



DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

March 5, 2013

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

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer

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

Dean C. Logan

VSAP Quarterly Report- 1st Quarter 2013

The following is the first quarterly update report of 2013, detailing VSAP activities and accomplishments during the period of December 1, 2012- February 28, 2013. 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.

During the reporting period, the VSAP continued to work on second phase goals of the project. In this second phase, the project seeks to 1) identify the voting system design model and technical requirements; 2) identify the procurement and development model that the Department will pursue, including funding for system development and implementation. Activities during this quarter included:

- Collaborating in the drafting and introduction of Legislation
- Identifying and inviting experts and to establish a Technical Advisory Committee
- Refining the VSAP design phase
- Continued stakeholder discussions

Collaborating on the drafting of legislation

The Department collaborated with the CEO Governmental and Legislative Affairs section to draft legislation that supports the VSAP efforts. This proposed language will 1) streamline the voting system approval and certification process for the state; 2) allow counties to develop, own, and operate their own voting systems; 3) allow counties to utilize Voting Modernization Fund monies for the development of voting systems. These efforts are aligned with the County's 2013-2014 State Legislative Agenda and a motion adopted by your board on February 12, 2013.

Preparations for launch of Technical Advisory Committee

The Department initiated establishment of a VSAP Technical Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to provide technical expertise and consultation on the voting system modernization process. The Committee will review and analyze design concepts and relevant research to provide input and guidance on the establishment of the technical requirements for a modernized voting system. Additionally, the Committee will provide guidance for the engineering, development, and implementation of the final voting system design. The Committee will be composed of voting technology experts, computer scientists, usability specialist, accessibility experts, and practitioners. Additionally, representatives of the Chief Information Office, Secretary of State, and Election Assistance Commission have been invited to participate.

Committee members have been identified and invited to the first Committee meeting which will be held on March 28, 2013 at RR/CC headquarters.

Refining the VSAP design phase

The Department continues to work with County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparations to launch the design phase of the VSAP. In this phase, the VSAP seeks to engage an independent design agency to produce a set of voting system design models that meet the needs and expectations of Los Angeles County and its constituents as represented through the VSAP General Voting System Principles and public opinion data. The design process is a critical phase which will lay the foundation for system engineering, prototyping, manufacturing and implementation during future phases. It is expected to launch in March 2013 and is projected to be a 16-18 week project. We will keep your Board informed on the status and outcome of this process through these reports.

Continued stakeholder discussions

The Department continues to meet 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 is of benefit to the VSAP. During this period,

the Department met with and facilitated discussions with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and presented at the “Future of Voting Systems Symposium” hosted by Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and NIST.

1. NIST Meeting- January 28-29, 2013

John Wack and Mary Brady from NIST visited RR/CC headquarters to learn more about LA County’s election operations and the VSAP. The VSAP Advisory Committee and Department staff met with the NIST representatives to discuss the role of NIST in the voting system certification process and LA County’s election process and voting system modernization efforts.

2. Future of Voting Systems Symposium- February 26-28, 2013

Department staff engaged in a three day symposium with academics, researchers, election officials, and other stakeholders to discuss the future of the voting system market and regulatory environment. During this symposium, I participated in a panel discussion with other election officials to discuss voting system modernization efforts being led by election jurisdictions.

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.