



December 4, 2015

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #15166

**TO:** All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

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

**RE:** Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update – December 2015

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 California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and the County Records' Association of California, will be holding their Joint 2015 New Law Workshop and Seminar from December 8-11, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sacramento.

A draft of the ballot printing regulation amendments have been created and circulated to a sub-set of the following: (1) jurisdictions using ballot on demand systems; (2) ballot printers; and (3) voting system vendors. OVSTA requested feedback prior to beginning the formal rulemaking process. Comments have been reviewed, OVSTA has met with counties and ballot print vendors to discuss modifications and revisions are being made.

The National Institute of Technology (NIST) and the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), through its Technical Development Guidelines Committee (TGDC), have embarked upon a public process to assist with the development of the next iteration of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines. There have been seven public working groups created as a public/private partnership to inform and define the guidelines. There are the following three Election Cycle Groups (1) Pre-Election, (2) Election, (3) Post-Election and the following four Constituency Groups (1) Cyber Security, 2) Human

Factors, including Accessibility and Usability, (3) Interoperability, and (4) Testing & Certification. For more information on the public working groups, including information on how to participate, may be found on the NIST Voting webpage [here](#).

### **Testing and Approval by the State of California**

- The Elections Systems and Software, Inc. (ES&S) Unity 3.4.1.0 voting system contract for the Security Review portion of the testing has been awarded to Freeman, Craft, McGregor Group, Inc. The Security Review will begin soon. OVSTA and ES&S are working together on the projected start date for the Functional Testing.

### **Administrative Approval Requests**

California Elections Code section 19216 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 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](#).”

- There are currently no administrative approval requests.

### **Testing and Certification at the EAC**

The EAC provides a [weekly update](#) of voting system testing. As of November 24, 2015, the current testing and certification status for systems relevant to California is:

**ES&S EVS 5.2.1.0.** The EAC approved Test Plan Rev. A on November 10, 2015. NTS completed testing and the EAC is waiting for the draft Test Report. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

**ES&S EVS 5.4.0.0.** A discrepancy was found during the electrostatic discharge (hardware) testing. ES&S is working on determining the root cause and mitigations for the issue. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

**Everyone Counts eLect Quad Audit 4.3.0.** EAC received an application for this system on October 23, 2015, and the system is currently undergoing the Test Readiness Review at Pro V&V. Related documents can be found on the EAC [website](#).

**Hart Verity Voting 2.0.** EAC received an application for the Hart Verity Voting 2.0 voting system on November 6, 2015. EAC approved the application on November 13, 2015, after SLI completed the Test Readiness Review. 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.

- The Secretary of State received a problem report for the Dominion WinEDS 4.0 voting system. However, the problem reported is not used in the California configuration, as used in Alameda and San Francisco Counties. For more information, please contact your vendor or OVSTA.

### **Ballot Printing Certification Requests**

Ballot Manufacturer and Finisher Applications Approved

- Times Printing was approved to print Hart BallotNow ballots at its new facility located at 106 T Street, Eureka, California.

A list of certified ballot printers can be found at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-systems/certification-and-approval/ballot-printer-certification/>.