



VSAP
ISSUE 16
 MARCH 2019

VOTING SOLUTIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE

Quarterly Newsletter

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THE LATEST



The first round of the Vote Center Placement Project community meetings is complete. Our office conducted 33 meetings from November 2018 to January 2019. Nearly 1,000 residents attended the meetings and 265 of those attendees suggested potential vote center sites. We received over 1,400 suggested vote center locations.



The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved two plans that will push VSAP into the next stages of implementation. First, our Department will engage a State-approved testing agency to conduct the testing and certification for the entire VSAP solution. Second, the Board authorized our plan to submit a pilot program for the November 5, 2019 Municipal Election that allows our office to utilize the new VSAP equipment in a pilot capacity.



The Department has awarded VSAP's electronic pollbook contract to KnowINC. The electronic pollbook is a critical component to the vote center model that will allow voters to visit any vote center within the County.

CONTACT US

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MESSAGE *from Dean*

On Monday, March 4 a group of us headed to Santa Monica for an Engineering Verification Testing session with our manufacturing contractor Smartmatic. The walk-through was exciting as it provided us with a glimpse into the near future.

We saw two fully functional Ballot Marking Device units and how LA County voters will be able to use the new technology to mark their ballots using other features such as the Interactive Sample Ballot at future vote centers and see how those votes will be counted using tally.

We are less than a year away from launching the voting experience of the future, and we have been busy making sure we are making it a reality for LA County.

In the next few months we will be focused on a second phase of community meetings, to gather feedback from different communities on where they want to vote in their community and for more input and engagement.

We look forward to checking off more exciting milestones in the coming months. Stay tuned for more updates, we are close to the finish line.

Sincerely,

DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County



FEATURED STORY

A VSAP Milestone: First look at LA County's New Voting Equipment.

March 9, 2019

Nearly 10 years after the Registrar-Recorder kicked off our efforts to modernize Los Angeles County's voting system, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan and his team were presented this week with ballot marking devices (BMD) manufactured by Smartmatic. This delivery of validation devices coincides with the end of the Engineering Validation (EVT) Testing phase of Smartmatic's system manufacturing effort.

The Registrar's team visited the Santa Monica offices of Smartmatic, the County's chosen contractor in charge of the design completion, engineering, and manufacturing of system components. The system was designed by and for Los Angeles County during prior phases of the Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) initiative that focuses on transparency, accessibility, usability, and security.



On March 4, 2019, Smartmatic staff provided the Registrar with a demonstration of how each BMD will function inside a secure election environment that included a simulated warehouse and vote center. The next phase will focus on completion of the design and delivering machines to the California Secretary of State for testing and certification before Los Angeles County voters use them to mark their ballots in future elections.

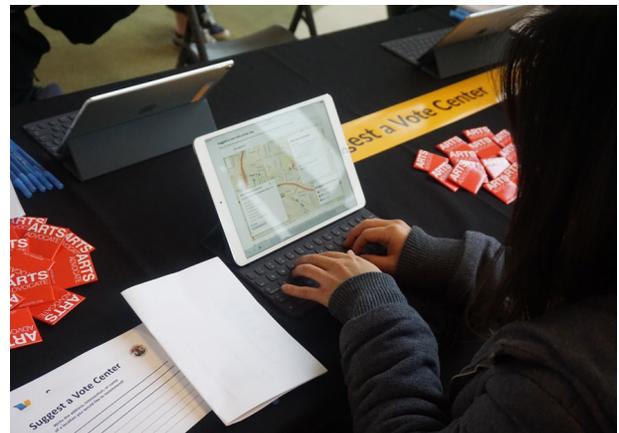
The new system will make it easier for all voters including those with disabilities, and voters with limited English proficiency, to cast ballots. The system is unique in that it was designed by Los Angeles County and will be publicly owned and operated by the County. Smartmatic was chosen to manufacture the devices after an extensive vetting process in accordance with Los Angeles County's competitive procurement policies. Smartmatic has extensive experience in manufacturing secure and customized election technology all over the world.

The new voting system is slated to be in place in time for the March 2020 California Presidential Primary election—with plenty of testing and pilots beforehand.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In January our office presented at 19 various community meetings which included public meetings surrounding the Vote Center Placement Project, League of California Cities General Membership Meeting, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Government and Fiscal Affairs, Florence and Firestone Community Leaders Meeting, La Cañada-Flintridge City Council meeting, March Torrance City and County Government Day and Palos Verdes Democratic Club.

Arts for LA – Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion



United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles



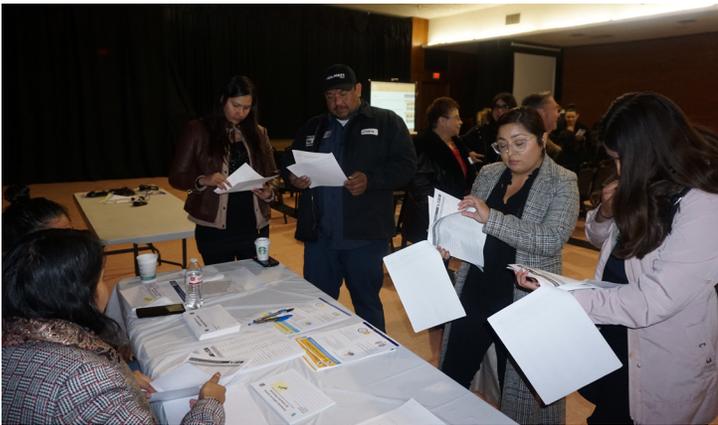
SBCC Thrive – Wilmington



CA Common Cause Pasadena



CHIRLA – Huntington Park



League of Women Voters Los Angeles



Black Women for Wellness – Newhall Community Center



ATTEND OUR NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING:
March 28: National Council of Jewish Women, Long Beach
April 26: Senior Pathfinder Board.

VSAP SPOTLIGHT STORY

LA WEEKLY

L.A. County Plans to Transition to Vote Centers



Tom Arthur/Wikicommons

Voters in Los Angeles County will have up to 11 days to vote in the March 2020 presidential primary election, and the option to vote anywhere in the county at Vote Centers, on what looks like a touchscreen tablet.

Those changes are being discussed at community meetings across the county, from Inglewood to Glendale to Reseda, and will continue through Jan. 19.

Through a project called Voting Solutions for All People, or VSAP ([VSAP.lavote.net](https://www.vsap.lavote.net)), the Los Angeles County Registrar-

Recorder/County Clerk plans to create a new voting experience to make it easier for all voters, including voters with disabilities and multilingual voters.

Why the change?

“Part of the reason why is that voting equipment now is outdated — the voting system that is in place now is functional but, as time progresses and technology becomes available, we want to improve our voting system and be able to provide to voters options and more access to be able to vote,” says Mike Sanchez, public information officer.

VSAP SPOTLIGHT STORY (CONT.)

"It's multilayered," Sanchez says. "On top of the new technology we will be using in 2020, the Vote Center model in general allows for 11 days to vote. Currently, elections are held on one day, a Tuesday. Other options like vote-by-mail will still be available, but the in-person component is very restrictive."

"Los Angeles County started early weekend voting, it's fairly new, the last few years. The office in Norwalk is open to early voting but that is not convenient if you live far away. ... The 11-day period is a very drastic change."

And, there will be the option to vote anywhere in the county, Sanchez says. Additionally, Vote Centers will serve as vote-by-mail drop-off locations.

Senate Bill 450, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2016, called for improvements to the voting experience. Among the changes are the switch to Vote Centers from polling places, a longer voting period (up to 10 days before Election Day) and the ability to vote anywhere in the county.

In some counties, such as Sacramento and San Luis Obispo, the new voting options were available beginning this year, according to information from Brown's office. By 2020, all counties in the state would be allowed to adopt the changes.

Los Angeles County is home to nearly 5 million voters, making it the largest voting jurisdiction in the United States.

"The devices and design are unique to Los Angeles County," Sanchez says, although other counties have implemented the 11-day voting period. "We do have eyes on us. I think once we establish a successful outcome for 2020, other counties might pick our brain. We haven't crossed that bridge yet."

The new Vote Centers, which will be determined after public input from the community meetings that are taking place, also will allow a person to update outdated voter registration information.

"It would nearly eliminate provisional ballots," Sanchez says. "This past election, there were several hundred thousand. There is a stigma associated with provisional ballots, that they don't count or your vote is not good. But that's a safeguard to cast a ballot on Election Day."

A VSAP video shows voters will have the option of a digital sample ballot on what looks like a smartphone app.

Referred to as an interactive sample ballot (ISB), Sanchez describes it as a web application to look at all the information that you would find on a paper sample ballot. "You can pre-mark it and go through the remainder of the ballot," he says. "All selections made on the sample ballot will not be transferred. It is all stored on the individual's personal device."

This then generates a poll pass, which will work similarly to a boarding pass, Sanchez says. It will be scanned at the Vote Center, can be reviewed and changed, and then one can move forward and cast their vote.

"Also remember that 2020 will still use a physical paper ballot," Sanchez says. "It is important to note that when you go through ISB you still need to show up and physically vote at a Vote Center."

The new machines/tablets have a stand-alone power source, he says. After a selection is made on the touchscreen, a paper copy is printed that shows a summary of all your selections, along with a QR code that serves as a security measure. The paper summary is then placed back into the

VSAP SPOTLIGHT STORY (CONT.)

machine and secure box that is part of the voting unit.

For those who may not consider themselves tech-savvy, Sanchez says there will be staff at every Vote Center to instruct and assist voters as needed.

Sanchez also says that part of the design and research of the new machine is based on focus groups with the elderly and people with accessibility concerns including the blind. All the information acquired was put into this design.

“It is very easy to read and navigate the system,” Sanchez says. “We are confident that whether you have a lot of experience or no experience with technology, you can utilize this and have a positive experience.”

Sanchez also said paper sample ballots are not going away, as they are required by law. Sample ballots also provide election information, and where and how to vote, along with candidate and measure statements.

The VSAP video is a good source to get a glimpse of the new machines — Sanchez says that is “almost exactly what they will look like.”

There are also discussions about pop-up voting sites at large sporting events and at locations such as convalescent homes, where people may have difficulty getting to a Vote Center, he says.

And next year, there are plans for a mock election.

“It will be one of the first times the public as a mass will be able to see and use [the machines],” Sanchez says. That could take place by fall 2019 at multiple locations across the county. It will serve as an awareness campaign and a way to test the equipment before it goes live in March 2020.

For more information about the community meetings for Vote Centers or to watch a video about the new technology, visit [VSAP.lavote.net](https://www.lavote.net).

Link of the story:

<https://www.laweekly.com/news/la-county-plans-to-transition-to-vote-centers-10102330>

Our office will kick off the second round of vote center community meetings in April 2019. Information on the locations and dates will be available on [vsap.lavote.net](https://www.lavote.net) in late March or early April.

FOR MORE MEDIA COVERAGE, VISIT
VSAP.LAVOTE.NET/NEWSROOM



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You can learn more about the project through our videos, research reports, media coverage and team member blog post.

INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROJECT?

Submit at vsap@rrcc.lacounty.gov to be featured on our blog.

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