



VSAP

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VOTING SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Quarterly Newsletter

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MESSAGE *from Dean*

This quarter, we celebrated a significant milestone in the project – the introduction of our new voting experience vision including the unveiling of the latest ballot marking device prototype. These milestones represent the culmination of the project’s System Design and Engineering Phase.

Our efforts at modernizing the process of voting goes beyond upgrades in technology. We envision a systemic and holistic improvement in the way we provide election services, providing more accessible and flexible voting options for our voters. The new vision is a result of the hard work, participation and involvement of each and every one of you and your organizations throughout the system design and engineering process. Thank you for all the time and effort you have invested in getting us to this point.

As we transition to the Manufacturing and Certification phase, we will all be tasked with developing important strategies and implementation plans. These plans will be critical as we continue to move closer to delivering a more accessible and convenient election to our electorate. I encourage your continued engagement in the project and I look forward to our collaboration to reach our goals for the next phase.

Dean C. Logan

DEAN C. LOGAN
 Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
 Los Angeles County

NEW BALLOT MARKING DEVICE PROTOTYPES!



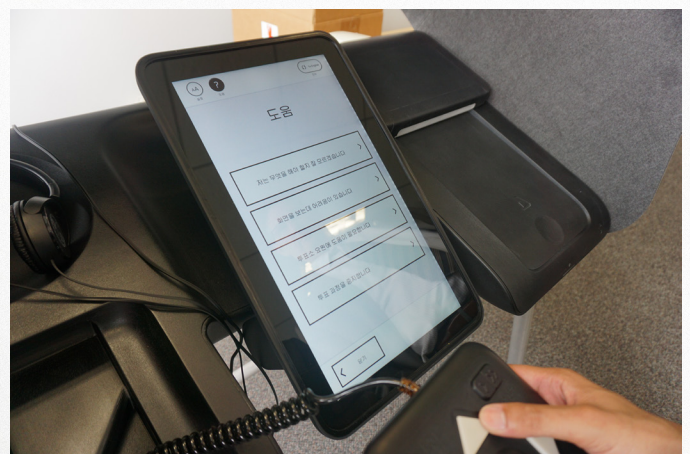
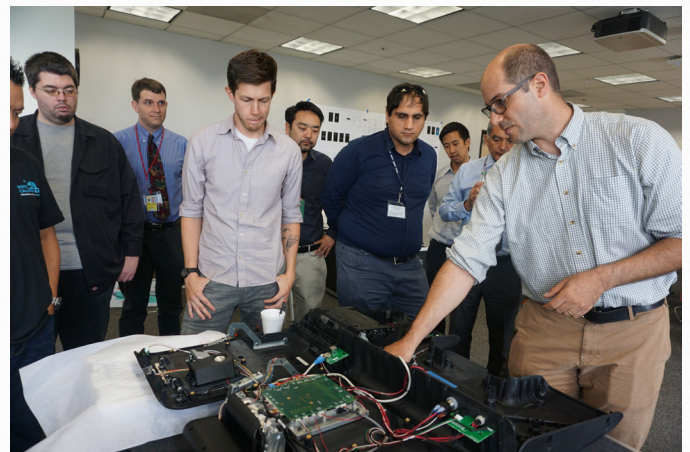
Our design contractor, IDEO, delivered five updated ballot marking device prototypes, or Design Validation Units (DVUs) in June. These DVUs are functional units that feature a more sophisticated hardware and software specifications compared to the earlier iterations of the design. This DVU allows for a step-by-step demonstration of future experience in a vote center setting.





The DVU can scan a pre-marked Interactive Sample Ballot (ISB) and transfer the selections onto the device. The user may use the touch screen or audio user interface. It features bilingual text, customizable font and contrast, accessibility features, printer mechanism, and an integrated ballot box. These DVUs will be the design reference for the manufacturer in the next phase of the project.

County staff was trained on how to set-up, breakdown and store these prototypes. We learned techniques on basic troubleshooting and maintenance of these units.

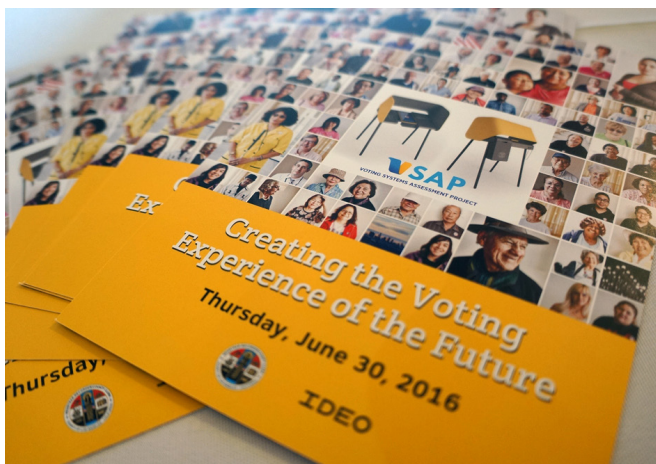


UNVEILING OUR VISION

We celebrated a major project milestone on June 30th at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall—the culmination of the System Design and Engineering Phase, and the transition to the Manufacturing and Certification Phase.

The highlight of this event was the public unveiling of the latest ballot marking device prototype and the introduction of the voting experience of the future. In this new vision, Los Angeles County will modernize and upgrade the voting equipment and election services. The new voting experience includes a period of early voting, a ballot marking device with touch screen and audio user interface, an interactive sample ballot, vote centers, and a newly designed Vote by Mail ballot.

This celebration was kicked off with a media event attended by representatives from various news outlets including LA18, KABC TV, LA Times, NPR, and KCBS/KCAL among others. Media representatives interviewed key project team members and interacted with the prototypes.



The various iterations of the system were on display at the event. The display allowed participants to see the evolution of the design, from the early ideas to a fully functional, interactive prototype.



During the celebration, a two-part panel presentation was held to tell the story of VSAP through its design process and stakeholder engagement. We also screened two videos during the event – a documentary narrating the VSAP story entitled “Democracy by Design” and an animated video depicting the future state of elections and voting in LA County.

The panelists shared how RR/CC and IDEO collaborated in designing the new voting system. The speakers were Dean Logan, LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk; Matt Adams, IDEO Lead Project Manager; and Pamela W. Smith, VSAP Technical Advisory Committee member and President of Verified Voting.

The second panel was composed of Efrain Escobedo of California Community Foundation, Deanna Kitamura of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Terri Lantz of the United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles, Jared Marcotte of The Turnout, and Whitney Quesenbery of the Center for Civic Design. The speakers shared their contributions to the design and their experiences as members of the VSAP Advisory Committee and VSAP Technical Advisory Committee. The event was attended by project partners, election administrators, County representatives and members of the community.

UNVEILING OUR VISION

Dean with our system design partners – IDEO, Digital Foundry and Cambridge Consultants.



The VSAP Internal Project Team



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The VSAP Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee met at the Tom Bradley Tower in Los Angeles City Hall on July 1, 2016. The committee members interacted with the prototype and discussed key components of the systems including software and hardware specifications, Vote-By-Mail, Interactive Sample Ballot (ISB), and tally. The Department discussed the next steps in the project and the role of the committee members in the manufacturing, solicitation, and certification process.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The VSAP team attended different meetings and conferences to conduct prototype demonstrations and update the public on the different accomplishments in the project.

JULY 13-14, 2016; REDONDO BEACH, CA

California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Annual Conference

The VSAP team gave system demonstrations to election officials from different jurisdictions in California. This event was a great opportunity to gather feedback from subject matter experts and future users of the system.



LA County Chief Executive Officer Sachi A. Hamai casts her ballot in this simulated voting process.

JULY 21, 2016; CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

City of Los Angeles, Votes Committee Meeting

The LA City Clerk invited the VSAP team to conduct a demonstration of the touch screen and audio interface to the members of LA Votes Committee.



JULY 22, 2016; LONG BEACH, CA

National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference and Exposition

Dean talked about the collaborative and participative approach in designing the new voting system. Representatives from counties across the nation attended the annual conference and had the opportunity to interact with the prototype.



JULY 27, 2016; RR/CC HEADQUARTERS

Quality & Productivity Commission of Los Angeles County Meeting

The VSAP team gave a status update and presented the latest prototype to the members of the Commission.

JULY 27, 2016; RR/CC HEADQUARTERS

Community and Voter Outreach Committee (CVOC) Meeting

VSAP team members introduced the latest voting system prototype and the different components of the new voting experience to the members of the CVOC. The team also update the committee on the next steps in the project and encouraged their continued involvement in the project. CVOC members interacted with the prototype and gave their feedback.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

AUGUST 5, 2016; CULVER CITY, CA

Voting System Demonstration at United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles (UCPLA)

The VSAP team was invited by UCPLA to give a voting system demo for their clients and staff. The clients at UCPLA interacted with the prototype and were introduced the future voting experience in Los Angeles County.

During this demonstration, UCPLA granted Dean Logan and the VSAP a certificate of appreciation in recognition of the effort to include voters with disabilities in the system design process. UCPLA self-advocates participated in several of our user testing sessions of both the ballot marking device and the vote by mail packet. Many of the accessibility features incorporated in the system design are from feedback these user testing. We are honored to have the opportunity to work closely with this organization.



UCPLA self-advocates try the latest prototype of the voting system. These prototypes feature accessible voting technology for an improved voting experience.

To read the UCPLA's Press Release on the event, visit <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2016/08/prweb13600825.htm>.

AUGUST 9, 2016; CHICAGO, IL

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit

Jeramy Gray, Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for Information Technology, shared the VSAP's approach of modernizing the voting process during the panel "Technology: Improving Elections One Bit or Byte at a Time?"



AUGUST 16, 2016; RR/CC HEADQUARTERS

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) Meeting

VSAP team members updated the committee members on the latest voting system prototype, accessibility features, and the plan for the next phase of the project. The members interacted with the touch screen and audio user interface of the prototype.

PROJECT RECOGNITION



Congratulations to the VSAP for being named Outstanding IT Project at the Los Angeles Digital Government Summit held on August 30 & 31, 2016. The summit provides a venue for leaders from both the public and private sectors to share their innovative ideas, knowledge, expertise, and learn best practices to improve the delivery of government services.



IN THE NEWS

The links below provide access to the news articles and television segments that feature the VSAP:

July 5, 2016 | Building a Better Ballot

<https://vimeo.com/173499637>

July 3, 2016 | LA County implementing new digital voting system

<http://abc7.com/society/la-county-implementing-new-digital-voting-system/1411913/>

July 1, 2016 | L.A. County Plans to Overhaul its Voting System with Touchscreen Devices

<http://www.govtech.com/dc/articles/LA-County-Plans-Overhaul-Voting-System-Touchscreen-Devices.html>

July 1, 2016 | California: Los Angeles County unveils new voting system prototype

<http://thevotingnews.com/los-angeles-county-unveils-new-voting-system-prototype-scv-signal/>

July 1, 2016 | Touchscreen ballots and a choice in polling stations could be the future of voting in L.A. County

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-county-voting-system-20160630-snap-story.html>

July 1, 2016 | 새로운 투표 시스템 (New Voting System)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJ5_kwnQH3c&feature=youtu.be

June 30, 2016 | Here's what LA County's voting booth of the future will be like

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/06/30/62185/l-a-county-aims-to-rollout-new-voting-system-by-20/>

June 30, 2016 | Los Angeles County unveils new voting system prototype

<http://www.signalscv.com/section/36/article/153961/>

STAY CONNECTED

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR NEW WEBSITE?

Get the latest updates and project developments at VSAP.lavote.net

You can view an animated video of the envisioned future voting experience in LA County. Learn more about the project, access full research reports, media coverage, and read the blogs from our team and committee members.



INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROJECT?

Submit it at vsap@rrcc.lacounty.gov to be featured on our blog.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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