QUESTION NO. 60

April 7, 2021

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum # 21042

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Susan Lapsley
                 Deputy Secretary of State, HAVA and Counsel

RE: Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update –April 2021

Each month, the Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment (OVSTA) provides an update on Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and Secretary of State (SOS) activities related to voting technology.

Each update provides information on:

- Voting technology related events that may be of interest.
- Administrative approval requests and denials since the prior month's update.
- Voting technology testing and approval at the SOS office.
- Defect, failure, and fault reports issued since the prior month's update.
- Ballot printing certification requests since the prior month's update.

Voting Technology Testing and Approvals

OVSTA receives and reviews applications for certification and approval from voting technology vendors on a continuous basis. The status of current applications can be found below:

System	Type	Applicant	Submission Date	Testing Phase
Pollpad v2.5.3	ePollBook	KNOWink	03/02/21	Pre-Testing Planning
Verity Voting 3.1.1	Voting System	Hart	03/14/21	Application Received

Administrative Approval Requests and Approvals

OVSTA has received an application for modification of the Hart Verity Voting 3.1.1 voting system. The modifications include replacement of workstations, tablets and printers that are end-of-life and no longer available.

Information regarding administrative approval requests can be found here.

Testing and Certification at the EAC

The EAC had been collaborating with public working groups and hosting public hearings to discuss the development of the next iteration of the VVSG, called the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0 requirements. The meetings included presentations on NIST staff transitions, the RABET-V pilot program, and an open discussion on non-voting election technology approaches. On February 10, 2021, the EAC adopted the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0. More information on the VVSG 2.0 requirements are available here.

The EAC provides updates on voting system testing. The latest update from the EAC was provided on March 19, 2021. However, based upon discussions with vendors, no systems currently undergoing testing and certification at the EAC are relevant to California.

Additional information regarding each voting system are available at: "Voting Systems Under Test" and "Certified Voting Systems".

Defects, Failures, and Faults

No defects, faults or failures were reported in March.

Ballot Printing Certification Requests and Approvals

OVSTA received an application from ProVoteSolutions, requesting certification for printing of Election Systems & Software, LLC., (ES&S) Election Ware ballots. The application has been approved.

OVSTA received an application from Toppan Merrill, requesting certification for printing of Dominion ImageCast ballots. The application is currently in the initial review phase.

A list of certified ballot printers can be found here.

Ballot on Demand Printing Requests and Approvals

No Ballot on Demand applications were submitted in March.

A list of certified ballot on demand systems can be found here.

Electronic Poll Book Certification Requests and Approvals

No electronic poll book certification requests or approvals were received or granted in March.

A list containing certified electronic poll book vendors can be found here.

Notes and Reminders

Election Record Retention- As a reminder, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 17301-17306, the retention and preservation of election records, which includes digital ballot images is 22 months. Several voting system tabulation components are capable of producing digital ballot images. Additional information regarding how to backup, retain, and preserve the digital ballot images, and whether or not your jurisdiction's voting system has this capability, can be found in the respective Use Procedures, here.

Disposal or Sale of Equipment- Regarding the disposal or sale of equipment:

- In 2012, the California Secretary of State issued guidance regarding the disposition or sale of equipment purchased with HAVA and/or VMB funding. See Secretary of State (SOS) County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #12219 - Handling the Sale and Funds from the Sale of Voting Systems or Voting Equipment. The document outlines proper disposal or sale procedures of voting systems or voting equipment purchased with HAVA and/or VMB funding. The document also highlights that all equipment must be void of any software or firmware and returned to a condition of a non-functioning piece of hardware prior to its disposal or sale.
- See also the US-CERT issued Security Tip (ST18-005) outlining proper disposal procedures for electronic devices.