Voting Systems in Los Angeles County

A History of Certification with the CA Secretary of State
Early Years: 1968 - 1997

• Key Events
  • 1968 – First automated tabulation developed by IBM
  • 1974 – County rewrites mainframe system

• Approval Process with SOS
  • No inspection or testing by SOS
  • Pro forma approval by SOS
  • Small community of software engineers
  • Security around process, not system
  • No established SOS procedures/requirements
MTS Years: 1998 - 2005

• Key Events
  • 1998: Microcomputer Tally System 1.2 first approved
  • 2002: MTS card readers converted to mark-sense
  • 2004: MTS 1.3.1 to support modified open primary

• Approval Process with SOS
  • SOS more engaged, but still delegating
  • One consultant contracted by SOS to test system
  • Small-scale L&A testing. No security/stress testing.
  • Testing to FEC Voting System Standards
  • Pro forma administrative approvals
  • No established SOS procedures or requirements
Recent Years: 2006 - Present

• Key Events
  • 2006 – InkaVote Plus conditionally approved
  • 2007 – Top To Bottom Review of Voting Systems
  • 2008 – MTS Conditions and PEMT

• Approval Process with SOS
  • More proactive - response to election integrity interests
  • Expanded scope of testing
  • Large testing teams of numerous consultants
  • Federal VVSG testing by Independent Testing Authority
  • No established SOS procedures or requirements
Summary of SOS Approval

- Regulatory environment more complex
  - Complex conditions for use
  - Dual state/federal approval requirement
  - Increased timeframes/costs for approval
- Shift from assistance to enforcement role
- Rules/process remain undefined, unclear
- Process is SOS-driven, not statute-driven
- Risks for election jurisdictions
  - Impacts on established operations and costs
  - Threat to viability of newly acquired voting systems

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