July 7, 2014

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #14173

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

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

RE: Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update – July 2014

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

The EAC hosted a roundtable entitled "Reforming the Testing and Certification Process" to discuss potential reforms to the federal testing and certification process to better meet the needs of state and local jurisdictions. The roundtable took place on Thursday, June 12, 2014. More information is available on the EAC website.

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."

- Dominion has requested administrative approval for an SQL script to identify an issue caused by Ranked Choice Voting ballots containing a Write-In vote. This SQL script has been modified from the version that was previously approved in June 2013, to identify 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. Dominion submitted the script to National Technical Systems, Inc. (NTS), formerly Wyle Laboratories, an EAC accredited voting system testing laboratory (VSTL) which conducted a review of the script. With the review completed, OVSTA will be conducting a functional test of the script at one of the affected counties.

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. The source code review and penetration testing is complete and draft reports are being reviewed by OVSTA. Volume testing was completed May 1, 2014. Accessibility was completed May 9, 2014. The functional testing began February 3, 2014, and is ongoing.

Testing and Certification at the EAC

The EAC provides a weekly update of voting system testing. As of June 24, 2014, the current testing and certification status for systems relevant to California is:

Dominion Democracy Suite 4.14-A.1. EAC certified this system on June 16, 2014. Related documents can be found on the EAC website.

ES&S EVS 5.2.0.0. EAC approved the Revision B of the Test Report on June 20, 2014, and is working on certification documents. Related documents can be found on the EAC website.

Everyone Counts. EAC approved the application for certification on June 9, 2014. Everyone Counts will be using SLI Global for testing. Related documents can be found on the EAC website.

Hart InterCivic Verity 1.0. Hart is working on design changes to the system. Testing is delayed until Hart is ready to proceed. 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 (1) voting system hardware and software and (2) ballot printing manufacturing and finishing are reported to the Secretary of State. During the month of June:

- The Secretary of State did not receive any voting system problem reports. For more information contact the voting system vendor, or OVSTA, or go to the EAC website, at EAC Voting System Reports.
- The Secretary of State did not receive any ballot printing problem reports.

Ballot Printing Certification Requests

Ballot on Demand systems under review:

- Placer County requested to be certified as a manufacturer of Premier AccuVote-OS ballots using the Runbeck Sentio Print System.
- Santa Barbara County requested to be certified as a manufacturer of Premier AccuVote-OS ballots using the Runbeck Sentio Print System.

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