



Los Angeles County REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

DEAN C. LOGAN

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

June 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 *Dean* Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

VSAP Quarterly Report- 2nd Quarter 2013

The following is the second quarterly update report of 2013, detailing VSAP activities and accomplishments during the period of March 1- May 31. 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 introduction of legislation
- Establishing a VSAP Technical Advisory Committee
- Launching the VSAP design phase
- Continued stakeholder discussions

Collaborating on the introduction of legislation

The Department collaborated with CEO Governmental and Legislative Affairs and State Senator Alex Padilla to draft and introduce legislation that supports the VSAP efforts. Senate Bill 360 was introduced in the State Senate on February 20, 2013 and passed the Senate on May 24, 2013 with bi-partisan support. The proposed Senate 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; 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. These efforts are aligned with the County's 2013-2014 State Legislative Agenda and a motion adopted by your Board on February 12, 2013. We are working with CEO Governmental and Legislative Affairs to amend the language as necessary and to advocate for its passage. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Commission on Elections and Redistricting Committee on August 13.

Establishment of Technical Advisory Committee

The Department established the VSAP Technical Advisory Committee which met for the first time on March 28, 2013 at the RR/CC headquarters. The purpose of the Committee is to provide technical expertise and consultation on the voting system modernization process. The Committee will provide input and guidance during the development of the technical requirements and specifications for a voting system. Additionally, the Committee will provide ongoing input during prototyping, development, and implementation of the final voting system design. The Committee is composed of voting technology experts, computer scientists, usability specialists, accessibility experts, and practitioners. Additionally, representatives of the Chief Information Office, Secretary of State, and Election Assistance Commission have been invited to participate. (A full list of member biographies is attached.)

Launch of VSAP Design Phase

The Department launched the design phase of the VSAP in partnership with the global design firm IDEO¹. The project was kicked off with a meeting on April 16, 2013 where IDEO project staff, department staff, and the VSAP Advisory Committee gathered to learn more about each entity and about the design project. Through this 18 week project, IDEO will 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. To supplement research gathered through the VSAP, IDEO conducted field research by meeting with a diverse group of voters, pollworkers, community leaders, and department staff. IDEO

¹ 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/>

has now begun to draft potential voting system design models and will be prepared to share those models with us during the third quarter. Once available, we will share the design models with your Board.

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 Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) to learn more about their institute and about their research findings on voting system accessibility. The Department also held a VSAP Advisory Committee meeting to provide committee members with updates on the project.

1. **GTRI Meeting- January 28-29, 2013**

Brad Fein, Principal Research Scientist and his team presented to and met with department staff and VSAP Advisory Committee members. The GTRI team presented initial findings of their work on usability and accessibility, and discussed how their continued research may align and help support VSAP efforts.

2. **VSAP Advisory Committee Meeting- May 29, 2013**

The VSAP Advisory Committee met via conference call to discuss current VSAP activities related to the voting system related legislation, the VSAP design phase, and the VSAP Technical Advisory Committee.

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.