December 6, 2013

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #13109

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

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

RE: Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update – December 2013

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 provides information on:

- 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 and Upcoming Events

On October 25, 2013, the SOS issued the proposed voting system regulations and the public comment period runs through December 20, 2013. There will be a public hearing on December 13, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. in the Secretary of State's Auditorium at 1500 11th Street in Sacramento. All of the rulemaking documents are located on the SOS website at www.sos.ca.gov/admin/regulations/proposed/elections/voting-systems/.

OVSTA has been notified that Dominion, ES&S, and Hart will be holding their annual User Group meetings during the New Law Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sacramento. You should have been notified by your voting system vendor regarding the date, time and location for the respective User Group meeting.

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](#)."

Recently Approved

- In April, ES&S requested administrative approval to use the Dell PowerEdge T310 tower as a backup server for jurisdictions using the GEMS 1.18.24 voting system. OVSTA informed ES&S that it must receive a VSTL determination on the equivalency, pursuant to the EAC Notice of Clarification #2012-01, of the Dell PowerEdge T310 tower to the currently approved GEMS server. On November 22, 2013, ES&S submitted the modification to the VSTL, which determined the change was de minimis and that the Dell PowerEdge T310 tower was equivalent to the currently approved GEMS server. Wyle, the VSTL that conducted the review, provided OVSTA with its report on November 25, 2013. On December 3, 2013, the Secretary of State administratively approved the modification.
- ES&S requested administrative approval for a secondary digiport for the GEMS 1.18.24 voting system, due to the end-of-life of the currently approved digiport. On December 3, 2013, the Secretary of State administratively approved the additional digiport.

Testing and Approval by the State of California

- The Secretary of State received a completed application for the Dominion Democracy Suite 4.14 Voting System on November 13, 2013. The system is composed of the election management system, a combined ballot marking device and precinct count optical scan machine and an off-the-shelf central count scan machine. Dominion, OVSTA, and its consultants held the kickoff meeting to discuss the project schedule on Friday, November 22, 2013. The source code review began on Monday, December 2, 2013.

Testing and Certification at the EAC

The EAC provides a [weekly update](#) of voting system testing. As of December 3, 2013, the current testing and certification status for systems relevant to California is:

Dominion Democracy Suite 4.14.B The EAC received a draft Test Plan on November 27, 2013. The EAC will review and provide comments or approval by December 26, 2013. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

ES&S Unity 3.4.1.0. The EAC has reviewed the comments on the Test Plan. Wyle is working on a revised Test Plan based upon those comments. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

ES&S EVS 5.0.1.0. Wyle is working on a draft Test Plan. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

Hart InterCivic Verity 1.0. Hart experienced internal testing and project delays in the last several weeks. Hart notified the EAC that the delivery of equipment to SLI is pushed back until the end of the year. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

Unisyn OpenElect 1.2. EAC and Wyle reviewed and discussed the comments on the draft Test Report last week. Wyle is working on a revised Test Report and plans to submit it this week. 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 each 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.

In November, the Secretary of State received a problem report on the ES&S Unity 3.0.1.1 voting system. 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

No ballot printing or ballot on demand certification requests are pending.

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