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November 9, 2012

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #12311

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: 
Susan Lapsley
Deputy Secretary of State and Counsel

RE: Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update – November 2012

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 systems.

Each update will provide information on:

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

Recent Events

As mentioned last month the EAC is holding a public comment period for the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) version 1.1, available on the EAC's [website](#). The comment period has been extended through January 4, 2013.

The Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project released a report on how voting technologies and election administration in the U.S. have changed (or not), since the 2000 Presidential Election. The report was published on October 18, 2012, and can be viewed [here](#).

Administrative Approval Requests

California Elections Code section 19213 precludes a voting system or part of a voting system that has been approved by the Secretary of State from being changed or modified until the Secretary of State has determined that the change “does not impair its accuracy and efficiency. . . .”

Information on submitting an administrative approval request is in “[Requesting Administrative Approval of a Change or Modification to an Approved Voting System.](#)”

Approvals

- ES&S was approved on October 17, 2012, to modify its M650 central count optical scan hardware to add Kapton polyimide tape on the back plate of the M650 to keep it from becoming grooved by the wear from running ballots through the machine multiple times during testing.

Under Review

- Dominion is requesting administrative approval to a new SQL script, which allows the Vote Validation functionality on its WinEDS 4.0.116B voting system to be turned off in tally type “Recount.” This will allow jurisdictions using the WinEDS 4.0.116B voting system to conduct an electronic recount where not all contest are included in the recount (i.e. a single contest recount).
- Dominion is requesting administrative approval to include a nylon washer to the paper rolls inside the VVPAT case to prevent coning in the paper, which can cause an erroneous low paper message.

Testing and Approval by the State of California

- On October, 26, 2012, the Secretary of State of State received an application and deposit for the testing and approval of the Dominion Democracy Suite 4.14 Voting System (listed as Dominion Democracy Suite 4.9 in the EAC Testing and Certification Program). The items submitted do not constitute a complete application and therefore the Secretary of State considers the application “pending” until all of the necessary documentation has been received.

Testing and Certification at the EAC

The EAC provides a [weekly update](#) of voting system testing. As of October 23, 2012, the current testing and certification status for systems relevant to California is:

Dominion Democracy Suite 4.9. Due to changes to the scope, EAC does not expect to receive the draft Test Plan and revised application until mid-November. EAC, Wyle and Dominion are working together to address the changes to the scope. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

Dominion Sequoia WinEDS 4.0. The EAC is in discussion with Dominion about the next steps in testing. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

Election Systems & Software (ES&S) Unity 3.4.0.0. On October 31, 2012, the EAC certified the Unity 3.4.0.0 Voting System. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

Election Systems & Software (ES&S) EVS 5.0.0.0. Wyle submitted a revised Test Plan to the EAC on October 18, 2012. EAC is reviewing the plan and will provide comments by October 31,

2012. A revision to the scope of testing removed modem functionality and the ExpressVote. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

The EAC's "[Voting Systems Under Test](#)" and "[Certified Voting Systems](#)" pages provide more specifics on any voting system.

Defects, Failures and Faults

Defects, failures and faults (problem reports) of voting system hardware and software are reported to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State in turn provides the reports to the EAC which provides them to the public on the [EAC Voting System Reports](#) clearinghouse webpage.

The Secretary of State has received problem reports for the ES&S Unity 3.0.1.1 voting system. Each jurisdiction using this voting system should have received a copy of the problem report and any associated documentation directly from ES&S. For more information contact the voting system vendor, or OVSTA, or go to the EAC website, at [EAC Voting System Reports](#).

Ballot Printing Certification Requests

Ballot Manufacturers and Finishers Certified:

- Butte County was certified to use Runbeck's Sentio Ballot Printing System to manually finish AccuVote-OS ballots at its Oroville, California facility.

Ballot on Demand Systems Under Review:

- ES&S requested that its Balotar system be certified to print Dominion/Sequoia Optech ballots.

A list of certified ballot printers can be found at www.sos.ca.gov/voting-systems/cert-and-approval/ballots.htm.