties on ballot.

\$16 \$8,960

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Total cost of equipment \$106,493

Total cost of labor to scan and audit the election \$14,960

Total estimated cost to scan with equipment and labor 450,000 ballot both sides. 900,000 images. \$121,453

	<i>images</i>	<i>equipment</i>	<i>equipment cost per image</i>	<i>labor \$14,960</i>	<i>equipment and labor per image</i>
cost to graphically scan approximately 1 million pages of images based on 1 use	1 million	\$106,493	\$0.106	\$0.015	\$0.121
5 if equipment is depreciated over 5 elections the cost would drop to	3.5mil	\$106,493	\$0.030	\$0.015	\$0.045

Below is the equipment and speciation to back up this estimate. We are not saying that this is the exact equipment to purchase but it's a decent starting point.

<http://www.1st-in-scanners.com/panasonic/kvs3085.htm>

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Spec	
Scanner Type	 Fast Duplex Sheetfed
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Scanning Speed	 50 ppm
Resolutions, Optical	 600 x 1200 dpi
Color Depth	 48bit
Max. Document Size	 8.5" x 14"
Automatic Document Feeder (ADF)	 50 sheets (with 18 lb. paper)
Interface	 USB 2.0
Operating Systems Supported	 Windows 2000/Me/XP
Physical Spec	
Dimensions	 13"(w) x 6"(d) x 12.25"(h)
Weight	 8.6 lbs.
Features	
	 VRS: YES
	Omnipage Pro 15: YES
	Paperport: YES
	Others: Quicksan Demo
	Duplex scanning at 50 images per minute
	One touch feature eliminates up to 12 steps in scanning documents
	Superior image quality and OCR accuracy with Kofax VRS software
	Convert documents into PDF files that can be forwarded to network drives for sharing
	Hi-Speed USB 2.0 interface (USB 1.1 compatible)
	Small footprint fits easily on the desktop (6" x 13")
	One Touch scans directly to PDF
	Drivers included: TWAIN, ISIS, Onetouch
	Black & White, Grayscale, Color: YES

Features

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**NOTE:** this can be phrased as allowing scanning (over-riding Brewer's initial stance that it's illegal) versus making it a requirement.

**Whereas** the Federal qualification process has been shown to be unreliable in assuring quality voting systems AND;

**Whereas** the Arizona state-level voting system certification process is sketchy at best, forcing this state to rely on the quality of the Federal oversight process AND;

**Whereas** expert witnesses in Pima County brought in and paid for by the county have described the security of all of the current voting systems as marginal at best, dysfunctional at worst AND;

**Whereas** while the casting of votes is secret, the counting of them is, by statute, public AND;

Whereas we the people demand secure and transparent vote counting, including the right to do their own count when circumstances apparently warrant.

The county has estimated \$1.00 per side or \$2.00 per ballot (there estimate for the Nov election would be \$900,000. ) not the way to go.

John Brakey, co-founder of AUDIT-AZ (Americans United for Democracy, Integrity, and Transparency in Elections, Arizona) & Co-Coordinator Investigations for Election Defense Alliance

[http://www.electiondefensealliance.org/about\\_john\\_brakey](http://www.electiondefensealliance.org/about_john_brakey)

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**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead**