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Local Voting Machines Receive Highest Rating

The voting machine system manufactured by Automatic Voting Machine Corp. of Jamestown received the highest recommendation from a Denver, Colo., task force evaluating all such available systems.

The report was made by a spokesman for the Denver Election Commission's office, who said, however, that the city does not plan to purchase any of the locally produced new machines.

"It's slick, all right," he said, "It's just that at the time we don't have the money or the inclination to change."

The spokesman said the task force study is seen as the most comprehensive evaluation ever undertaken by any election agency. He said it was agreed to after an election last fall, using a system from a Automatic Voting Machine Corp. competitor, was "a total disaster."

The Election Commission employee said the city currently is using 30-year-old mechanical voting machines made in Jamestown and which have proven very durable and satisfactory.

He said that for the school board election last fall, the former election commissioners purchased another system that proved totally unacceptable. The spokesman commented, "It was a total disaster. We had to wait as long as two weeks for results."

He noted that members of the city's

Election Commission are elected officials and that those who made the purchase of the new equipment were voted out of office overwhelmingly.

The new commissioners involved in the task force study held a similar school board election this past spring, using the old mechanical voting machines, he noted. The spokesman said the cost was 23 percent less than the previous such election.

In light of the city's experience, he said the taxpayers are not anxious to adopt another voting machine system and are well satisfied with the old, proven mechanical units