

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH**

**Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) System Collaboration for County Benefit**

With its certification in 2020, Los Angeles County's Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) became the first publicly-owned voting system in the nation. While the primary focus of the VSAP initiative was always to bring a modern, secure, and accessible voting experience to the electorate of Los Angeles County, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) had additional goals of expanding this amazing public resource to other jurisdictions.

While the VSAP experience includes numerous elements, the most visible component is the VSAP Ballot Marking Device (BMD). These devices are used by voters at every vote center in the County to mark and cast ballots. Since VSAP was implemented during the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election, VSAP BMD's have been used in almost 30 elections, including six Countywide elections, with approximately 3.5 million ballots cast in person on these devices at County vote centers.

The VSAP BMD was meticulously designed to ensure every voter, including voters with disabilities, have a private and independent voting experience. Each BMD is designed to accommodate voters in walkers, wheelchairs, and voters of various heights. The font size, contrast, brightness, and language on the BMD screen can be adjusted and tailored to voters' individual needs. Additionally, the BMD offers an audio ballot, in which the volume and reading

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

speed can be adjusted. The BMD produces a paper ballot, which can be cast hands free, ensuring end to end privacy including for voters with physical limitations. Put simply the VSAP BMD is arguably the most accessible voting device available, and the RR/CC often receives inquiries regarding the potential use of VSAP by other jurisdictions and organizations.

The entire VSAP system, which includes the BMD, has been certified by California Secretary of State (SOS). In the most recent certification approval of VSAP, the SOS included a use condition that directed the County, in partnership with the SOS, to develop a plan to make the source code of the system available and open. The RR/CC has advanced a high-level plan with the SOS to make the custom code, developed as part of VSAP, open source, including a tentative timeline, responsibilities, and mechanisms to be established in order to meet the objective of enabling VSAP code as open source. While this continues to be an important goal of the RR/CC, given the State's role in the certification of voting systems, the SOS needs to be an active partner in this effort for the open-source discussion to advance.

While discussions continue with the SOS on making VSAP open source, including the potential future-state governance of this vital County-owned asset, it is important that we authorize the RR/CC to take modest, but time sensitive, steps to further the County's interests in the expansion of VSAP.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors grant delegated authority to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to enter into partnerships, in alignment with VSAP principles, for the continued support and development of the VSAP system, and to enter into agreements

to transfer, sell, loan, or distribute VSAP-related assets when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County.

# # #

LPH:cc