



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

March 18, 2015

TO: Mayor, Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Hilda Solis
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Sachi A. Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer

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

VSAP Quarterly Report- 1st Quarter, 2015

The following is the first quarterly update of 2015 detailing project activities and accomplishments during the period of December 1, 2014 - February 28, 2015. These reports are provided to inform your Board and the public on the progress of the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP). This quarterly report is prepared in response to the motion adopted by your Board on September 7, 2010.

On November 21, 2014 we achieved a critical milestone with the execution of our contract with the human-centered design firm IDEO for development of design specifications and prototyping of the proposed Ballot Marking Device and other key components of a new voting system. Key elements of this current phase include developing the specifications for both hardware and software components for the Ballot Marking Device; requirements for a new tally system; a user experience model; ballot design; and technical proofs. These deliverables will move us toward the development of a Request for Proposals or other open competitive solicitation for the manufacturing of these components; and, ultimately to a systems integration phase that will lead to implementation of a new voting experience in Los Angeles County. The IDEO engagement will span a total of sixteen months during which they will work closely with the Department, our stakeholder community and advisory committees.

Engineering Phase Update

The Department is currently working with IDEO to finalize system requirements for the proposed Ballot Marking Device and supporting systems such as Vote by Mail and Tally. To develop these requirements, IDEO and the Department are meeting with various stakeholders to discuss an array of issues including the regulatory framework, accessibility, usability, security and software

Engineering Phase Update (Cont'd)

compatibility within the County. These meetings include consultation with various members of the VSAP Technical Advisory Committee.

Furthermore, the Department and IDEO hosted a series of architecture and design workshops in January to 1) provide an overview of the agile development process; 2) further discuss the architecture of the voting system; and 3) begin to develop a public relations/media plan. Workshop sessions were attended by members of the VSAP Technical Advisory Committee, Department staff, and IDEO team members and subcontractors. As a result of these workshops, we have developed a baseline understanding of what the system should look like and how it should behave and we have identified next steps in our systems engineering process to test and validate requirements.

In order to begin testing the requirements that emerged from these workshops, IDEO has developed system prototypes and has begun conducting a series of user sessions to test various features and functions of the devices. Project staff attended a user session on February 27, 2015 in which older voters and Spanish-speaking voters were invited to test system usability and accessibility. Additional user testing sessions will be conducted in the next quarter and throughout the engagement, including user testing sessions in Los Angeles in May. We will inform your Board of session details once those are available.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

The Department continues to actively engage critical stakeholders throughout this engineering process. In this quarter, this includes meeting with partners, attending conferences, engaging VSAP Technical Advisory Committee members, and engaging the public in user testing sessions.

December 9, 2014 Special Election and IDEO engagement

VSAP staff met with IDEO and Digital Foundry (subcontractors) team members to view our elections operations. They visited polling places, viewed opening and closing procedures, as well as the tally process.

December 11, 2014 New Law Conference Presentation

VSAP staff discussed vote center research at the New Law Conference in Sacramento. This conference engages both elected official and election administrators.

January 27, 2015 Agile Development Workshop with IDEO

IDEO hosted a workshop on agile project development and processes with the Department.

January 28-February 1, 2015 Architectural Workshops with IDEO

The Department hosted a series of workshops with key staff, IDEO, and Technical Advisory Committee Members. These meetings were integral in the process of furthering the project and discussing proposed design elements.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement (Cont'd)

February 27, 2015 User Testing Session

A full-day of user sessions to test the usability and accessibility of the latest versions of the Ballot Marking Device prototype was conducted in IDEO's Palo Alto office. Approximately 50 voters representing older voters, Spanish-speaking voters, new voters and long-time voters were invited to participate in the study.

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.

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