



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

August 30, 2012

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

From: Ellen F. Sandt 
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

RECAP OF VOTING SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROJECT MEETING

On August 8, 2012, the Chief Executive Office hosted a meeting to discuss the Voting System Modernization Project. The goal of the meeting was to brief Board Offices on the challenges the County faces with regard to replacing and modernizing our voting systems and to provide your offices an overview of the approach the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) is taking to identifying and implementing proactive and innovative solutions. Your Board deputy perspectives and questions provided valuable insight as we move forward. This memorandum is to provide you with a quick recap and outcome of the meeting.

During the meeting, the RR/CC provided an update on the Voting Systems Assessment Project activities and plans. The Project was launched in 2009 with the goal of replacing the County's aging voting system with a modernized system that will meet the needs of current and future Los Angeles voters. The innovative Project envisions implementing a voting system through an open, transparent, and participatory process; breaking the mold of the traditional system acquisition model.

Currently, the Project has a demonstrated need for support in order to move the Project forward into a design and engineering phase. As a result of the meeting, this Office will be working with the Department to address the funding and legislative support needed to allow the Project to continue to move forward.

With the myriad of issues that face a complex jurisdiction like ours it is easy to overlook a high risk issue like this one. The machinery relied upon to support our participatory

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Each Supervisor
August 30, 2012
Page 2

form of government is running smoothly but, it is at its life's end. Protecting our democratic process should be a high priority for the County. The Department has charted a strong and sound course for modernizing our systems and with our support we will identify and implement a solution in an appropriate and prudent manner that earns the confidence of our electorate.

Attached please find a copy of the presentation that the RR/CC shared during our meeting. As key stakeholders in this process, we will continue to keep you informed throughout the Project. If your staff were unable to attend the August 8 meeting, they should feel free to contact RR/CC Dean Logan, or my office, for any additional information you may desire.

The RR/CC will continue to provide quarterly reports on the activities and progress of the Project. Additional information regarding the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) is available online at www.lavote.net/voter/vsap and on the Project's Facebook page. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical project.

EFS:DL:ef

Attachment

c: Chief Deputies, Board of Supervisors
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk



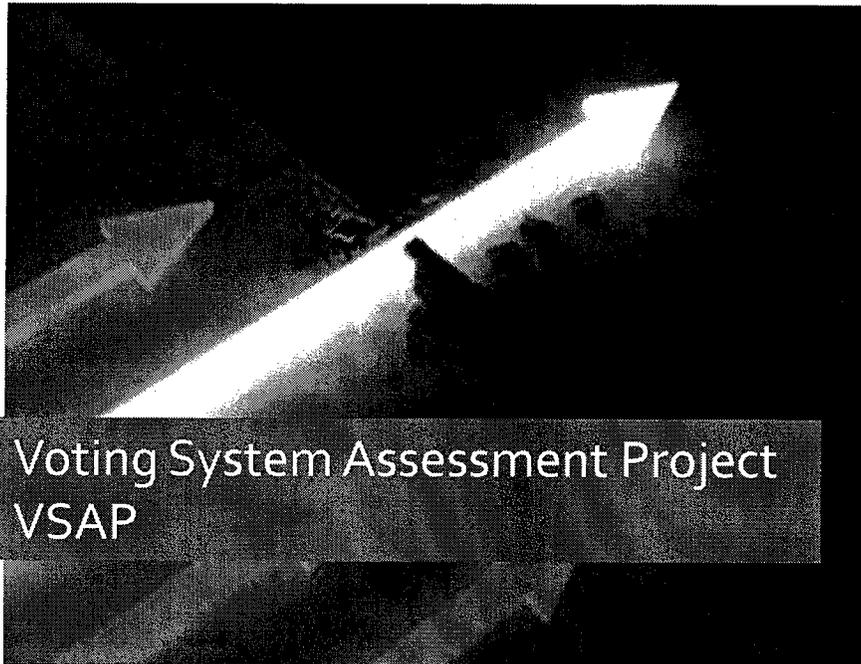
DEAN C. LOGAN

Los Angeles County
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

Voting Systems Assessment Project

Modernizing Los Angeles County Elections

August 8, 2012



Voting System Assessment Project
VSAP

About

The VSAP is an unprecedented approach at modernizing the County's voting system. The innovative project envisions implementing a voting system through an open, transparent, and participatory process. This project breaks the mold of the traditional voting system acquisition model and has received recognition from the Election Verification Network (EVN), the National Election Center and the National Association of County Officials (NACO).



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Desired Outcomes

County-owned and operated

Implement voting systems that are owned, operated, and maintained by the County

Meet current and future voter needs

Design a system that meets the diverse needs of current and future County voters



4.5 Million registered voters

Support **12** languages

More than **1,000,000** mail ballots

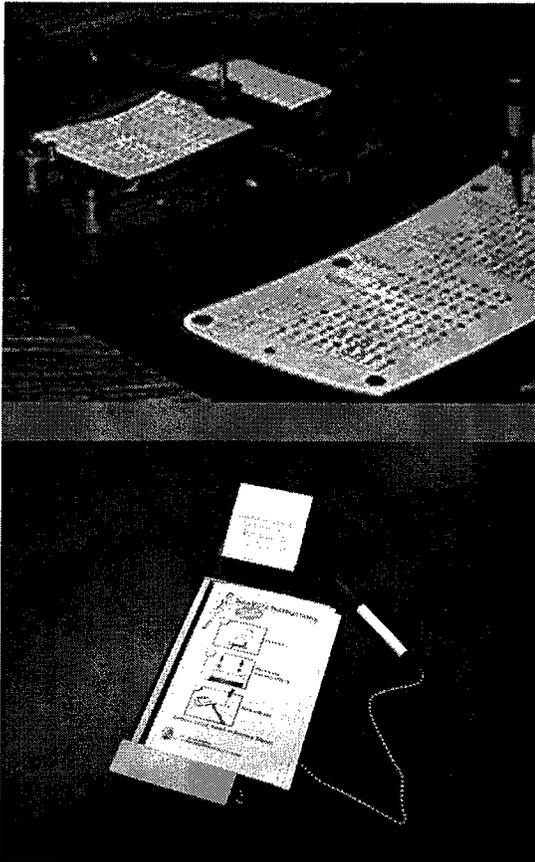
Recruit and train **25,000**
pollworkers

Manage **5,000** polling places

"More registered voters than 32 states"



Voting system challenges



Aging technology

System core is outdated and becoming less reliable and obsolete. Available technical support is limited.

Limited ballot capacity

More than 500 political subdivisions and only 312 voting positions. Ballot capacity also affects ability to create accessible/usable ballot formats.

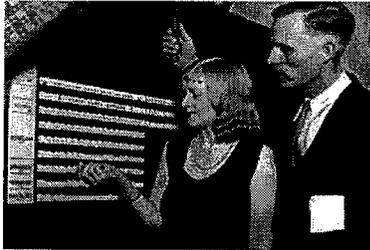
Limited voting options

Unable to support in person early voting and other reforms like election day registration. Limited options for persons with disabilities. Limited language assistance.



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Challenges to modernization



Dysfunctional and Limited Market

Existing commercial voting systems do not meet our needs. No new systems have been approved in California.



Voter trust

Since the 2000 and 2004 Presidential Elections, voting systems have become over politicized. High level of voter distrust of commercial voting systems.



Clock is ticking

Department seeks to implement a new voting system in time for the 2016 presidential elections.



County driven development

Present a new market model where the county has greater control. Modernize the regulatory environment to accommodate more creative development models.



Transparent processes

Restore voter trust in voting systems through a proactive process that takes citizen input and is open.



Meet current and future voter needs

Engage stakeholders and design a system that is based on real user needs and expectations. This includes citizen input and field research.



The VSAP process

Field Research

Voter Surveys
Voter Focus Groups
Pollworker Surveys
Election Officials Focus
Groups
RR/CC Staff Focus Groups

Citizen Engagement

Caltech Symposium
Community Discussions
VSAP Advisory Committee
Technical Advisory Committee

Design | Engineering

General Voting System Principles
Ideation process
Design concept
Prototyping
Development
Testing



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Timeline

September 2009
Launch of VSAP

September 2009 – December 2012
Field research and process assessment

January 2013 - December 2014
Design, engineering and certification

January – November 2015
Manufacturing

November 2015
Pilot implementation in UDEL Elections

November 2016
Full implementation in Presidential Elections



Next steps

Design Concept

Develop technical specifications on voting system hardware and software components and descriptions of how each specification meets user and functional requirements

Prototyping

Develop a working model of system that stakeholders can see, hold, interact with to evaluate and provide feedback on design

Development & Testing

Testing prototype for ease of use, security, and integrity



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Addressing challenges



Funding

Identify funding sources for unfunded steps in the process.



Legislative Strategy

Develop legislative strategy to address key issues in the regulatory environment regarding funding and system certification.



Funding

Field Research | Citizen Engagement

-  James Irvine Foundation:
\$100,000
-  Davenport Institute Grant:
\$50,000 (in services)

Design | Engineering | Certification

-  Design
PIF Grant: \$470,000
-  Engineering
Need for NCC funding
-  Certification
Need for NCC funding

Manufacturing

-  Prop 41: \$49M
-  HAVA 301: \$28M



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Legislative Strategy



Certification process

Develop a legislative strategy to address the costly, time consuming and unclear certification process. This includes exploring a pilot certification plan for Los Angeles County.



Funding

Develop a legislative strategy to allow LA County to access Prop 41 funding in earlier stages of the process.



Benefits of voting system modernization

Increased voter satisfaction and confidence

- Greater options for current and future voters
- County owned and operated system
- Implemented and managed through an open and public process

Cost reductions and revenue increase

- Increased number of jurisdictions will consolidate with county elections and/or contract the RR/CC to conduct their elections
- Elimination of vendor maintenance fees

Greater flexibility and efficiency

- Newer technologies allow for greater flexibility to adapt
- County ownership model allows for complete control