



DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

March 18, 2011

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer

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

VSAP Quarterly Report- 1st Quarter 2011

The following is the first quarterly update report of 2011. 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 VSAP launched its second phase of the project. In this phase the project will continue to gather data, engage the community, and build partnerships with the ultimate goal of implementing a voting system that meets the needs of current and future Los Angeles County voters. In this first quarter, and Phase II launch, the project's activities have revolved around three major areas:

- Establishing the VSAP Advisory Committee
- Building and Strengthening Partnerships
- Meetings/Presentations

Advisory Committee

In an effort to ensure continued citizen participation and transparency through the remainder of the VSAP, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) established the Voting Systems Assessment Project Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to help analyze and comment on the project's initial research findings and to provide the RR/CC input and guidance for the establishment of principles and general requirements of a voting system; and for the development or acquisition models the County intends to employ.

The RR/CC has invited a group of community leaders, subject matter experts, and stakeholders to serve on this Committee. These individuals represent critical constituency groups and communities of interest, including voters with disabilities, language minority groups and ethnic minorities. Also represented are critical stakeholders such as election officials, political parties, and academic institutions/organizations.

The Committee is schedule to hold its initial meeting at the RR/CC headquarters on March 31st. Formal invitations have been extended to possible members. Upon confirmation of their participation, the Department will publish a list of the Committee members online at www.lavote.net/voter/vsap

Partnerships

The Department recognizes the importance of establishing key partnerships and collaborating with members of the community as we develop our plans and requirements for the acquisition/development of a new voting system. As such, the County continues to collaborate with research institutions, academia, and other organizations to ensure a diversity of ideas and expert input help to inform the project. During this quarter, the VSAP has in particular, worked with Cal Tech and MIT's Voting Technology Project (VTP) and with graduate students at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

CalTech/MIT Voting Technology Project

The VSAP is currently evaluating and reframing its partnership with the CalTech/MIT VTP. The VSAP and VTP successfully collaborated during the initial phase of the VSAP in conducting research activities that provided important baseline data on voter and stakeholder attitudes and opinions when it comes to voting systems and the electoral process in general. This data will continue to inform the VSAP as it moves forward.

The success of the collaboration during the initial phase of VSAP resulted in an invitation from the James Irvine Foundation for VSAP and VTP to apply for additional funding to continue the effort. As such, future research collaborations are being assessed. As these plans further develop, public opinion and academic research will be critical.

UCLA Research Team

The VSAP is also collaborating with a research team of graduate students from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. The team is conducting research on the voting systems testing and certification process and its impact on Los Angeles County's goal to implement a new voting system. The UCLA research team will provide a report to the

Department highlighting their findings and recommendations for the VSAP to consider in navigating the testing and certification of the new system and/or acquisition model employed.

Meetings/Presentations

On February 24, 2011, the Department provided testimony to the California Voting Modernization Board. The testimony provided an overview of the challenges facing the County and the current efforts to modernize its voting system to continue to provide fair, accessible and transparent elections to current and future voters of the County. The purpose of this testimony was not only to inform the Voting Modernization Board of the County's efforts to modernize its voting system, but also to urge the Board to continue its work during this critical time for California elections and to ask that the Board preserve the dedicated Prop 41 funding for Los Angeles County to complete its voting system modernization efforts.

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 Assistant at (562) 462-2991 or via email at mflores@rrcc.lacounty.gov.

ATTACHMENT



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

Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Testimony to Voting Modernization Board
February 24, 2011 Meeting

By
Dean C. Logan

Good morning Vice Chair Kaufman and Members of the Voting Modernization Board. My name is Dean Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for the County of Los Angeles. I am pleased to have the opportunity to address the Board today.

I come before you this morning to make you aware of Los Angeles County's current efforts to modernize its voting systems, which serve nearly 4.5 million registered voters; and the challenges we face in this endeavor. Drawing on the experiences of our current efforts and my observations of the current elections environment nationally and in the State of California, I am also here to urge this body to consider the relevance and need for this Board to continue and potentially expand its work during what is a critical time for California elections.

Los Angeles County is the nation's largest and most diverse election jurisdiction, with an electorate comprised of multiple races/ethnicities, national origin groups, age groups, and socio-economic backgrounds. As an elections jurisdiction we provide election services in six languages other than English and have more than 500 political districts (from federal and state to municipal and special districts) One of the core principles of our mission is to provide election services in a fair, accessible and transparent manner. Our ability to meet that core principle is becoming more difficult.

In response to these needs the County is currently engaged in efforts to modernize its voting systems to provide fair, accessible and transparent elections to the voters of today and those of tomorrow. [As part of this testimony, in advance of this meeting, I submitted to your board a recent plan submitted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, outlining the Department's strategy for implementing a new voting system by 2015. I will be more than happy to respond to any questions regarding the plan.]

As I'm sure you appreciate this task is not easy; especially for a jurisdiction as complex as Los Angeles County. There are a number of variables that contribute to this:

- 1) Size and Complexity - Currently, the County has not identified any certified voting system that would fully meet our needs. The size and diversity of Los Angeles County make it almost impossible to reasonably consider a Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) voting system solution. Any solution will entail a significant

development or customization process. It is very likely that a solution for a jurisdiction as large and complex as Los Angeles may involve the development of new systems and technologies.

2) Voter Confidence – We are committed to ensuring that new voting systems in Los Angeles County address voter’s needs. More importantly, that voters are confident that their needs and priorities were taken into account in the process. As such, the County developed the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP). The VSAP is an unprecedented election practice premised on a collaborative approach that ensures greater citizen input through partnerships within the academic community, public interest organizations, and policy makers, in the pursuit of establishing a more participatory model for procuring voting systems. [Further documentation on the VSAP project has been submitted for the record]

3) Stagnant Voting Systems Market – Development and certification of new voting systems has been at a near stand-still in recent years; a dynamic impacted by economic conditions and by the lack of clarity and consistency in the adoption and application of regulatory requirements for voting systems testing and certification at the federal and state levels. Federally, only six voting systems have been certified since the Election Assistance Commission was created. In California, there are no pending applications for certification and a number of systems are operating under “quasi” conditional certification. The industry itself is doing little to expand as a market and provide greater supply. Voting System

companies are not making significant investments in research and development for new systems. Where such efforts are being made, the timeframes for seeking testing and approval has become both time and cost prohibitive. These concerns are further exacerbated by legislative proposals currently before Congress to dissolve the United States Elections Assistance Commission (EAC).

These factors present serious challenges not only for Los Angeles County but for other counties across this state and throughout the country. Without a robust voting systems market and an effective regulatory process, efforts to maintain the integrity of our democracy by providing accurate, accessible, and transparent election will be severely limited.

Current social and demographic trends that are defining how we act, interact, and communicate suggest the need for a serious re-envisioning of democracy in the 21st Century. This may mean significant changes to how we conduct elections. Election Officials will need the tools (in voting systems) to be able to accommodate these changes.

With the passage of the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002, the voters of California declared their clear intent to ensure that California continue to be a beacon of democracy by modernizing its voting systems to provide every opportunity for all of its citizens to be able to cast their vote and have it counted securely and accurately. As a body entrusted by the voters of California to see the update of voting systems through,

Dean C. Logan Testimony
February 24, 2011

the work and oversight of this Board remains important. Los Angeles County as other counties in this state still need the assistance of this board, the Secretary of State, and the Legislature to ensure that voting systems in the state can serve the voters of today and tomorrow with integrity and that the funding allocated under Proposition 41 is preserved and protected until modernized systems that can meet that challenge are identified and/or developed.

As this Board discusses the future of this body I ask you to consider the current state of the voting systems environment and the future of elections. The relevance and importance of this Board has never been greater.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions I will be more than happy to address them or to provide you a future written response.