MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 24, 2023
TIME: 11:00am - 12:00pm
LOCATION: MS TEAMS Meeting

MEETING TITLE: Motor Voter Task Force

FACILITATOR: Sam Au
SCRIBE: Sam Au

INVITEES							
SOS			**DMV**			**Task Force**	
X	Jason Heyes		X	Deanna Wida		X	Russia Chavis
	Jana Lean		X	Sam Rasmussen			John Gardner
X	Susan Lapsley			Anthony Barrios-Lopez			Rosalind Gold
	Tom Nguyen			Brian Gilmore		X	Deanna Kitamura
X	Sam Au		X	Benjamin Merritt		X	Whitney Quesenbery
X	Skyler-Myles Cobb			Bernard Soriano		X	Dora Rose
				Joe Chapman		X	Paul R. Spencer
							Brittany Stonesifer
							Neal Ubriani
						X	Tricia Webber
						X	Jacqueline Wu

AGENDA ITEMS		
	Agenda Item Description	**Presented By**
1.	Monthly Statistics	SOS
2.	DMV eDL44 Screenshot changes	SOS/DMV
3.	Proposal to add single optional question to the registration process for race and ethnicity.	Task Force
4.	AB 796 Upgrade Status	DMV
5.	CA New Motor Voter Annual Report	All
6.	Next Meeting	SOS
7.	Questions and Comments	All

Notes:

Welcomed Russia Chavez as a Motor Voter Task Force member.

Monthly Statistics

- SOS shared the monthly statistics for the last quarter, July-Sept 2023. SOS also shared the statistics report through the MV website.
- Descriptions for the system irregularities were provided and explained. System irregularities are due to the following reasons: late arriving DMV-14 Forms, a software update deployed to the Self-Service Kiosk devices that caused transactions paid with a credit card to fail, an issue with DMV's Mobile Tech processing flow, and GetSignature service outages with one of the outages being due to server impact from an unrelated project.
- DMV explained the Get Signature service, which is a request from the SOS to the DMV to search for and provide a customer's digitized signature.
- Task Force asked about the systemic causes of the outages. DMV explained that it appears to be related to hardware and software modifications at CDT and DMV.
- DMV detailed the process of notifying customers about potential registration complications by mail. Customers receive a letter. The letters also include information on alternative registration methods for customers who remain uncertain about their successful registration.

DMV eDL44 Screenshot changes

- SOS walked through the eDL44 changes per SOS review. Task Force approve of the changes.
- SOS presented the implementation process for the eDL44 changes. This process would require a Change Request (CR) be submitted from SOS to DMV. The CR will be prioritized and then go through project intake, level of effort assessment, project start, development, test, and deployment.
- DMV noted that this process might take a minimum of six months from CR submittal, as the change from three options to two on the "Voter Registration opportunity to opt out" screen will impact entire process flows. Completing the CR by the next General Election is uncertain. Task Force expressed concerns about the implementation timeline. Task Force requested that DMV provide detailed look into the project lifecycle for changes submitted from SOS to DMV for the eDL44.

Proposal to add single optional question to the registration process for race and ethnicity

- Dr. Mindy Romero attended as a guest speaker. She is the founder and Director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID). She spoke about automatic voter registration and self-reported demographic data. There is an option to indicate this data in some states, and it's become mandatory in others. While only 7% of voters used to report their data, this percentage has increased with online registration. Dr. Mindy Romero highlighted the challenges of inadequate data, with only 28% indicating their ethnicity/race. Researchers need to rely on statistical models, such as surname analysis and census data, to make informed guesses. There have been improvements in these models, but they have limitations. Expanding AVR could improve data collection, making it less reliant on guesswork.
- Task Force asked if there was an analysis on how asking a race/ethnicity question would impact the DMV and its normal processes, like attaining driver's licenses.
- DMV mentioned that the advocated changes might not be cost-effective and could potentially cause greater frustration with the registration process.
- Task Force recommended setting up a subcommittee; however, it is not permitted. The Task Force may bring suggestions and comments for continued discussion to the Task Force meetings.
- SOS pointed out that implementing these changes would require a significant allocation of funds, and several factors (costs, impacts, etc.) need to be discussed in the future.

- The Task Force will continue these discussions in future meetings.

AB 796 Upgrade Status

- PAL Process Stage 3 has been approved by CDT and is pending Stage 4 approval.
- The main solicitation has been published; however, only one bid was received so this solicitation will be readvertised.

CA New Motor Voter Annual Report

- The annual report has been released to the legislature.
- It will be released to the public on the Motor Voter Task Force website by COB Friday 10/27/23.
- SOS will start on the 2023 Annual Report in January 2024.

Next Meeting

- The next Task Force meeting scheduled for January 24, 2023, from 11 AM to 12 PM will be a hybrid meeting at SOS.

ACTION ITEMS					
	Description	**Status**	**Open Date**	**Due Date**	**Responsible**
1.	Final review of the 2022 CA New Motor Voter Annual Report.	Closed	7/25/23	8/11/23	Task Force
2.	DMV and SOS to review proposed eDLL44 changes and provide update.	Closed	7/25/23	10/25/23	SOS/DMV
3.	NEW – Provide detailed look into the project lifecycle for changes submitted from SOS to DMV for the eDL44 process changes.	Open	10/24/2023	01/24/2023	DMV