



Los Angeles County **REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**

DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

June 8, 2011

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

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer

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

Dean C. Logan

VSAP Quarterly Report- 2nd Quarter 2011

The following is the second quarterly update report of 2011. 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 this reporting period, the VSAP continued to work towards the goals of the second phase of the project, which are to continue to gather data, engage the community, and build partnerships with the ultimate goal of implementing a voting system that meets the needs of current and future Los Angeles County voters. During this period, the project's activities have revolved around three major areas:

- Establishing the VSAP Advisory Committee
- Building and Strengthening Partnerships
- Meetings/Presentations

Advisory Committee

In an effort to ensure continued citizen participation and transparency through the remainder of the VSAP, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) established the Voting Systems Assessment Project Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to help analyze and comment on the project's initial research findings and to provide the RR/CC input and guidance for the establishment of principles and general requirements of a voting system; and for the development or acquisition models the County intends to employ.

The RR/CC invited a group of community leaders, subject matter experts, and stakeholders to serve on this Committee. These individuals represent critical constituency groups and communities of interest, including voters with disabilities, language minority groups and ethnic minorities. Also represented are critical stakeholders such as election officials, political parties, and academic institutions/organizations.

At my request, Virginia Mosqueda is serving as Chair of the VSAP Advisory Committee. Ms. Mosqueda is the Director of Civic Engagement for the California Community Foundation, which promotes collaboration and advocacy across the nonprofit, public and private sectors to address community problems. Attached is a full list of Committee members.

The Committee held its initial meeting at the RR/CC headquarters on March 31st. During this meeting members were provided with an overview of Los Angeles County's election operations and its needs, and the Voting Systems Assessment Project. Members discussed Committee goals, including their first deliverable, which is to brainstorm with the RR/CC to draft guiding principles for Los Angeles County's new voting system.

The VSAP Advisory Committee held two additional meetings, on April 28th and May 26th, in which they began to draft and define guiding principles for a new voting system. VSAP Advisory Committee meetings are streamed live, as well as video archived on: <http://www.livestream.com/larrcc6>.

Currently, the Committee, in collaboration with the Department, is drafting a set of guiding principles to help inform the development acquisition of a voting system. Draft principles are scheduled to be completed in July of 2011.

Partnerships

The Department continues to build and strengthen partnerships as we develop our plans and requirements for the acquisition/development of a new voting system. The County continues to collaborate with research institutions, academia, and other organizations to ensure a diversity of ideas and expert input to inform the project. During this quarter, the VSAP has continued to work with Cal Tech and MIT's Voting Technology Project (VTP) and with graduate students at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

CalTech/MIT Voting Technology Project

The VSAP is currently reframing its partnership with the VTP. The VSAP and VTP successfully collaborated during the initial phase of the VSAP in conducting research activities that provided important baseline data on voter and stakeholder attitudes and opinions when it comes to voting systems and the electoral process in general.

The success of the collaboration during the initial phase of VSAP resulted in an invitation from the James Irvine Foundation for VTP to apply for additional funding to continue its collaboration with the VSAP. As such, future collaborations are being assessed as VTP is in the process of preparing a grant application to the James Irvine Foundation.

UCLA Research Team

The VSAP is also collaborating with a research team of graduate students from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. The team conducted research on the voting systems testing and certification process and its impact on Los Angeles County's goal to implement a new voting system. The UCLA research team is finalizing a report to the Department highlighting their findings and recommendations for the VSAP to consider in navigating the testing and certification of the new system and/or acquisition model employed.

Meetings/Presentations

The Department continues to meet with stakeholders with the purpose of informing them of the VSAP and to continue to keep them engaged in the process. During this period, the Department provided updates and presentations to, and gathered feedback from, the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Community Voter Outreach Committee, and Department staff.

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 Assistant at (562) 462-2991 or via email at mflores@rcc.lacounty.gov.

VSAP Advisory Committee
Members

Chair: **Virginia Mosqueda**, Director of Civic Engagement, California Community Foundation

Judy Alter (alternate), Director, Protect California Ballots/Member, Progressive Democrats of America

Evan Bacalao, Senior Director of Engagement, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials

Eric Bauman, Chair, Los Angeles County Democratic Party

Darlene Bonds, Retired Public Administrator, County of Los Angeles

Theresa Devoy (alternate), City Clerk, City of Norwalk

Kathay Feng, Executive Director, Common Cause

Carolyn Fowler, Co-Chair, Election Protection Board

Maria de La Luz Garcia (alternate), Senior Project Coordinator, City of Los Angeles

Rosalind Gold (alternate), Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials

Ron Hasson, President, Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP

Richard Hunter, Legal Committee, Republican Party of Los Angeles County

Mimi Kennedy, Board Chair, Progressive Democrats of America

Juana Laur, Southern Division Chair, City Clerks Association of California

Clark Lee (alternate), Political Director, Los Angeles County Democratic Party

Eugene Lee, Director of Voting Rights, Asian Pacific American Legal Center

Justin Levitt, Associate Professor, Loyola Law School

Nancy Mahr, President, League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

Margo Reeg (alternate), 1st Vice-President for Voter Services, League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

Hillary Sklar, Attorney, Disability Rights California

Arleen Taylor, Election Chief, City of Los Angeles

Jaclyn Tilley Hill, Chair Emeritus, Quality and Productivity Commission, LA County

Ruth Wong (alternate), Executive Director, Quality and Productivity Commission

Bryce Yokomizo, Adjunct Faculty, School of Public Administration, California State University, Northridge