February 11, 2013

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #13017

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: Susan Lapsley
                Deputy Secretary of State and Counsel

RE: Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update – February 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 will provide information on:

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

Recent and Upcoming Events

The voting system approval portion of the Secretary of State's website has been updated to include a summary of the EAC and SOS testing processes.

The EAC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will be holding a Future of Voting Systems Symposium on February 26-28th, in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

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

There were no administrative approvals granted in December.

Under Review – Continuing

- Dominion is requesting administrative approval of 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 finalizing the required VSTL testing and documentation necessary for the Secretary of State.

- Dominion is requesting administrative approval to add a jumper cable to the Insight MemoryPacks to create a constant, known voltage. This is designed to repair the defect in the MemoryPacks that can require election officials to rerun ballots on Election Night. Dominion has not submitted all of the required documentation necessary for the Secretary of State.

- Dominion is requesting administrative approval of a new SQL script, which identifies 400-C and Insight loads in WinEDS that lack the corresponding preference vote data for jurisdictions using the WinEDS 4.0.116B Voting System to run Ranked Choice Voting contests. A previous SQL script, which only identified 400-C loads, was previously approved in September 2012.

Under Review – Newly Submitted

- ES&S is requesting administrative approval to update the SSL certificates for the GEMS version 1.18.24 election management system and AccuVote-TSx (BallotStation) version 4.6.4. ES&S has not submitted all of the required documentation necessary for the Secretary of State.

- Hart is requesting administrative approval of a new operating system, Windows 7, for its System 6.2.1 voting system. OVSTA is working with Hart on finalizing the test plan, which will then be submitted, verified and tested at a VSTL.

- Hart is requesting administrative approval of a new central count ballot scanner, the Canon DC-X10C, to be used with its System 6.2.1 voting system. The new scanner will run on the Windows 7 operating system platform. This administrative approval will be submitted, verified and tested by a VSTL following the results of the Windows 7 administrative approval testing at the VSTL.

Testing and Approval by the State of California

- On January, 10, 2013, the Secretary of State received an application for the testing and approval of the ES&S Unity 3.4.0.0 Voting System. 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.

- On October, 26, 2012, the Secretary of State received an application and deposit for the testing and approval of the Dominion Democracy Suite 4.14 Voting System. 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, including an EAC qualification number, has been received.

Testing and Certification at the EAC

The EAC provides a weekly update of voting system testing. As of February 5, 2013, the current testing and certification status for systems relevant to California is:

Dominion Democracy Suite 4.14. EAC received the first Test Plan submission for this test campaign on January 11 and provided comments to Wyle on January 28. EAC and Wyle worked through the comments on the first draft of the Test Plan and Wyle is revising the Test Plan. Related documents can be found on the EAC website.

Dominion Sequoia WinEDS 4.0. EAC is in discussion with Dominion about the next steps. Related documents can be found on the EAC website.

Election Systems & Software (ES&S) EVS 5.0.0.0. The system is currently in testing at Wyle Laboratories. Related documents can be found on the EAC website.

Hart InterCivic. Hart is working with SLI Global Solutions to prepare for testing. More information 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.

In January, the Secretary of State received problem reports for the ES&S Unity 3.0.1.1 voting system and the Hart System 6.2.1 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 and Hart, respectively. 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.