



Installations and Letters of Reference

A summary of information for each current eSlate System installation is given.

The installations are:

- Harris County, Texas
- Tarrant County, Texas
- Arapahoe County, Colorado
- Travis County, Texas
- State Bar of Texas
- City of Charlottesville, Virginia
- City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Brazos County, Texas
- Orange County, California

We also include letters of reference and recommendation from:

- Beverly Kaufman, Harris County Texas
- Judge Robert Eckels, Harris County Texas
- Tracy K. Baker, Arapahoe County Colorado
- Robert Parten, Tarrant County Texas
- Jim Dickson, National Organization on Disability
- Curtis Chong, National Federation of the Blind.

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group eSlate Installation

Name of Contracting Authority: Harris County, Texas	
Program Manager: Ms. Beverly Kaufman	Contract Dollar Value: \$25,152,830
Title: Harris County Clerk	Current Registered Voters: 1,900,000
Address: P.O. Box 1525, Houston, TX 77251	Current Precincts: 884 with 30 Early Voting locations
Telephone/Fax Numbers: (713) 755-3550 / (713) 755-4983	Contract Duration: June 2001 – to November 2002
Email Address: bkaufman@cco.hctx.net	
<p>Brief Description of Project Scope: Harris County, the home of Houston, is the nation's third largest county with more than 1,900,000 registered voters and 884 precincts. Hart InterCivic's eSlate installation for Harris County covers every facet of the elections process from election management through by-mail voting, Early Voting, and Election Day balloting. It is one of the largest electronic voting system installations in the country.</p>	
<p>Products Provided: In conjunction with this installation, Hart InterCivic provided 8,170 eSlate/Disabled Access Units voting terminals and voting booths; 2,290 Judge's Booth Controllers; and all associated hardware. Software provided includes Hart's comprehensive ballot management solution (i.e., the Ballot Origination Software System and Tally) and Ballot Now, a fully integrated by-mail voting solution. In addition, VOTEC's VEMACS election management software is included in this package.</p>	
<p>Services Provided: Hart InterCivic provided to Harris County a package of services to support the installation of the eSlate Electronic Voting System, including comprehensive project management and support, training, warehouse management, and voter education and outreach services.</p> <p>The Hart team installed a new election management system on a personal computer network. Using eSlate for Early Voting in November 2001, the Hart team integrated the eSlate cast vote data with the County's existing ES&S punch card system (which was used on Election Day). Tabulation and reporting occurred with eSlate's Tally software application. For the March 2002 Primary and Runoff Elections, Harris County and Hart InterCivic launched the implementation of Ballot Now, Hart's by-mail voting module.</p> <p>November 2002 General Election marked the first use of the system for all voting options – Early Voting, Absentee by Mail, and Election Day voting. The election process was a great success, with Harris County looking forward to the on-going benefits of the eSlate System and support from Hart InterCivic.</p>	
<p>Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Made to Client Systems: As a result of this installation, the following objectives have been met/improvements have been made to the Harris County election system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overvotes have been reduced to zero for Early Voting and Election Day Voting; ▪ Early Voting turnout for the 2001 election increased 152 percent over the last similar election; ▪ Paper ballots and ballot boxes have been eliminated for Early Voting and Election Day Voting; ▪ Voters cast their ballots with greater assurance that their intent will be accurately recorded and their cast ballots counted through the safeguards provided by the eSlate system; and ▪ Virtually all voters with disabilities may cast a private, independent vote ▪ In May 2003, 24 entities in Harris County used the eSlate for early voting. These entities were supported by Harris County, based on previous training and support from Hart. 	

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group eSlate Installation

Name of Contracting Authority: Tarrant County, Texas	
Program Manager: Mr. Robert Parten	Contract Dollar Value: \$776,850
Title: Elections Administrator	Current Registered Voters: 871,500
Address: 100 West Weatherford, Fort Worth, TX 76196	Current Precincts: 586 with 28 Early Voting locations
Telephone/Fax Numbers: (817) 884-2688/ (817) 884- 1755	Contract Duration: September – November 2001
Email Address: rparten@tarrantcounty.com	
Brief Description of Project Scope: Tarrant County, the third largest county in the State of Texas, includes a major metropolitan area (the City of Fort Worth) and has over 870,000 registered voters, 586 election precincts, and 28 Early Voting sites. Hart provided a full Early Voting solution to the County.	
Services Provided: Hart InterCivic provided the County all necessary project management, support, and training services, along with a voter education and outreach program. Full-time project management was provided by the designated Account Manager throughout the installation process, and the County staff now manages use of the eSlate System independently. The Hart Account Manager can be available to assist as requested by the County. Hart software professionals integrated the county-developed, mainframe voter registration system with eSlate (used for Early Voting). Consolidated cumulative and final reports merged results from the County's ES&S Optech Eagle optical scan system with eSlate's Early Voting results.	
Services Provided: Hart InterCivic provided the County all necessary project management, support, and training services, along with a voter education and outreach program. Full-time project management was provided by the designated Account Manager throughout the installation process, and will be provided on an on-going basis. Hart software professionals blended the county-developed, mainframe voter registration system with eSlate (used for Early Voting). Consolidated cumulative and final reports merged results from the County's ES&S Optech Eagle optical scan system with eSlate's Early Voting results.	
Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Made to Client Systems: As a result of this installation, the following objectives have been met/improvements have been made to the Tarrant County electoral system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overvotes have been reduced to zero during Early Voting; ▪ The Early Voting process is now free of all paper ballots and distribution and maintenance of ballot files and ballot boxes at each EV site; ▪ Voters cast their Early Voting ballots with greater assurance that their intent will be accurately recorded and their cast ballots counted through the safeguards provided by the eSlate system; ▪ Voters with disabilities may cast a private, independent vote; and ▪ Early Voting poll workers, in post-election debriefings, cited major improvements in polling place operations given the ease of use of the eSlate equipment. 	

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group eSlate Installation

Name of Contracting Authority: Arapahoe County, Colorado	
Program Manager: Mr. Tracy K. Baker	Contract Dollar Value: \$490,500 for eSlate; \$330,000 for VEMACS
Title: Arapahoe County Clerk	Current Registered Voters: 321,698
Address: 5334 South Prince Street Littleton, CO 80166-0211	Current Precincts: 356
Telephone/Fax Numbers: (303) 795-4200/ (303) 795-4625	Contract Duration: 1 year covering installation beginning in April 2002
Email Address: tbaker@co.arapahoe.co.us	
Brief Description of Project Scope: Arapahoe County is the third largest county in the state of Colorado with more than 321,000 registered voters and 356 precincts. Hart InterCivic is installing a full Early Voting and voter registration system for the County.	
Products Provided: Equipment supplied to the County included 113 eSlate/Disabled Access Unit voting terminals and voting booths, 15 Judge's Booth Controllers, and associated hardware. Also included in this contract are Ballot Now, Ballot Origination Software System, Tally, and VEMACS (voter registration) applications.	
Services Provided: Full-time project management was provided by the designated Account Manager throughout the installation process, and will be provided on an on-going basis as requested by the County. Arapahoe County also received all necessary support and training services to successfully administer Early Voting In Person and Absentee mail balloting for the August, 2002 Primary Elections and the November 2002 General Election. Support for Absentee balloting included formatting and printing of absentee ballots, ballot scanning and resolution, and tabulating and reporting of results. Support for Early Voting included configuration and deployment of the eSlate Precinct Voting System. Ballot Now paper ballots were used to satisfy the Election Day requirement for Provisional balloting. Hart software professionals facilitated integration of election results from Arapahoe County's Sequoia AVC Election Day system with eSlate Early Voting and Absentee results for comprehensive precinct level reporting.	
Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Made to Client Systems: Installation of the eSlate voting system allowed the County to offer the first mobile voting unit available in Colorado. In addition, other performance objectives/improvements to the client systems are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overvotes are reduced to zero during Early Voting; ▪ Voters cast their Early Voting ballots with greater assurance that their intent will be accurately recorded and their cast ballots will be counted through the safeguards provided by the eSlate system; and ▪ Voters with disabilities may cast a private, independent vote. ▪ New legislative requirements to report Absentee and Early Voting results by precinct are immediately and readily available. 	

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group eSlate Installation

Name of Contracting Authority: Travis County, Texas	
Program Manager: Ms. Dana DeBeauvoir	Contract Dollar Value: \$5,046,000
Title: Travis County Clerk	Registered Voters: 538,723
Address: P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767	Precincts: 248
Telephone/Fax Numbers: (512) 854-4996/ (512) 854-9075	Contract Duration: April 2002 – November 2003
Email Address: election@co.travis.tx.us	
<p>Brief Description of Project Scope: Hart InterCivic’s eSlate installation for Travis County will cover all phases of the voting process from ballot generation through by-mail voting, Early Voting, and Election Day balloting. Initial phase completed for the November 2002 election included using the eSlates for Early Voting and Ballot Now for absentee voting. The May 2003 City of Austin election was first time the County used the eSlate System on Election Day. Beginning with the November 2003 election, the eSlate System will fully replace optical scan ballots in all Travis County elections.</p>	
<p>Products Provided: Equipment supplied to the County includes 1,825 eSlate/Disabled Access Unit voting terminals and voting booths, 325 Judge’s Booth Controllers, and associated hardware. Also included in this contract are the Ballot Now, Ballot Origination Software System, and Tally software applications.</p>	
<p>Services Provided: Travis County will receive all necessary project management, support, and training services, and an extensive voter education and outreach program. Hart also managed the integration of results from the eSlate System and the County’s legacy system used on Election Day. On-going work includes plans to integrate the County’s voter registration system with the eSlate System.</p>	
<p>Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Made to Client Systems: Installation of the eSlate voting system will allow the County to report complete vote totals by 10 p.m. (i.e., three hours after the polls close). In addition, other performance objectives/improvements to the client systems will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poll workers have a system that is easy to set up and manage in the polling place ▪ Overvotes will be reduced to zero for those using the eSlate DRE units; ▪ Voters will cast their ballots with greater assurance that their intent will be accurately recorded and their cast ballots will be counted through the safeguards provided by the eSlate system; and ▪ Voters with disabilities may cast a private, independent vote. 	

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group Ballot Now Deployment

Name of Contracting Authority: State Bar of Texas	
Program Manager: Ms. Kathy Holder	Contract Dollar Value: \$50,000
Title: Director of Membership	Registered Voters: N/A
Address: 1414 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701	Precincts: N/A
Telephone/Fax Numbers: (512) 463-1463, ext. 2112/ (512) 463-5817	Contract Duration: February-May 2001, 2002, 2003
Email Address: kholder@texasbar.com	
<p>Brief Description of Project Scope: Each year, the State Bar of Texas (SBOT) holds elections for Board positions, as designated by its by-laws. SBOT also provides support for the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) Board election, which runs concurrently with the SBOT balloting process. The election is handled completely by-mail for the nearly 70,000 members. In 2001, the organization turned to Hart for assistance in completing this high-profile responsibility.</p>	
<p>Products Provided: Hart used the EMS applications, BOSS and Tally, to develop the ballots and tabulate the results. In addition, it utilized Ballot Now for ballot printing, scanning, and resolution of questions about voter intent.</p>	
<p>Services Provided: Hart InterCivic provided full election management and services, including formatting and printing of ballots, overseeing the mail house operation for ballot packet assembly and mailing, daily reporting of return rates, ballot scanning and resolution, and tabulating and reporting of results.</p>	
<p>Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Made to Client Systems: During the 2001 election cycle, 67,481 members were provided ballots using 63 different ballot styles. Of the ballots distributed, 16,807 ballots were returned to Hart for processing. For the 2003 election, membership increases pushed the number of ballot provided to 71,190 and the number returned/tallied to 20,865.</p>	
<p>By contracting with Hart InterCivic to manage the Board elections, the State Bar of Texas is assured of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 100 percent accuracy in ballot generation, assembly, mailing, and tracking; ▪ Daily district return reports delivered on time; and ▪ Accurate, on time results reporting. 	

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group eSlate Installation

Name of Contracting Authority: City of Charlottesville	
Program Manager: Sheri Iachetta	Contract Dollar Value: \$202,000
Title: City Registrar	Registered Voters: 18,841
Address: P.O. Box 911 120 7 th Street, NE, Room 122 Charlottesville, VA 22902	Precincts: 8
Telephone/Fax Numbers: (434)970.3250 / (434)970.3249	Contract Duration: September – October 2002
Email Address: IACHETTA@ci.charlottesville.va.us	
Brief Description of Project Scope: The City of Charlottesville chose the eSlate Voting System to replace its punch card system.	
Products Provided: Equipment supplied to the City includes 60 eSlate/Disabled Access Unit voting terminals and voting booths, and 10 Judge's Booth Controllers. The Ballot Origination Software System and Tally software applications, as well as associated hardware, are also provided.	
Services Provided: The City of Charlottesville received all necessary project management, support, and training services, and a voter education program to successfully administer the November 2002 General Election.	
Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Made to Client Systems:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Per County's expectation, eSlate System delivered and implemented in less than one month ▪ Increased voter turn out attributed to interest in the new system and the voter education program ▪ Ability to vote privately and independently expanded to those with physical limitations or disabilities ▪ Results tabulation managed quickly and easily. 	

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group eSlate Installation

Name of Contracting Authority: City of Philadelphia	
Program Manager: Robert Lee	Contract Dollar Value: \$351,000
Title: Voter Registration Administrator	Registered Voters: 1,011,149
Address: 520 N. Delaware, Philadelphia PA 19123	Precincts: 1681
Telephone/Fax Numbers: (215) 686-1592 / (215) 626-1599	Contract Duration: November 2002 – November 2004
Email Address: philareg2@aol.com	
<p>Brief Description of Project Scope: The City of Philadelphia uses the Danaher ELECTronic 1242 Voting System in the polling place, and until recently manually counted paper ballots for the absentee by-mail process. Working with Danaher Controls and the City, Hart InterCivic is providing the eSlate System to manage absentee ballot design, printing, scanning, and tabulation. The City has 1682 precincts (division – ward combinations) and handles 6,000 – 15,000 absentee ballots each election.</p>	
<p>Products Provided: Software provided includes Hart’s comprehensive ballot management solution (i.e., the Ballot Origination Software System and Tally) and Ballot Now, the fully integrated by-mail voting solution. Hardware to support the process, including computers, scanners, and printers, are also part of the system.</p>	
<p>Services Provided: For the November 2002 election, Hart InterCivic provided election management services including formatting and printing of ballots, ballot scanning and resolution, and tabulating and reporting of results. Results were exported to Danaher Guardian software for consolidation with the polling place results. The continuing implementation plan includes installation of additional equipment, training City election staff, and providing pre-election and Election Day support.</p>	
<p>Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Made to Client Systems: The November 2002 election served as a demonstration and test of how Ballot Now would meet the City’s specific needs for absentee voting. Advantages already observed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Printing initial large quantity of ballots to meet bulk of the absentee ballot applications, then printing additional ballots only as needed provides better management of the printing process. ▪ The use of the Mobile Ballot Box (MBB) to carry election data through ballot set up and formatting, printing, scanning, resolution, and tabulation supports simple, integrated, efficient ballot production and processing. ▪ Ballot Now’s flexible ballot resolution options will support the City’s plan to automatically resolve some questionable ballot marks, while reviewing other marks individually for voter intent. 	

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group eSlate Installation

Name of Contracting Authority: Brazos County, Texas	
Program Manager: Ms. Karen McQueen	Contract Dollar Value: \$997,925
Title: Brazos County Clerk	Registered Voters: 90,129
Address: 300 E. 26 th St., Bryan, TX 77803	Precincts: 77
Telephone/Fax Numbers: 979.361.4124/ 979.361.4125	Contract Duration: November 2002 -
Email Address: kmcqueen@co.brazos.tx.us	
Brief Description of Project Scope: Brazos County, which includes the cities of Bryan and College Station, has over 90,000 registered voters, 77 election precincts, and 5 early voting sites. Hart will provide a full voting solution to Brazos County, including early voting in person and by mail, and Election Day voting.	
Products Provided: Equipment supplied to the county includes 360 eSlate/DAU voting terminals and voting booths, 52 Judge's Booth Controllers, and associated hardware. Also included are the Ballot Now, Ballot Origination Software System, and Tally software applications.	
Services Provided: Hart InterCivic will provide Brazos County and the cities of Bryan and College Station with all necessary project management, support and training services, along with a voter education and outreach program	
<p>Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Made to Client Systems: Performance objectives/improvements to the client systems will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A complete, integrated voting system to provide the citizens of Brazos County with the most up-to-date voting technology at a reasonable cost and total accuracy ■ Overvotes reduced to zero for those using the precinct voting system ■ Voters cast their ballots with greater assurance that their intent will be accurately recorded and counted ■ Voters with disabilities may cast a private, independent vote ■ Voters are knowledgeable of the eSlate System through a voter education and outreach program including brochures, advertising, direct mail, speaker's bureau and instructional videos. ■ During the first use for the May 2003 municipal elections, the County experienced no problems and was able to tabulate results in record time. 	

Hart InterCivic Election Solutions Group eSlate Installation

Name of Contracting Authority: Orange County, California

Program Manager: Mr. Steve Rodermund

Contract Dollar Value: \$26,179,535

Title: Orange County Registrar of Voters (interim)

Current Registered Voters: 1,300,000

Address: 1300 C South Grand Avenue Santa Ana
CA 92705

Current Precincts: 2200

Telephone/Fax Numbers: (714) 567-7620 / (714)
567-7627

Contract Duration: April 2003 – December
2006

Email Address: Steve.Rodermund@ocgov.com

Brief Description of Project Scope: Orange County is the nation's fifth largest county with more than 1,300,000 registered voters and almost 2,200 precincts. Hart InterCivic's eSlate installation for Orange County covers every facet of the elections process including by-mail voting, Early Voting, and Election Day balloting. It is one of the largest electronic voting system installations in the country.

Products Provided: In conjunction with this installation, Hart InterCivic provided 9,000 eSlate/Disabled Access Units voting terminals and voting booths; 1,750 Judge's Booth Controllers; and all associated hardware. Software provided includes Hart's comprehensive ballot management solution (i.e., the Ballot Origination Software System and Tally) and Ballot Now, a fully integrated by-mail voting solution. In addition, Pitney Bowes will integrate a mail handling system designed to integrate with the eSlate by mail election process.

Services Provided: Hart InterCivic will team with MAXUMUS to provide Orange County a package of services to support the installation of the eSlate Electronic Voting System, including comprehensive project management and support, training, warehouse management, and voter education and outreach services. Service deliverables are designed to address the specific needs of Orange County's large number of registered voters and diverse population.

Hart InterCivic will provide integration between the County's current election management software (EIMS from DFM Associates) to BOSS. In addition, Hart will provide integrated electronic reporting from our Tally application to the state's CalVoter reporting system.

Performance Objectives Satisfied/Improvements Expected: As a result of this installation, the following objectives will be met for Orange County:

- Replace decertified punch card system.
- Improved management and processing of the complete absentee by-mail ballot process
- Present the ballot in five languages (English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese).
- Improved election night tabulation, for faster reporting of results
- Efficient, cost effective use of limited space for equipment storage
- Custom-designed warehouse storage and transportation system
- Well-trained poll workers
- Orange County-specific voter education and community outreach program
- Additional Election Day support during the staff and poll worker transition to the new system



March 18, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

As you may know, Harris County recently made a decision to purchase a new voting system. The County went through a lengthy and thorough review before making a decision about which system to acquire. The review process, led by the Harris County Clerk's Office, included a 39-member community Task Force in addition to the detailed review of the written proposals by the County's professional staff.

When all evaluations were complete, Harris County made the decision to purchase the eSlate Electronic Voting System offered by Hart InterCivic, based in Austin. Twenty members of the 39 member Task Force placed *Hart InterCivic* first in their individual evaluation, representing a rating of 60.6%, with the next highest rating being 24.2%. In communicating the decision to the Commissioner's Court, the Clerk's Office cited several factors, including among them:

- the equipment is based on the newest technology, by-passing a "touch screen" system, which has a higher maintenance cost;
- the equipment is voter friendly and election judge friendly in adaptability and utilization;
- the vendor offered an outstanding community outreach and training program;
- the vendor offers the best and most complete product for allowing disabled voters to vote a secret ballot.

We have now successfully completed the first phase of the three-phase eSlate System implementation, fully replacing our punch card machines. During the November 2002 elections, the eSlate System was fully deployed throughout Harris County for use during early voting in person, absentee by mail voting and Election Day voting. The response from Harris County officials, poll workers and voters alike was extremely positive and support provided by Hart InterCivic throughout the process was excellent.

To summarize, we have been very pleased with the eSlate System and the service and support provided by Hart InterCivic. We would favorably recommend the system to other counties considering such a purchase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Eckels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Robert Eckels
County Judge

RAE/DH/dvg



TRACY K. BAKER
Arapahoe County
Clerk & Recorder

April 13, 2001

As Arapahoe County Clerk, I would like to share Arapahoe County's experience with Hart InterCivic's eSlate Electronic Voting System. The eSlate was used during the November 2000 General election. eSlate was offered as an early voting option to voters at the Arapahoe County Voting Systems Facility. Arapahoe County voters had the opportunity to cast their official vote using either the eSlate system or the county's current system.

Arapahoe County voters who chose to use eSlate were quite positive about the experience. Voters commented on the ease of the system and that the system had exceeded their expectations.

From an election management standpoint, eSlate performed exceptionally well during the early voting period. Poll workers found the eSlate easy to assemble and user friendly. Hart InterCivic supported the system throughout, providing excellent training and technical assistance. I was impressed by eSlate's performance and Hart InterCivic's support.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 303-795-4200.

Sincerely,

Tracy K. Baker
Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder



TARRANT COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

ROBERT PARTEN, CERA
Elections Administrator

April 15, 2003

GAYLE HAMILTON
Assistant Elections Administrator

Mr. Jerry Meadows
Senior Vice President
Election Solutions Group
Hart InterCivic
15500 Wells Port Drive
Austin, TX 78728

Dear Jerry:

I am pleased to supply this letter of reference for Hart InterCivic and the eSlate Electronic Voting System. Having completed yet another successful election in November 2002 using the eSlate for early voting in person, I am very pleased with our decision to select Hart InterCivic and the eSlate.

We initially evaluated the eSlate System during early voting in the November 2000 elections. The response from voters and election workers was extremely positive and that positive response has continued throughout this most recent election.

Hart InterCivic reacted to a very short timeline to manage a successful implementation. After selecting eSlate following a very detailed evaluation, the contract was executed on 9/25/01. With early voting starting on 10/22/01, this gave us only three weeks to roll out the new system, including the training of my staff, poll workers and the voters.

Our success in this effort is due to the close working relationship between Hart and Tarrant County, along with Hart InterCivic's excellent project management skills and elections expertise. Hart InterCivic supported every aspect of implementing the new system, including development of a program to integrate results from our precinct-based optical scan accumulation system, used for Election Day voting, with those from the eSlate System used for early voting..

Throughout the implementation, Hart InterCivic consistently met the deadlines for equipment delivery, testing and support services prior to the start of early voting. In particular, Hart provided exceptional training and targeted voter outreach and education initiatives to support our efforts and ensure our success during the eSlate rollout.

In each and every election since November 2000, the eSlate has performed flawlessly, and Hart InterCivic has been willing to go above and beyond in terms of support and service. Voters and poll workers have consistently expressed strong support for the eSlate System. Visually impaired and other special needs voters have been particularly vocal in their endorsement of the system.

Overall, we have had a long relationship with Hart InterCivic and the introduction of the eSlate has been an important expansion of that relationship. We are pleased with the performance of the eSlate and very satisfied with the performance of Hart InterCivic and its team of dedicated employees.

If you have any questions, please call me at 817.884.2688.

Sincerely,



Robert Parten
Elections Administrator

TARRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

100 W. WEATHERFORD, ROOM B-90, PO BOX 961011, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76161-0011 (817) 884-1115 FAX (817) 884-1755 TDD (817) 884-3458

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February 8, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am one of eight million Americans whose visual limitations have kept them from casting a secret ballot. I am pleased to offer this letter supporting the efforts of Hart InterCivic to provide a voting system that enables persons with visual or mobility impairments to vote independently. I have had the opportunity to test Hart InterCivic's eSlate Electronic Voting System, and I believe that it represents a significant advance beyond the optical scan systems that are generally in use today.

There are nearly 40 million Americans of voting age with at least one disability, and many of them have never had the right of casting an independent ballot. Studies demonstrate that disabled voters consistently fail to vote at higher rates than the general population. In the November 2000 elections, 51% of the voting aged population as a whole voted, but only 40% of voting aged people with disabilities cast their ballot.

There are several keys to addressing this important issue, including polling place accessibility, voter and poll worker education, and voting machinery that support special needs.

Hart InterCivic's is one of four companies that has addressed the challenge of creating a truly accessible voting system. Hart InterCivic's eSlate has met the State of Texas's criteria that require all new voting equipment to be accessible to persons with disabilities. These criteria truly represent a model for the rest of the nation. In addition to meeting these criteria, Hart InterCivic's eSlate goes even further through the integration of a multilingual audio ballot reader, flexible interface devices, including "sip and puff capability," and even specially designed voting booths that support wheelchair access.

Efforts by companies like Hart InterCivic can make a major contribution to enfranchising disabled voters.

Sincerely,



Mr. Jim Dickson

Vice President, National Organization on Disability
and Director N.O.D. VOTE! 2000 Campaign

It's ability, not disability, that counts.



National
Federation
of the Blind

1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
(410) 659-9314

Marc Maurer, President

February 8, 2001

Mr. Bill Stotesbery
Vice President, Marketing
Hart InterCivic
15500 Wells Port Drive
Austin, Texas 78728

Dear Mr. Stotesbery:

The National Federation of the Blind, the nation's oldest and largest organization of blind people, operates the International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind (IBTC). This demonstration and evaluation center of speech and Braille technology works with a variety of companies and organizations to ensure that the products they develop are accessible to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

We have had a number of opportunities to evaluate Hart InterCivic's eSlate electronic voting system and have appreciated the chance to provide comments about system features and enhancements that affect the blind. We have been very impressed with the design of the eSlate system insofar as nonvisual access is concerned. In addition to IBTC staff, a number of Federation members around the country have had an opportunity to use eSlate, and the comments we have received have been universally favorable. We found that the nonvisual interface was easy to learn and required very little user training. We also found that the rotary dial, used to navigate the ballot, represented a novel and innovative navigation feature that made it more convenient for the blind user to examine the ballot before casting the final vote.

In the past, with paper ballot and mechanical voting systems, it has been necessary for blind voters to obtain sighted assistance to participate in the electoral process. However, as voting systems become increasingly electronic in nature, there is absolutely no reason for this practice to continue. Blind people should be able to vote without sighted assistance on any electronic voting system. The eSlate system is the first significant step toward making electronic voting a task that the blind of America will be able to perform independently. We look forward to continuing to work with Hart InterCivic as it works to increase independent access to the electronic voting process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis Chong".

Curtis Chong, Director of Technology
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

CC/bm

"Changing what it means to be blind"