



# VOTING SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

## Quarterly Newsletter

June 2016

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### MESSAGE FROM DEAN

As we approach significant project milestones, our Presidential Primary Election reinforced the importance of the work we are doing with the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP.) During this election, the need to modernize the voting experience for Los Angeles County voters was made very evident. Aging voting technology and outdated cumbersome processes created challenges for voters, pollworkers and administrators; challenges that may be eliminated with the new voting experience and technologies we are collaboratively designing through this process.



Los Angeles County voters are in need of a voting experience that is better designed to meet their lifestyles, habits and needs; a voting system designed with voters in mind. I appreciate all your efforts to help make this happen. Your work is more important now than ever.

I am not the only one who recognizes the importance of the VSAP. Various election jurisdictions, organizations and experts throughout the country are following our project and recognize the important work we are all doing, organizations such as the Election Verification Network who granted our project their "Outstanding Innovation in Election Technologies" Award. This award recognizes the commitment of all Committee members, staff and partners to ensuring our future voting experience in Los Angeles County supports the integrity, security and accessibility of elections. Congratulations to all of you for this recognition and thank you for being a part of this important project.

**DEAN C. LOGAN**

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
Los Angeles County

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

A series of meetings with our Technical Advisory Committee and Advisory Committee were held to discuss updates to the design of various system components such as the Ballot Marking Device, Interactive Sample Ballot, and Vote by Mail packets. In line with our continued commitment of a transparent and participative process, these meetings allow for a healthy discussion to generate recommendations from our technical experts and community representatives to further refine the design specifications of the voting systems.

### Technical Advisory Committee Meeting | March 7-9, 2016

The VSAP team and IDEO met with the members of the Technical Advisory Committee to share the latest system design updates. Meeting participants received a demonstration of the latest Ballot Marking Device User Interface and hardware. Participants had the opportunity to personally interact with the device. The prototype provides a simulated voting experience that has a functioning touchscreen, scanner, printer and ballot box.

During this meeting, other components of the voting experience were also discussed including the Interactive Sample Ballot, Poll Pass and the Vote By Mail packet. The meeting provided a venue for design and technical issues to be addressed by all parties present. The feedback and suggestions gathered from this meeting are all considered in the production of the final design.





**Advisory Committee Meeting | March 16, 2016**

The VSAP team met with the VSAP Advisory Committee to present the design updates to various system components and discuss next steps for the project.

Amongst design updates discussed were those made to the Vote by Mail packet as a result of user testing which took place in November. Members had the opportunity to discuss the user testing results that impacted the design decisions.



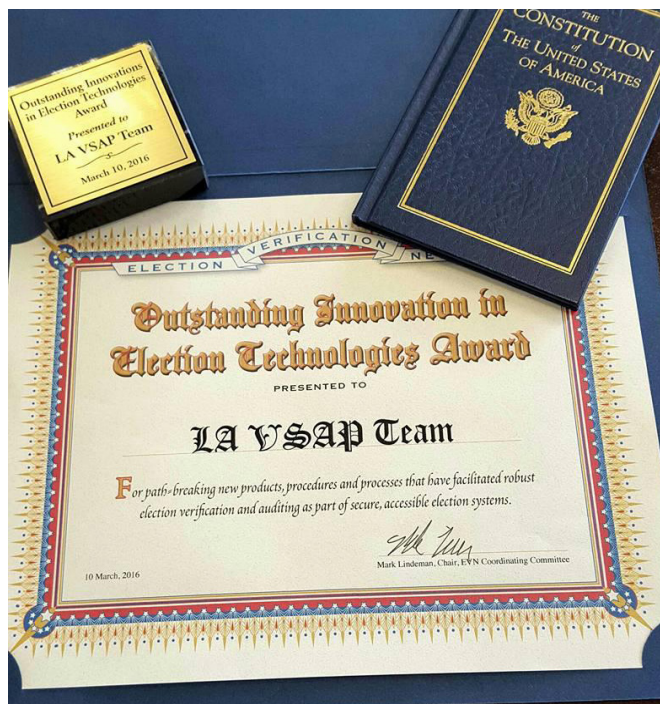
**Design Validation Unit Review | March 16, 2016**

Members of the Technical Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee, and Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee reviewed the usability and accessibility features of the Ballot Marking Device. Some of the accessibility features that were demonstrated include the audio ballot, tactile keypad, and touchscreen customization options. Those customization options include font size, color contrast, language and language selection. This meeting was conducted to gather the feedback of our committee members who focus on accessibility and usability issues.

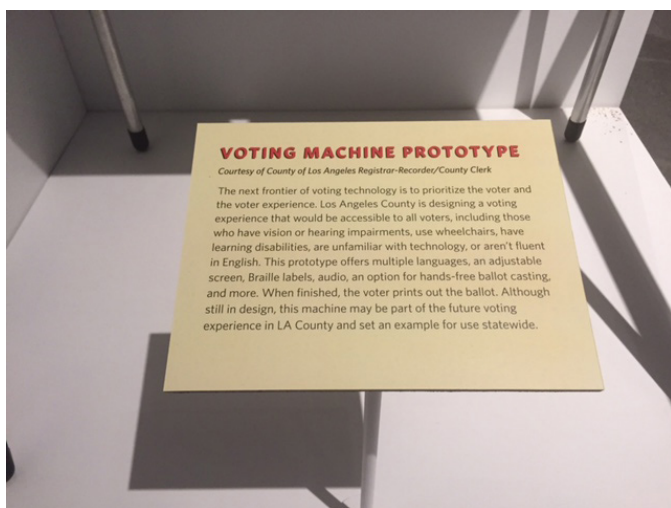


## SPECIAL NEWS

On March 10, 2016, the VSAP was recognized by the Election Verification Network (EVN) with an Outstanding Innovation in Election Technologies Award. Congratulations to Advisory and Technical Advisory Committee members and project staff for all your work and dedication to the project. Your work to create a voting system that supports the integrity, security and accessibility of the election process is being recognized by leaders across the country.



Our Ballot Marking Device prototype is part of an exhibit entitled “Power of the People: Voting in California 1850-2016” at the California Museum in Sacramento. The prototype is showcased as the future of voting in California. The exhibit runs from May 17 to November 13, 2016.





## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### Community and Voter Outreach Committee (CVOC) | May 11, 2016

A quarterly update was provided to the members of the CVOC on the milestones in the project including the various design improvements and planning for the next phase of the project.

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### Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) | May 24, 2015

VSAP team members updated the VAAC on project developments including design updates which provides for universal accessibility and usability, committee activities, and upcoming activities. Terri Lantz and Gabe Taylor, who had the opportunity to interact with the latest prototype shared their feedback and provided an overview of the experience with the group.

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## IN THE NEWS

### March 21, 2016

The article “**Beyond Chads: Voting Technology Catches Up**” published in the Washington Post describes how LA County is using the human-centered approach to develop the voting system and modernize the voting process. Read the article here:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/brand-connect/audi/beyondchads>

### March 13, 2016 - A Brand New Way of Voting at the Polls

Watch this news feature on PBS SoCal about LA County’s effort to design the future voting system:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBlwJ7PsGZI>

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## COMING SOON!

A new and improved VSAP website will be launched next quarter. The new website will showcase the story of the project and the latest system design. The new website design is intended to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments in the project in an easy, user-friendly manner. Visit [www.vsap.lavote.net](http://www.vsap.lavote.net) to learn more about the project. We strongly encourage public input throughout the process and look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical project.