INVITATION FOR BID

VOTER CANVASS MAILING & SECOND NOTICE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 GENERAL ELECTION



*Bid(s) must be submitted no later than Friday, May 17, 2024 by 11:00 a.m.

AGENCY: Board of Election Commissioners, City of Chicago ADDRESS: 69 West Washington, Suite 800 Chicago, IL 60602 CONTACT NAME: Procurement Office Phone: 312-269-5362

Email Bid to: purchase@chicagoelections.gov

GENERAL INVITATION

The Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago (Board) is inviting Bids for the Printing and Mailing for its 2024 Voter Canvass Mailing (Form 407C) and Second Notice (Form 403C), as described below under Statement of Work and Specifications.

INTRODUCTION; BACKGROUND

The Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago (the "Board") is an independent governmental entity created under Article 6 of the Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS 5/6-1 et seq.) and is charged with registering voters and conducting all elections in the City of Chicago. The Board is comprised of three members, each of whom is designated as an Election Commissioner. The Commissioners are appointed by the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. Presently, the Commissioners are Marisel A. Hernandez, who serves as Chairwoman, William J. Kresse who serves as Commissioner/Secretary, and June A. Brown who serves as Commissioner. The Board's Executive Director is Charles Holiday, Jr., who is in charge of the Board's offices and day-to-day operations.

Currently, there are approximately 1.6 million registered voters (active & inactive) in the City of Chicago.

STATEMENT OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS

Bid for contracts are being sought by the Board for a Printing and Mailing in July 2024 ahead of the November 5, 2024 General Election. The contractor must print and deliver the Printing and Mailing of 2024 Voter Canvass Mailing & Second Notice F.O.B., Chicago Board of Election Commissioners as described herein and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the specification. The Board will not accept any subcontracting printers; all printing must be printed in house. Any deviation from the printing specification us subjected to rejection at Contractor's own expense.

The Board seeks a Contractor to print and deliver a Voter Canvass & Second Notice Mailer that involves:

- The NCOA screening of approximately 1.6 million Chicago voters' name and address records.
- Printing and Mailing Forwarding Service Requested pieces to the 100,000 to 200,000 expected to be identified through the NCOA screening as outdated.
- Printing and mailing two versions of Return Service Requested pieces to the remaining records that the NCOA does not indicate need address corrections.

The canvass is a mailing to each register voter and serves as a way of verification that the voter's address is current.

The Board will provide artwork and samples of the various pieces. All printing is to be inclusive of any reproduction cost. The Board will not accept or compensate for any production overages, which is at the Contractor's own expense.

Printer and mailing house must coordinate bid, bid bond (if applicable), preparation and delivery of paper stock, imaging of stock with voter "name" data and all preparations for mailing. Stock must be imaged by mailing house to produce canvass notices that are properly sorted for delivery to the U.S. Postal Service. Final canvass notices and business-reply return components (on Forwarding Service Notices) shall be in compliance with all U.S. Postal Service requirements.

CANVASS MAILING (FORM 407C)

Estimated Mailing Quantity: 1,500,000

<u>Paper</u>: white 9-point uncoated cardstock paper, 92 brightness or better. Printer must supply samples of paper for Board approval to confirm, in coordination with mailing house, that the paper is not too porous and not containing too much vellum for the eventual imaging of a scan-able bar code. (Designs of letter available through Board's Procurement Office prior to bid opening.)

<u>Printing colors and bleeds of notice</u>: Four colors with duplex (front and back) imaging in black of individual voter "name" data. No bleeds.

Final canvass notice letter shall be a letter that is 11 inches in height by 8.5 inches in width, and then after imaged, folded and wafer sealed with a circular seal to be 5.5 inches in height by 8.5 inches in width. (Designs of letter available through Board's Procurement Office prior to bid opening.)

Form shall include four perforations that shall allow for the easy separation of the Verification of Registration voter card.

The outer mailing portion of the piece shall include:

- Election Board's return address and logo Return Service Requested notation
- The USPS' "Official Election Mail" logo
- Postal indicia
- Language announcing purpose of the mailing in red and blue

Designs of mail piece available through Board's Procurement Office prior to bid opening.

Mailing house shall perform pre-sort and ZIP+4 using the "mailing file" described in the schedule below. All original name, addresses and other district and polling place information from the "mailing file" shall be used. Please note that by law, no name or address changes or corrections can be made, except for ZIP Code corrections or to standardize the House Number, Unit or Suite or Apartment Number, or the Street Name in the voter's address. Mailing house shall generate copies of all paperwork necessary to be filed with U.S. Postal Service and provide copies of postage statements for the reports for the Board of Election Commissioners and the U.S. Postal Service.

Mailing house shall image in black ink the voter bar code where indicated in the design of the letter.

Mailing house shall image in black ink the date of the letter, the voter's full name, address, city, state, ZIP Code provided (or corrected ZIP Code), and related postal bar code, using the "mailing file" on the front side of each item. Mailing house also shall image in black ink the voter name, address, city and state, ZIP Code (or corrected ZIP Code) and voting district information on Verification of Registration card where indicated in the design of the letter.

Mailing house shall cleanly cut each form and take all other steps necessary to prepare the forms for mailing and loading into trays with tray tags and paperwork as required for the U.S. Postal Service for pre-sort non-profit postage processing, or such other postage rate as agreed to by both the Board and the U.S. Postal Service. Forms must be uniformly cut to 11 inches in height/8.5 inches in width. Mailing house shall deliver completed trays of envelopes in good condition and in appropriate trays with any reports required by U.S. Postal Service, all in pre-sort order to cause the least possible postage expenses for the Board.

Board shall pay for postage through its permit.

Mailing house shall pull live a minimum of five "live" samples every hour of the imaging process is conducted and supply the original "live" samples to the Board for inspection.

SECOND NOTICE (FORM 403C)

The quantity for the Second Notice mailings will depend on:

(a) the number of outdated records identified in the NCOA review of the initial file of approximately 1.6-million voter records; and,

(b) the returned mail from the Return Service Requested mailing referenced in the previous section. Historically, the quantity has been between 70,000 and 200,000 pieces for this second mailing. Bid should be based on possible quantity of 200,000 with the understanding that the quantity may be more or less than that number.

<u>Paper:</u> white 9-point uncoated cardstock paper, 92 brightness or better. Printer must supply samples of paper for Board approval to confirm, in coordination with mailing house, that the paper is not too porous and not containing too much vellum for the eventual imaging of a scan-able bar code. (Designs of letter available through Board's Procurement Office prior to bid opening.)

<u>Printing colors and bleeds of notice</u>: Two colors (Pantone 293 and 485) with imaging in black for voter's name and address. No bleed.

Final canvass notice shall be a letter that is 11 inches in height by 8.5 inches in width, folded to be 8.5 inches x 5.5 inches and wafer sealed or glue tabbed closed. (Designs of letter available through Board's Procurement Office prior to bid opening.)

The outer mailing portion of the piece shall include:

- Election Board's return address and logo
- FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED notation
- The USPS' "Official Election Mail" logo
- Postal indicia

Language announcing purpose of the mailing in red and blue

Designs of mail piece available through Board's Procurement Office prior to bid opening.

Mailing house shall perform pre-sort and ZIP+4 using the "mailing file" described in the schedule below. All original names, addresses and other district and polling place information from the "mailing file" shall be used. Please note that by law, no name or address changes or corrections can be made, except for ZIP Code corrections or to standardize the Street Name in the voter's address or the voter's Unit, Apartment or Suite number. Mailing house shall generate copies of all paperwork necessary to be filed with U.S. Postal Service and provide copies of postage statements for the reports for the Board of Election Commissioners and the USPS.

Mailing house shall image in black ink the voter bar code where indicated in the design of the letter.

Mailing house shall image in black ink the date of the letter, the voter's full name, address, city, state, ZIP Code provided (or corrected ZIP Code), and related postal bar code, using the "mailing file" on the front side of each item.

Mailing house shall cleanly cut each form and take all other steps necessary to prepare the forms for mailing and loading into trays with tray tags and paperwork as required for the U.S. Postal Service for pre-sort non-profit postage processing, or such other postage rate as agreed to by both the Board and the U.S. Postal Service. Forms must be uniformly cut to 11 inches in height/8.5 inches in width. Mailing house shall deliver completed trays of envelopes in good condition and in appropriate trays with any reports required by U.S. Postal Service, all in pre-sort order to cause the least possible postage expenses for the Board.

NOTE: This second mailing piece will include a business reply mail card and will require two perforations (one partial horizontal and one partial vertical), so that the card may be easily detached and returned. Board shall pay for postage through its permits.

Mailing house shall pull live a minimum of five "live" samples every hour of the imaging process is conducted and supply the original "live" samples to the Board for inspection.

SUBMISSION AND CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

The printer and mailing house must submit a bid that includes, at a minimum, a cover letter on the company's (or companies') letterhead and the enclosed BID FORM.

- The printer company name
- The mailing house company name
- The main contacts for the printer and mailing house
- Email information for main contact(s) for the printer and mailing house
- Mailing addresses for printer and mailing house
- Phone numbers for printer and mailing house
- Fax numbers for printer and mailing house
- Combined price for printing forms, envelopes and mailing house services for imaging all mailings identified in First Mailing and Second Mailing.

Bids will be evaluated based on criteria including but not limited to total price for printer to generate both mailings, bidder's responsiveness to the requirements of the IFB, and bidder's responsibility and past experiences in the industry and with the Board, in addition to the bidder's compliance with the City of Chicago's guidelines and recommendations for minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises. The Board reserves the right to evaluate and confirm that both the printer and the mailing house each possess adequate resources to perform the work. The Board cannot consider partial bids that do not accomplish all tasks related to this printing and mailing job (i.e., bidding for paper or ink alone, bidding for the envelopes alone, bidding for printer service alone or bidding for mailing-house service alone or any other combination of commodities or services that do not result in completion of all tasks related to printing and mailing of all canvass forms in the specifications).

The Board reserves the right to evaluate and confirm that the printer and mailing house possesses adequate staff, facilities and equipment needed to complete the job effectively and in a timely manner. Accordingly, the mailing house must be able to demonstrate and possess the capacity to allow printing of notices per the schedule above and the ability to process at least 7,000 pieces per hour for the mailing house's mailing-house services portion of the contract. The Board will have sole discretion to measure this capacity.

The Printer and Mailing house must demonstrate adequate and qualified staff, adequate functional equipment, experience with multi-million-piece mailings and Postal Service reports and preparations, and secure facilities. The Printer and Mailing house must demonstrate capacity to image the voter information and complete all other steps necessary for the preparation and delivery of the finished mail pieces in acceptable presort order to the Chicago main post office.

The Printer and Mailing house must demonstrate and utilize quality control measures to assure both sides of each piece are imaged and synchronized to match, and to prevent possible mailing of errant pieces, such as those that are smudged, smeared, unreadable or partially imaged, including preventing mailing of forms that are imaged on only one side of mail piece.

Printer and mailing house shall allow for Board representatives to review equipment and staff, up to and including an in-person inspection and references, prior to award of contract.

Printer and mailing house shall allow Board to inspect all stages of the processes involved in this canvass print/mail job. Board reserves the sole right to reject bids of brokers or other bidders who fail to show adequate ownership of facilities and equipment and access to staffing to assure the proper and timely completion of the work under this contract

BID SUBMISSION

The Procurement Office will accept bid submissions that are mailed to it, personally delivered, or emailed to <u>purchase@chicagoelections.gov</u>.

No Bids will be accepted if sent to a different email address.

PRINTING

The Board shall order and supervise all printing under this Contract and shall prescribe the manner, form, style, size and arrangement of type, the spacing of lines, the width of borders and margins, and the method and material of printing.

The Contractor shall execute, within such reasonable time as the Board may require, and in a manner acceptable to such Board, all orders for printing issued to the Contractor; it shall be incumbent upon the Contractor to supply such material and appliances as are in the judgment of the Board reasonably necessary for the prompt and workmanlike execution of the work.

No mailing shall exceed 30 days after receipt of order, with due consideration given to size of order and any delay by the Board. The Contractor must notify the Board at the receipt of the purchase order if

unable to meet the delivery requirements. If Contractor cannot meet the delivery requirements, the Board then has the right to place the work with next lowest priced and responsible bidder and assess any costs to the original bidder.

All workmanship and printing shall be first class quality. Poor quality or failure to follow the directions and specifications of the Board will constitute sufficient basis for the rejection of work. The decision of the Board is final.

In the event work is rejected due to Contractor error or poor quality, the Contractor shall promptly reprint the job without any additional charges, with all such reprint costs to be borne by the Contractor and any other expenses necessary to reproduce or obtain the specified printing materials.

Subcontracting/Assignments: This contract cannot be assigned in whole or in part without consent of the Board. All work under this contract shall be performed on the premises of the Contractor, unless the Contractor seeks and obtains the written consent of the Board for subcontracting of specific work which must be performed, but no additional charge can be made for such work. PRINT BROKERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO BID ON THIS JOB.

Note: A proof/sample of each job produced must be submitted to the Procurement Office or such other person designated in this Invitation for Bid. Each proof/sample is to be marked with the printing order number for identification purposes. Bidders must affirmatively state in their bid submissions that they own or directly lease their own equipment and have full control to designate the Board as its top-priority client for use of said equipment and facilities for the relatively short time periods for the projects described in this IFB.

PRICE & AWARD

If the Board issues a bid award, the award will be made to the Responsive/Responsible bidder who submits the lowest price for the selected style table. The Board may elect to award one or more Bidders whichever is deemed to be in the best interest of the Board. Priority may be given to bidders based upon bidder's responsibility and past experiences in the industry and with the Board, in addition to the bidder's compliance with the City of Chicago's guidelines and recommendations for minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises

BID PRICES MUST INCORPORATE ALL COSTS

Unless otherwise specified in this Invitation, bid prices must be complete and, if accepted, prices must be firm for the contractual period. Bid pricing must incorporate any/all peripheral costs including, but not limited to the costs of products/services, delivery/transportation charges, training, materials, labor, insurance, applicable taxes, warranty, overhead and profit, etc. that are required by the Bid Documents.

ESTIMATED QUANTITIES

Unless explicitly stated to the contrary in the Scope of Work, any quantities shown in this IFB represent the estimated usage and as such are for bid canvassing purposes only. The Board reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities ordered. Nothing herein will be construed as intent on the part of the Board to procure any goods or services beyond those determined by the Board to be necessary to meet its needs. The Board will only be obligated to order and pay for such quantities as are from time to time ordered, performed and accepted.

TAXES INCLUDED IN BID PRICES

Materials purchased by the Board of Elections Commissioners are not subject to the Federal Excise Tax. The City of Chicago's Tax Exemption Certificate number is 36-6005820.

Materials purchased by the Board are not subject to the State of Illinois Sales Tax. The City's Tax Exemption Certificate number is E9998-1874-07.

The Illinois Retailers' Occupation Tax, Use Tax, and Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax do not apply to materials or services purchased by the Board.

Bidders shall include all other applicable Federal, State and local taxes, direct or indirect, in their Bid prices.

INVOICES

All original invoices must be sent by the Contractor to the Board to apply against the Contract. Invoices must be submitted in accordance with the mutually agreed upon time period. All invoices must be signed, dated and reference the Board's Purchase Order number and mailed directly to the attention of Finance Department, 69 W. Washington Street Chicago, IL 60602 or emailed to <u>finance@chicagoelections.gov</u>.

All invoices must be signed, marked "original," and include the following information or payment will be delayed:

- Invoice number and date
- Purchase Order number
- Vendor Name and/or Number
- Remittance Address
- Vendor Contact Name and Phone Number
- Itemized Invoice quantities, description of deliverable(s), unit of measure, extended pricing
- Total Amount Due

Invoice quantities, service description, unit of measure and pricing must correspond to the terms of the bid page(s).

Invoices for over-shipments, overages, or items with price/wage escalations will be rejected unless the Contract includes a provision for such an adjustment. **The Board will not pay for any overruns.**

Freight, handling and shipping costs are not to be invoiced; deliveries are to be made F.O.B., Board of Elections Commissioner. The Board is exempt from paying State of Illinois sales tax and Federal excise taxes on purchases.

TERM OF THIS CONTRACT

The duration of this contract shall begin on the date of execution and continue through the completion of the project. Unless otherwise specified, this Contract shall commence upon the last dated signature of the Parties. At the Board's option, and with written notice to the Contractor, this Contract may be extended for an additional full project period, including a second printing and mailing of the documents described herein.

EXCEPTIONS

Any deviations from the specifications set forth in this IFB and any corrections or addenda thereto must be noted on the Proposal Page(s) or attached thereto, with the exact nature of the change outlined in sufficient detail. Bidder must provide the reason for which deviations were made. Failure of a Bidder to comply with the terms of this paragraph may be cause for rejection of its Bid.

If a Bidder takes exception to other provisions of the specification, the Board shall reject the Bid as nonresponsive in the event that the Board, in our opinion, determines such exception(s) to be material exception(s).

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

The Contractor must observe and comply with all applicable federal, state, county and municipal laws, statutes, regulations, codes, ordinances and executive orders, in effect now or later and as amended whether or not they appear in the Contract Documents.

Provisions required by law, ordinances, rules, regulations, or executive orders to be inserted in the Contract are deemed inserted in the Contract whether or not they appear in the Contract.

The Contractor must pay all taxes and obtain all licenses, certificates, and other authorizations required in connection with the performance of its obligations hereunder, and Contractor must require all Subcontractors to also do so. Failure to do so is an event of default and may result in the termination of this Contract.

PAYMENTS

The Board will process payment within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Contractor's invoice and acceptance of the specified services. Payments shall be based on unit prices of services actually provided, except as otherwise agreed by the Board and Contractor. The Board will not be obligated to pay for any services if Contractor is noncompliant with the terms and conditions on this contract. Contractor shall have no claim against the Board for any expense not covered by this contract.

AWARD OF CONTRACT

The Contract consists of the Bid Documents. Upon the award and execution of a contract pursuant to the bid documents, the bid documents become the Contract documents, which collectively comprise the Contract. The Bid Documents include but might not be limited to this IFB, any corrections and addenda thereto, the Contractors bid submission documents and any other written contractual obligations agreed to by the Board prior to execution of the Contract.

The Board will, by written notice, notify the Bidder that is, per the Basis of Award, the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder of the Board's award of a Contract.

AWARDS

An Award will be based on the lowest responsive and responsible bidder's bid price and mailing Issuance turn-around time who meets the specifications herein. *Bidder's pricing is to be inclusive of all related charges and fees.* The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids or portion or portions thereof when, in the Board's opinion, the best interests of the Board will be served by such action, or when any bid or bids are, in the Board's sole discretion, vague, incomplete or indefinite.

The Board reserves the right to refuse to award a contract to any person, firm or corporation that is in arrears or is in default to the Board, the City of Chicago, or the County of Cook upon any debt or contract, or that is a defaulter, as surety or otherwise, upon any obligation to the Board, the City or the County, or has failed to perform any previous contract with the Board, the City of Chicago or the County of Cook. Bidder, if requested, must present within a reasonable time, as determined by the Procurement Office or the Board, evidence satisfactory to the Procurement Office or the Board, as the case may be, of performance ability and possession of necessary facilities, pecuniary resources and adequate insurance to comply with the terms of these specifications and contract documents.

PRICING CALCULATIONS

The Board reserves the right to make corrections, after receiving the bids, to any clerical error apparent on the Line Items, including but not limited to obviously incorrect units or misplaced decimal points, or arithmetic error. The Bidder must bid all line items set forth on the Proposal Page(s), except to the extent the specifications expressly allows otherwise. In the event that a comparison of the Bidder's "Unit Price" and "Total Price" submitted for any line item reveals a calculation error or other discrepancy, the Unit Price will prevail.

TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

The Board may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, immediately upon notice to the Contractor if it is determined that the actions, or failure to act, of the Contractor, its Offices, employees or subcontractors have caused, or reasonably could cause jeopardy to health, safety, or property. The Contract may be terminated if the Board determines that the Contractor lacks the financial resources to perform under the Contract. If Contractor fails to perform to the Board's satisfaction any material requirement of this Contract or is in violation of a material provision of this Contract, the Board shall provide written notice to the Contractor requesting that the breach or noncompliance be remedied within the period of time specified in the Board's written notice. If the breach or noncompliance is not remedied by that date the Board may either:

a. Immediately terminate the Contract without additional written notice or Enforce the terms and conditions of the Contract, and in either event seek any available legal or equitable remedies and damages.

TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

With written notice to the Contractor, the Board may, at its convenience, terminate this Contract in whole or in part without the payment of any penalty or incurring any further obligation to the Contractor. Following any such termination for convenience, the Contractor shall be entitled to compensation upon submission of invoices and proof of claim for services provided under this Contract up to and including the date of termination.

This Contract is contingent upon and subject to the availability of funds. The Board, at its sole option, may terminate or suspend this contract, in whole or in part, without penalty or further payment being required, if funds needed are insufficient for any reason.

The Contractor shall be entitled to compensation upon submission of invoices and proof of claim for supplies and services provided in compliance with this contract up to and including the date of termination.

END OF SPECIFICATION

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION VALIDATION

Printer Company or Corporate Name	
Name of Main Contact for Printer	
Email address for Printer's Main Contact	
Mailing House Company or Corporate Name (if app	blicable)
Name of Main Contact for Mailing House (if applica	able)
Email address for Mailing House's Main Contact (if	applicable)
Printer's Mailing Address (If separate from printer)	Mailing House's Mailing Address (if applicable)
Phone :	Phone :
Fax :	Fax :
Signature, Authorized Agent: Printer	Signature, Authorized Agent: Mailing House
Printed Name, Authorized Agent: Printer	Printed Name, Authorized Agent: Mailing House
Title of Authorized Agen: Printer	Title of Authorized Agent: Mailing House
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Notes to Bidder: All Quoted prices must be valid through date of execution and continue through the completion of the project.

No price increases will be accepted. In the event of a price decrease, the Board is guaranteed to receive the lowest price.

PROPOSAL PAGE

PRICING TABLE

DESCRIPTION: VOTER CANVASS MAILING & SECOND NOTICE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Procurement Type: Invitation for Bid (IFB)

Please Respond By: Friday, May 17, 2024 by 11:00 A.M.

Your Quote is Effective as of May 17, 2024 and valid up to November 5, 2024 after quote acceptance.

Bid Contact Information: Procurement Office, (312) 269-5362 purchase@chicagoelections.gov

Bid pricing for all line items must be based on the standard unit of measure indicated below. Pricing on alternate units of measure may not be accepted. Unit costs must be limited to three decimal places. Each quote must be signed and unit price, extended price and total price must be typed or written in ink.

LINE		UNIT OF	ESTIMATE	PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
	NCOA Screening of	MEASURE Per	QUANTIY		
#1	approximately 1.6 million voter records	Thousand (1M)	1.6 million	\$	\$
#2	Mailing of approximately 1.5 million Return Service Requested voter notices:	Per Thousand (1M)	1.5 million	\$	\$
#3	Mailing of approximately 200,000 voter records:	Per Thousand (1M)	200,000	\$	\$
	Comments:				
		Tot	al Extended F	Price \$	·

