



Dean C. Logan  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

June 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER, 2014**

The following is the second quarterly update report of 2014, detailing project activities and accomplishments during the period of March 1, 2014 - May 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.

During this reporting period, the Department continued to prepare for the refinement and engineering of the proposed voting system design and engaging the public, including experts within the field of technology in this process. We strive to further our goals of the project by interacting with key stakeholders prior to solidifying the final design concepts of our voting system. This is essential to achieve public trust when the new system is implemented.

As part of our ongoing process, we continue to keep ourselves informed of voting systems changes, election laws, and conducting research for the future. As a team the VSAP members have been engaged in conducting research of topics that affect the project, archiving the work that has been done since the launch of the project to serve as both a memorialization and reference for other counties, and strategizing future communications and marketing plans. We believe this preparation will serve not only our constituents, but those outside the county as well.

**System Refinement and Engineering**

The next phase of work for the VSAP will involve the creation of design and engineering specifications that will support the competitive solicitation of contract manufacturing services to carry out production development and high-volume manufacturing of the voting system. The deliverables will include a comprehensive system architecture, detailed specifications and design validation prototypes for the ballot marking device, the paper ballot, the ballot activation mechanism, and an electronic sample ballot marking application. They will also include high level design and technical requirements for the future

development of a new tally system, a new Vote By Mail process, and emergency ballot capabilities. The Department has been preparing for this next phase by drafting a statement of work through a collaborative process between departmental staff, County Counsel, and the CIO. Departmental staff has also been engaged in baseline research into commercial electronic poll book solutions that might integrate with the new voting system, as well as barcode and optical character recognition technologies that might be used in paper ballot processing.

We notified your board through a memo<sup>1</sup> on March 25, 2014 that it is our intention to pursue a sole source with IDEO for the execution of this statement of work. By working with IDEO through to the end of design and engineering of the new voting system, we will maintain a critical continuity in the design process and relationships already established, thereby ensuring that the County can get to a point of contracting for manufacturing services in as efficient and timely a manner as possible for a project of this magnitude. IDEO's approach to the design of the system and the knowledge they have developed of the County's requirements, operations, and the system's design and features are unique, and would be difficult and costly to replace, especially in terms of the project schedule.

### **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

The Department hosted a two-day meeting with members of our Technical Advisory Committee<sup>2</sup> as well as invited guests who are experts in their respective fields. These representatives are well-known for their work in accessibility, technology, and security systems. Our goal for the meetings was to gather critical information necessary as we prepare for the development of technical specifications for the proposed voting system design. This included reviewing the present design assumptions and the expectations for our next phase of research. Participants provided feedback and identified possible challenges and solutions to technical issues that we may encounter in the next stages of development.

The meetings took place on April 8-9, 2014. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, groups rotated through organized design assumption clusters during the first half of the day. The second half of the day involved detailed discussions and preparation for report backs. On April 9<sup>th</sup> the groups provided presented recommendations on how to solve technical and feasibility issues, and identified research that may still be needed. We also heard two short presentations from participants. The presentations were on the topics of software design for voting systems and designing for usability and accessibility. This meeting provided crucial insights that will help inform our efforts as we finalize the design and develop the system requirements and specifications for manufacturing.

### **Public and Stakeholder Engagement**

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 beneficial to our assessment and voting systems changes. During this period, the Department's project staff met with the Election Verification Network, City of Los Angeles elections operations staff, the VSAP Technical Advisory Committee, and participated in a community voter outreach committee meeting. 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. **Election Verification Network (EVN) Conference- March 5-7, 2014**

Department staff presented an overview of the VSAP at the EVN Conference in San Diego. The conference was attended by academics, advocates, and subject matter experts. Staff

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.lavote.net/GENERAL/PDFS/BOARD\\_CORRESPONDENCE/03252014-011645.pdf](http://www.lavote.net/GENERAL/PDFS/BOARD_CORRESPONDENCE/03252014-011645.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.lavote.net/Voter/VSAP/advisory\\_committees\\_and\\_project\\_team.html](http://www.lavote.net/Voter/VSAP/advisory_committees_and_project_team.html)

**Public and Stakeholder Engagement (Cont'd)**

displayed and demonstrated the features of the looks-like prototype of the proposed ballot marking device.

2. City of Los Angeles Presentation and Updates-March 13, 2014

Department staff provided an update on the VSAP and presented the looks-like prototype of the proposed ballot marking device to approximately 25 City of Los Angeles' election staff. This hour long presentation provided an update on the recent system design efforts of the VSAP and its focus on a human-centered design process. This meeting allowed the Department to continue to foster positive relations with the City of Los Angeles.

3. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting- April 8-9, 2014

The Department hosted a Technical Advisory Committee meeting to gather feedback on proposed next steps for the project. The meeting focused on analyzing the present design assumptions for the development of technical specifications and requirements for the proposed ballot marking device. This meeting provided expert advice that will shape the system refinement and engineering phase.

4. Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)- April 15, 2014

Department staff attended the VAAC meeting to provide an update of the VSAP. Department staff also set up the looks-like prototype so members of the committee could both view and interact with it.

5. Community Voter Outreach Committee (CVOC) – April 17, 2014

Department staff attended the quarterly CVOC meeting. At this meeting, staff brought the prototype device so meeting participants could interact with it and learn more about its features. Staff also answered questions and concerns that were brought up by the committee members.

6. Webinar- Governing- Internet Technology and Security- April 22, 2014

VSAP staff attended a webinar focusing on IT technology and security. The team gathered information that was relevant to our project.

7. Board of Supervisors Operations Cluster- May 8, 2014

Members of the Department's Executive management team met Board of Supervisor Deputies to provide a status update on the VSAP and an overview of the upcoming system refinement and engineering, including the intent to sole source for consulting services to lead the department through that process.

8. Webinar: STAR-Vote: A Secure, Transparent, Auditable and Reliable Voting System- May 15, 2014.

Staff participated in a webinar presented by Dan Wallach which concerned the STAR vote system in Travis County, Texas. This meeting provided an overview of Travis County's STAR project, which aims to develop and implement a new voting system for Travis County voters. The Department will continue to follow Travis County's journey to implement a publicly-owned voting system.

9. University of Chicago School of Public Policy: Blueprint to Implementation-May 19, 2014

Dean Logan delivered a presentation on the status of the VSAP. Dean discussed the VSAP's progress towards transforming the voting experience for LA County voters. Dean answered questions about the VSAP design process and overall plan for system development and implementation.

### **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](http://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](mailto:mflores@rrcc.lacounty.gov).