

## Kodak 9125DC Case Study

### Scanning envelope ballots for verification by county elections departments within required timeframe

Harris County Elections Department successfully implemented a scanning solution to successfully scan "receipt envelope ballots" (ballot by mail) which contain 2-3 page ballots that can be folded.

All counties are required to verify these ballots that come through the mail in a very timely capture process. Only "envelope scanner systems" requiring a large investment have proven to be capable of fast scanning these thick documents. As with all counties, budgets are tight, especially for something that is only used periodically. However, the counties have a deadline for meeting the verification requirement.

Harris County staff worked with Precision Products, Inc., a proven vendor, to test many scanners with the Elections Department as the county was cost conscious with tax payers dollars. The problem with the normal document scanners proved that they are not designed for these thick envelopes; many envelopes were sealed with air pockets complicating the problem.

The Elections Department also had to integrate the scanner for this process with their VOTEC Election Management and Compliance System (VEMACS) which is designed to automate virtually every process in the election office.

Previously, the Elections Department scanning staff were force feeding these envelopes through their Kodak i4200 scanners with unacceptable results. Other scanners tested were unable to do this. Adding a flatbed accessory to the i4200 for a process of scanning all of the envelopes one at a time would not allow realistic deadlines to be met.

The Kodak 9125dc scanner was tested in a final attempt. One of the features of the 9125dc allowed for scanning in a mode unavailable in other scanners. This provided the success for scanning the thick envelopes 80% of the time. With only 20% remaining, it was an easier process for the lower percent to be scanned on the i4200 with the flatbed accessory. The combo provided timely and accurate success with the staff being efficient with their process.

The solution with the Kodak 9125dc for scanning 80% of the envelopes and the balance with the Kodak i4200 flatbed provided the timely turn-around needed and at a great cost savings over much more expensive envelope scanning systems.

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