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Counties get Funds for Voting Machines

(KTNC)--Two southeast Nebraska counties are among 42 in the state that will receive funds from the Secretary of State's office to help cover the cost of providing voting equipment for disabled residents. The funds, totaling nearly \$41,000, are being made available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Help America Vote Act.

Secretary of State John Gale says the law requires physically disabled and visually impaired voters have access to equipment that allows them to vote, unassisted, at their polling site.

All county election offices in Nebraska use AutoMARK machines, which Gale says must be programmed for each election. The costs to program the machines can add up to thousands of dollars.

Johnson County is one of 17 counties that received \$750, and Pawnee County is one of 13 counties in the state to get a check for \$1,000. Twelve counties received checks for more than \$1,000.

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