

## **1. Introduction and Background**

This Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is being issued by the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago (the “City” or the “Board”). The purpose of this RFP is to invite proposals for a voting system for the Board that will fulfill the requirements set forth herein.

The Board is the legal entity responsible for conducting all elections in the city of Chicago. As of the last general election conducted on November 8, 2016, there were 1,570,529 registered voters in the City of Chicago. The City is divided into 50 wards, which in turn is divided into 2,069 precincts. Some precincts have their own polling place location; others are combined with another precinct or precincts. The City had in excess of 1,400 polling place locations.

Illinois operates under a consolidated schedule of elections. In each even-numbered year, there is a general primary election held on the third Tuesday in March and a general election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. In every other odd-numbered year (i.e., every four years), there is a municipal general election on the last Tuesday in February, and a runoff election on the first Tuesday in April in the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the February municipal general election. The next municipal elections in Chicago will be in 2019.

In addition to voting on election day, the Board conducts early voting in its central office beginning 40 days before election day, and at 50 remote sites (one in each ward) beginning 15 days before election day. Illinois also permits absentee, or vote by mail, voting; no reason is required and anyone can vote using a vote by mail ballot. At the November 8, 2016, general election 1,115,664 ballots were cast, including 344,037 ballots cast during early voting and 87,337 vote by mail ballots. Precinct data can be found at the Board’s web site here: <http://www.chicagoelections.com/en/election-results.html>

Illinois law authorizes the use of four types of election systems: paper ballots, lever machines, optical scan and direct recording electronic (“DRE”). At one point or another, the Board has used all of these systems. Since 2006, the Board has used election machinery systems based on equipment supplied by Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., the successor to Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc., including the Edge 2Plus (DRE), Insight machines (precinct optical scanners) and the 400 C (central count optical scanner).

This RFP is intended to solicit Proposals from vendors for a new voting system.

The requirements for voting systems, as established by Illinois law, are set out with more specificity below. Prospective vendors are advised that the statutory provisions that govern optical scan and DRE systems are at Article 24B1 and Article 24C2 of the Illinois Election Code, respectively. Other articles of the Election Code governing voting machines include Article 24 (“Voting Machines”)<sup>3</sup> and Article 24A (“Electronic, Mechanical or Electric Voting Systems”).<sup>4</sup>

This RFP is being issued to all vendors of systems of election equipment of which the Board is aware. Additionally, a notice of its issuance will be published in the Chicago Sun Times, Friday, July 7, 2017. Copies of this RFP are freely available upon request and posted on the Chicago Board’s website at [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com).