



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

DEAN C. LOGAN

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

**September 10, 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

### **VSAP Quarterly Report- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013**

The following is the third quarterly update report of 2013, detailing VSAP activities and accomplishments during the period of June 1- August 31, 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; and 2) identify the procurement and development model that the Department will pursue, including funding for system development and implementation. Activities during this quarter included:

- Advocating for the passage of legislation
- Developing initial design concepts
- Continuing stakeholder discussions

### **Legislation**

The Department collaborated with CEO Governmental and Legislative Affairs and State Senator Alex Padilla to draft and introduce Senate Bill 360, legislation that supports the VSAP efforts. The proposed bill will: 1) streamline the voting system approval and certification process for the state; 2) allow counties to contract for the development of voting systems that use nonproprietary software and firmware and disclosed source code; and 3) allow counties to utilize Voting Modernization Fund monies for the initial development of voting systems using nonproprietary software and firmware and disclosed source code.

Senate Bill 360 was introduced in the State Senate on February 20, 2013 and passed the Senate on May 24, 2013 and the Assembly on September 4, 2013. The bill went back to the Senate for concurrence and passed on September 6, 2013. The bill will now be sent to the Governor for his signature.

These efforts are aligned with the County's 2013-2014 State Legislative Agenda and a motion adopted by your Board on February 12, 2013.

### **Initial Design Concepts**

The Department launched the initial design phase of the VSAP in partnership with the global design firm IDEO<sup>1</sup>. The engagement which ran from April 16- June 14, 2013 resulted in a set of three voter experience design concepts<sup>2</sup>. The concepts were designed through an iterative design process that engaged voters, pollworkers, community leaders, and other stakeholders. The process aimed at designing concepts that satisfy the Voting System General Principles<sup>3</sup> adopted in August 2011 by the VSAP Advisory Committee. The concepts represent possible design options, touching on polling place set up and layout, voter processing, and hardware components.

The three voting system design concepts were presented to the VSAP Advisory Committee, the VSAP Technical Advisory Committee, and key staff at the County Chief Executive Office and Chief Information Office. Moving forward, we seek to gather further feedback from voters, pollworkers, and other stakeholders to continue to refine the three concepts into a single solution by December 31, 2013. We will then quickly move into manufacturing low to high fidelity prototypes, drafting software and hardware specifications and iterative user testing throughout the process, with the goal of developing a high fidelity prototype that looks like and functions like the actual device.

### **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 the VSAP Advisory Committee, the VSAP Technical Advisory Committee, the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee and key staff from the County Chief Executive and Chief Information Offices.

1. Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)- July 23, 2013  
VSAP staff met with the VAAC to provide an update on the VSAP. Members were informed that initial design concepts would be shared at the next VAAC meeting.
2. VSAP Technical Advisory Committee Meeting- July 30, 2013  
The VSAP and IDEO Project Teams met with the VSAP Technical Advisory Committee to present the three initial design concepts and gather initial feedback from Committee

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<sup>1</sup> IDEO is an award-winning global design firm that takes a human-centered, design-based approach to helping organizations in the public and private sectors innovate and grow. <http://www.ideo.com/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk1jm0\\_1emY&feature=c4-overview&list=UUx2Y8ypc1xHxAsBrWtyxMdQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk1jm0_1emY&feature=c4-overview&list=UUx2Y8ypc1xHxAsBrWtyxMdQ)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.lavote.net/Voter/VSAP/PDFS/VotingSystemPrinciples.pdf>

members. Members were presented the concepts and information on how the concepts were derived, and provided initial feedback.

3. VSAP Advisory Committee Meeting- July 31, 2013

The VSAP and IDEO Project Teams met with the VSAP Advisory Committee to present the three initial design concepts and gather initial feedback from Committee members. Members were presented the concepts and information on how the concepts were derived, and provided initial feedback. .

4. Chief Executive Office and Chief Information Office- August 1, 2013

The VSAP and IDEO Project Teams met with the County's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Information Officer and some of their key staff to present the three initial design concepts and gather initial feedback from this group.

### **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@rcc.lacounty.gov](mailto:mflores@rcc.lacounty.gov).