



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

September 5, 2014

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Dean C. Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

VSAP Quarterly Report- 3rd Quarter, 2014

The following is the third quarterly update report of 2014, detailing project activities and accomplishments during the period of June 1, 2014-August 31, 2014. These reports are provided to inform your Board and the public on the progress of the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP). This series of quarterly reports is in response to the motion adopted by your Board on September 7, 2010.

The VSAP has accomplished significant milestones since its launch in 2009. Through the project we have gathered public opinion data; established advisory committees to continue to gather input from the public as well as from subject matter experts; and finally we have completed a human-centered design process to identify design elements for a new ballot marking device based on the assessment of the voting experience through engagement with Los Angeles County voters. We are now preparing to enter into a contract for the development of engineering specifications for the ballot marking device and other aspects of a new voting system. In support of our efforts, our team members are conducting research on existing and emerging voting systems, technologies, and legislation. We are also keeping abreast of voting system development and voting regulations in other jurisdictions that may provide insight on best practices and learning experiences as we move forward. We will continue to engage with voters, stakeholders, and subject matter experts through this next phase of the project; in keeping with the voter-centered approach of this project.

Development of Engineering Specifications

For this next phase of system specifications, we intend to continue our collaboration with the innovation firm IDEO. On March 25, 2014, we notified your board¹ of our intent to pursue a sole source contract with IDEO for development of engineering and manufacturing specifications for a proposed ballot marking device, tally system and related system components. We are currently working with the

¹ http://www.lavote.net/GENERAL/PDFS/BOARD_CORRESPONDENCE/03252014-011645.pdf

County Chief Information Officer and County Counsel to finalize a Statement of Work and agreement for this next phase. Once finalized, we will work with the Chief Executive Office to bring the contract to your board for approval. It is important to emphasize that this engagement is not a contract for the development and manufacturing of the voting system. It is our intent to work with IDEO on the development of specifications and then to conduct a competitive procurement for development and manufacturing based on those specifications.

Research Activities

It is critical that decisions made for the County's future voting experience are based on sound data. In an effort to continue gathering data that will impact the next steps of the project and ultimately the implementation of a new voting experience model, we have been researching various topics including: 1) voting experience models and 2) existing electronic voter roster technologies.

1. Voting Experience Models

In order to make the new voting experience more convenient for voters, we are exploring alternative options to the County's traditional voting experience structure in which voters are assigned to vote in one specific polling place on Election Day. Some of these options include early voting and vote centers. Determining whether these models are good solutions for Los Angeles County voters requires extensive research. We have engaged several elections officials from states that have used vote centers and implemented early voting to learn from their experiences. We are also learning what requirements exist to implement these models, both at the departmental operations level as well as at the state regulations level. Furthermore, we are beginning to think of implementation strategies shall we determine that these models are beneficial to Los Angeles County voters.

2. Existing Electronic Voter Roster Technology

The voting experience is affected by much more than just the Ballot Marking Device (BMD), related processes like checking in at the polling place are just as important to the voting experience and can help to support expanded services for voters. We have begun to explore technologies that will complement and enhance the voter experience; technologies such as electronic voter rosters which help facilitate an easier and more convenient check-in process for voters at polling places. In order to learn more about technologies in the market or currently in development, we will be exploring the option of releasing a Request for Information (RFI) in the next quarter.

As with all data generated through the VSAP, once finalized, we will share research findings with your board. Findings will also be made available to the public through our website at www.lavote.net/voter/vsap.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

The Department continues to engage with voters, regulators, experts, and other stakeholders with the intent of keeping them informed and engaged in the process as well as gathering data and information that may be beneficial to our project. During this period, we met with Board of Supervisors Offices, participated in webinars (related to usability, accessibility, and the testing and certification process), and contacted researchers in the field of elections systems. We continued our participation in Community Voter Outreach Committees and Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings. The VSAP team has continued their communication with experts in the fields of technology and accessibility, as well members of our VSAP Advisory Committee.

1. Meeting with 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe (May 29, 2014)
VSAP staff met with district supervisor Don Knabe to demonstrate the current prototype device and inform him of our project's goals and status.
2. Clemson University Conference Call with Juan Gilbert (June 10, 2014)
VSAP staff met with Clemson University personnel to discuss their work on voting systems.
3. Election Assistance Commission Webinar- Reforming the Testing and Certification Process (June 12, 2014)
VSAP staff viewed webinar to keep informed of the changes that may take places in the testing and certification processes of new voting systems.
4. EAC Webinar- Highlights of EAC Accessible Voting Research and Development: the Impact on Elections (June 20, 2014)
VSAP staff attended a webinar discussing ATVI research grants. Staff gathered information on various projects that have been funded by the EAC. These projects include accessibility testing and pollworker training materials.
5. Meeting with 2nd District Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas (June 23, 2014)
VSAP staff met with office staff representatives to demonstrate the current prototype device and inform him of our project's goals and status.
6. California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Conference (July 14-18, 2014)
VSAP staff attended the CACEO conference and attended several breakout sessions.
7. Community Voter Outreach Committee Meeting (CVOC) (July 30, 2014)
VSAP staff attended the CVOC meeting and gave a brief update on the status of our project.
8. Presentation to RR/CC Elections Operation Command staff (July 31, 2014)
VSAP team members gave a demo with our current prototype device, informed staff of future changes, and answered questions relating to our project and its developmental phases.
9. Presentation to the Quality and Productivity Commission (August 14, 2014)
VSAP staff presented our current prototype device to the Quality and Productivity Commission, as well as updated them on the status of our project and what we expect in the future.
10. USINEX Electronic Voting Technology Workshop/Workshop on Trustworthy Elections (August 19, 2014)
Dean Logan led a workshop concerning security and technology and our approach with the VSAP.
11. Election Center Conference (August 21-22, 2014)
Dean Logan gave a presentation on the VSAP and our innovative approach to creating a voter-centered design.

About the VSAP

Launched in September 2009, the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) was developed by the Department in response to the growing voting system needs and challenges faced by the County. While the County's current voting system has served the voters of Los Angeles County with accuracy and integrity, the design of these systems and the age of their technology do not offer the technical and functional elasticity necessary to continue to accommodate the growing and increasingly diverse electorate.

The size and diversity of Los Angeles County and the limited voting systems market, however, make it almost impossible to reasonably consider a commercial off-the-shelf voting system solution. Any voting

system solution will entail a significant development or customization process in order to satisfy the County's needs, General Voting System Principles and technical requirements.

In response to these needs and challenges, the VSAP takes an unprecedented and comprehensive approach at modernizing the County's voting system. The vision of the project is to implement a voting system through a transparent process that takes into account the needs and expectations of current and future Los Angeles County voters. The VSAP aims at achieving three goals in this process: 1) give current and future Los Angeles County voters an unprecedented opportunity to participate in the assessment and development process; 2) increase voter confidence in the electoral process through the participatory structure of the project; 3) synthesize public input and research to acquire or develop a new voting system for the County.

Stay Connected

More information regarding the Voting System Assessment Project (VSAP) is available to the public online at www.lavote.net/voter/vsap and on the project's Facebook page. The pages on our website and on Facebook are frequently updated with news and information and are a great way to stay connected with the progress of the project between quarterly reports. We strongly encourage public input throughout the process and look forward to continuing to work with your board on this critical project. If you have any questions please contact Monica Flores, VSAP Project Coordinator at (562) 345-8372 or via email at mflores@rrcc.lacounty.gov.

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