

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
VOTING MODERNIZATION BOARD MEETING

RONALD REAGAN BUILDING
AUDITORIUM
300 SO. SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90013

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

2:15 P.M.

JEANESE JOHNSON
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
LICENSE NUMBER 11635

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr. Stephen Kaufman, Chair
- Ms. June Awano Lagmay
- Ms. Teri Holoman
- Mr. Gabriel Sandoval

STAFF

- Executive Officer: Jana Lean
- Staff Consultant: Katherine Montgomery
- Staff Counsel: Rachel Delucchi
- OVSTA Consultant: Ryan Macias

CONTENTS

- I. Welcome and Administration of
Oath of Office
The Honorable Alex Padilla,
Secretary of State
- II. Call to Order
- III. Roll Call and Declaration of
Quorum
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adoption of April 1, 2014 Meeting
Minutes
- VI. Staff Report on Related Issues
- VII. Los Angeles County - Voting Systems
Assessment Project
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Adjournment

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PROCEEDINGS

--o0o--

CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: Now, that we have everybody in place, I'm going to call the meeting of the Voting Modernization Board to order, the first meeting of 2015, and we obviously have a lot of new faces on our board, and we have a new face in the Secretary of State's office. I've had the pleasure to serve on this board now through four secretary of states, and I must say I'm particularly pleased to be serving now with our new Secretary of State, Alex Padilla, at the helm. And I am very hopeful that under his leadership, we will get back to the business that we were set up to do, and that is to give money to counties so that they can buy new voting equipment.

And while all of you are new to this game, I am hoping at that some point in the not too distant future, we will be

1 out of business and the counties will be
2 getting on with their business.

3 So that will be our goal in the
4 future. I wanted to make sure we had
5 this meeting, first of all, to welcome
6 the new board members and get sworn in
7 and also get you all up-to-speed on what
8 has happened before you arrived here so
9 that when we actually get in the business
10 of handing out money, you'll understand
11 the process a little bit better and we'll
12 all be up-to-speed on that. And frankly,
13 I think just getting in the rhythm of
14 having these meetings again will be a
15 welcome event for all of us.

16 So with that, I'd like to
17 welcome our new Secretary of State, who I
18 know has some remarks and who is going to
19 administer the oath.

20

21 SECRETARY ALEX PADILLA: All
22 right. I don't know if I need this.
23 Seems to be a small enough group. I can
24 just speak up. But I know we're
25 recording.

1 I'll spare everybody the
2 speech. I think this is preaching to the
3 choir as it can possibly get, the nature
4 before us, the nature of the investments,
5 the nature of modernization, we've all
6 sorted through the history lesson of the
7 last 15 years, butterfly ballots, hanging
8 chads, and experimenting with electronic
9 machines, and here we are many, many
10 years later.

11 But really timing being what it
12 is, just as a more comprehensive
13 conversation going on about what
14 elections ought to look like in the
15 future, the voter experience, and low and
16 behold, the state of Oregon last week
17 signed into a law what they called "A new
18 voter voting," really is revolutionizing
19 voter registration, as we know it.

20 So if you look at the end game
21 of maximizing people participating in our
22 democracy and voting in our elections,
23 the big step one is to register, the big
24 step two is to turn out. You know, if we
25 flip the registration piece of its head

1 but it's an opt out for those who don't
2 want to participate in democracy, let
3 them do the work. But often, we have
4 this group of registered folks who we
5 know are eligible, then we can dedicate
6 the time and energy the resources towards
7 voter education and voter turnout.

8 So that is sort of, I think,
9 the backdrop and the context for the
10 technical work that's being done by this
11 board, so I'm glad that it continues.
12 But like the Chairman says, hopefully not
13 for too long. Success means the board
14 dissolves and the counties go on with
15 doing their thing.

16 So in the interest of moving it
17 along, I'll end it with that.

18 Congratulate all of you and ask
19 you to stand and raise your right hand in
20 front of all of your peers.

21 Please repeat after me.

22 This is the oath of office for
23 the Voting Modernization Board.

24 I, state your name, do solemnly
25 swear that I will support and defend the

1 Constitution of the United States and the
2 Constitution of the State of California
3 against all enemies, foreign and
4 domestic, that I will bear truth, faith,
5 and allegiance to the Constitution of the
6 United States and the Constitution of the
7 State of California, that I take this
8 obligation freely without any mental
9 reservation or purpose of evasion, and
10 that I will well and faithfully discharge
11 the duties upon which I am about to
12 enter.

13 Congratulations.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 SECRETARY ALEX PADILLA: I hand
17 it back over to the Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

20 Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

21 Okay. So now we have sworn in
22 the new board we had.

23 And I just wanted to take a
24 moment to thank some of our departed
25 members. Not departed in that sense.

1 Departed from the board. Mike Bustamante
2 and Tal Finney who served from the
3 beginning of this board and were there
4 through thick and thin, sometimes barely
5 in the case of Ms. Finney, but
6 nonetheless, served this board well and
7 the State well, and I want to thank them
8 for all their service over the last
9 number of years and welcome our new
10 members to the board. I feel like I'm
11 the old guy now.

12 So, but we'll trudge on. And
13 we have another spot that will be filled,
14 so we look forward to the last member
15 joining us at some point soon down the
16 road.

17 Okay. So with that, I think
18 we've kind of done our roll call by
19 virtue of the swearing in, but do you
20 want to formalize it?

21 MS. MONTGOMERY: Sure.

22 (Roll call)

23

24 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

25 Okay. We've received one

1 speaker card from David Holtzman.

2 Please come to the podium,
3 please.

4 David, what is "L.A. Vote
5 Fire?"

6 MR. HOLTZMAN: Oh, we'll get to
7 that.

8 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
9 Okay.

10 MR. HOLTZMAN: There we go.
11 I'll just come here where I can see a
12 little better.

13 Before I get started,
14 Mr. Chairman, some of my remarks have to
15 do with general procedures about what can
16 be done with the bond fund. Would you
17 prefer I reserve those for Agenda Item 6,
18 or shall I bump it up?

19 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: You
20 know, if you have something that's
21 related to a specific matter, why don't
22 you hold that until we come to our
23 discussion of a specific matter. If you
24 have things of a general nature, go ahead
25 and fire away, and if it bleeds over a

1 little bit, we won't be upset.

2 MR. HOLTZMAN: I'll hold the
3 remarks about specific issues of the bond
4 fund until we get to Agenda Item 6.

5 So first of all, thank you
6 Mr. Chair, members of the board. My name
7 is David Holtzman. I don't want to
8 belabor you on what I'm not here about.
9 I'm an administrative law judge. I'm not
10 here in that role. I'm a past president
11 of the League of Women Voters of Los
12 Angeles. I'm not in here in a legal
13 role, but I am a founder of L.A. Vote
14 Fire, which stands for Los Angeles Voters
15 for Instant Runoff Elections, L.A. Vote
16 Fire.

17 And of course advocates of
18 instant run-offs for a long time face the
19 chicken and egg problem where there's
20 less demand for instant runoff elections
21 because equipment is -- the -- for the
22 complete range of candidates is not
23 available. And we would love for this
24 Board to do something to break that cycle
25 and encourage the availability of voting

1 that is capable of running instant runoff
2 elections with rank-choice voting.

3 Welcome new members.

4 Like I said, I am on a hearing
5 board and would like see you exercise your
6 judgment independently of the powers that
7 appointed you. And I would first request the
8 three who were appointed by the Governor not
9 to all sequentially consult each other before
10 deciding because that would probably be a
11 violation of the term.

12 And I mentioned this to the
13 commission and the Board Member Lagmay
14 before, I believe you should all recuse
15 yourself if you have had anything to do with
16 the preparation of the proposal, recuse
17 yourself from the discussion of that item.

18 If you do anything that has to
19 do with the acquisition of new
20 technology, I would appreciate if you
21 ensured that any new technology that can
22 be patented is not patented, but instead,
23 because I'm a patent attorney, let me
24 point out that you can file a statutory
25 invention registration which prevents

1 anybody else from being able to patent
2 the technology and leaves it for the
3 public to develop. Would hate for one
4 organization or another to corner the
5 market and reduce the availability of
6 novel, useful technology.

7 Something that I would suggest
8 that you have in voting equipment would
9 be, first of all, a link to an electronic
10 poll book so that people -- even people
11 who have already submitted absentee
12 ballots in the mail can, if they want to
13 change their mind, up to election day,
14 vote on election day and have that vote
15 count, if they vote in person at a
16 polling place.

17 Second, of course, rank choice
18 voting enabled equipment -- please,
19 please, please.

20 Third. No ink jets. Laser
21 printers only. Ink jet cartridges, I
22 just feel would be a terrible mistake
23 because they dry out in storage and could
24 lead to election day disasters.

25 And finally, just ensure that

1 whatever you get is tested and has
2 durability that makes it worth the
3 expenditure.

4 In general, I think you should
5 balance the cost of the public money with
6 the benefits of what you're buying with
7 the public money.

8 So thanks very much.

9 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

10 Thank you, Mr. Holtzman.

11 And let me just say for the
12 record that this board is not in the
13 business of certifying or approving
14 voting technology, but we are in the
15 business of awarding funds to counties to
16 purchase voting equipment that has been
17 certified by other boards and other
18 agencies, so. But we appreciate your
19 comments.

20 MR. HOLTZMAN: I hope you have
21 a good many to choose from.

22 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: As
23 do we.

24 Okay. The next item on our
25 agenda is Item Number 5 is adoption of

1 the April 1, 2014, meeting minutes.

2 Since I was the only person who
3 actually attended that meeting who is
4 currently on the board, we're just going
5 to accept those meeting minutes into the
6 record, and they will be part of the
7 record accordingly.

8 So with that, let's go to Item
9 Number 6, which is our staff report and
10 the staff is going to -- it's kind of a
11 two-part report. I don't know if you
12 guys are splitting it up or who is
13 reporting on it. Is that you, Katherine?

14 MS. MONTGOMERY: That will be
15 me.

16 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

17 Okay. Katherine will provide a
18 report, and I think this is really for
19 the benefit of the new members.
20 Hopefully, you've had a chance to look at
21 the memo, but just to provide an overview
22 of what the board was created for and
23 what the purposes were, where we stand in
24 terms of the allocation of funding the
25 \$200 million that was originally set

1 aside for the upgraded voting equipment
2 and that's kind of where things stand in
3 general.

4 MS. MONTGOMERY: I'm going to
5 try this without the mic since I've got
6 the written report, I'm just going to
7 read from that. If you need the mic,
8 just let me know.

9 "The Voting Modernization
10 Board, known as VMB or sometimes just
11 Board was established by the --"

12 (Audience comment)

13 MS. MONTGOMERY: Is this
14 better?

15 "The Voting Modernization Board
16 or VMB was established by the passage of
17 Proposition 41 - Voting Modernization Act
18 of 2002 at the March 5th, 2002, primary
19 election. The purpose of the Act was to
20 allow the state to sell \$200 million in
21 general obligation bonds to assist
22 counties in the purchase of updated
23 voting systems, specifically voting
24 machines, voting devices, or
25 vote-tabulating devices that do not

1 utilize prescored punch card ballots and
2 are certified for use in California.

3 "The five-member VMB (when
4 fully staffed) is responsible for
5 considering applications and awarding
6 bond monies to counties and consists of
7 two members appointed by the Secretary of
8 State and three members appointed by the
9 Governor. The Secretary of State
10 currently has one outstanding vacant
11 position. The terms of appointment are
12 not limited. The Chair and Vice Chair
13 are elected by the VMB members.

14 "In accordance with the
15 Memorandum of Understanding with the VMB,
16 the Secretary of State provides resources
17 and administrative services to the Board.
18 The Secretary of State's Chief of
19 Elections serves as Executive Officer, an
20 Elections Specialist serves as Staff
21 Consultant, an Elections Division
22 attorney serves as Staff Counsel, and the
23 Assistant to the Chief of Elections
24 serves as the Executive Assistant to the
25 Board.

1 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
2 Katherine, can I interrupt you for one
3 minute. Do you want to identify for
4 everybody up here who those people are so
5 we know?

6 MS. MONTGOMERY: Sure.
7 Our chief of elections -- so
8 the Board's executive officer is Jana
9 Lean.

10 MS. LEAN: Hello.

11 MS. MONTGOMERY: And she's been
12 with the board since the beginning.

13 I am the election specialist
14 and staff consultant.

15 Robbie Anderson is our normal
16 staff counsel. He's not with us today so
17 we have Rachel Delucchi.

18 MS. DELUCCHI: And I'm also
19 normal.

20 MS. MONTGOMERY: And then we
21 also have Ryan Macias with us. He's a
22 technical assistant. He's with the
23 office of voting systems technology
24 assessment.

25 MR. MACIAS: That's correct.

1 MS. MONTGOMERY: "The Act does
2 not include a schedule for allocation of
3 funds to counties to modernize voting
4 systems. At the July 17th, 2002, VMB
5 meeting, after much deliberation and
6 public testimony, the VMB adopted a
7 formula-based allocation for all of the
8 counties. The VMB allocated funds to
9 each county based on a formula that gives
10 equal weight to the number of persons
11 eligible to vote, the number of
12 registered voters, the average number of
13 persons who voted at the last four
14 statewide elections, and the number of
15 polling places (all numbers were based
16 upon March 5th, 2002, Primary Election
17 data).

18 "Once the formula allocations
19 were established for each county, all 58
20 counties were invited to apply for their
21 formula funding allocations. A "Project
22 Documentation Package" detailing a
23 county's voting conversion plan and
24 executed vendor contract is required as
25 part of the application for funding

1 process. By requiring this detailed
2 conversion plan and signed vendor
3 contract from the county before any
4 funding award and disbursements occur,
5 the VMB is able to ensure that the new
6 voting system the county plans to convert
7 to would comply with the specific
8 requirements of the Act.

9 "The requirement for counties
10 to submit "Project Documentation
11 Packages" was established by the VMB in
12 the adoption of the "Funding Application
13 and Procedural Guide" and the "Statement
14 of Plans and Projects" signed by the
15 Governor. It has also been incorporated
16 as the VMB's requirement for funding, in
17 documents submitted to the Voting
18 Modernization Finance Committee, and to
19 request the issuance of commercial paper
20 to fund the Voting Modernization Fund.

21 "The Act does not specify a
22 deadline to allocate the fund monies.
23 Given that there has been little movement
24 in the availability of certified voting
25 systems for counties to purchase since

1 the formation of the VMB, a deadline has
2 yet to be established.

3 "Approximately \$195 million in
4 Voting Modernization Bond funds has been
5 allocated amongst the counties (an
6 additional \$5 million is used to
7 administer the sale and appropriation of
8 bonds). To date, almost \$130 million of
9 bond funds has been approved and a
10 balance of over \$65 million remains to be
11 spent by 25 counties, including Los
12 Angeles who has over \$49 million
13 remaining.

14 "Once a Project Documentation
15 Plan is submitted by a county, it is
16 reviewed by VMB staff and submitted to
17 the Board at a public meeting, typically
18 within 30 days of submission. Meetings
19 have been held in Sacramento or Los
20 Angeles, as determined by the Board.

21 "Originally, meetings were held
22 quite frequently. During the first five
23 years of the VMB (from 2002 through 2006)
24 the Board met 34 times. After the
25 "Top-to-Bottom Review" conducted by

1 Secretary of State Debra Bowen in 2007,
2 resulting in the decertification of
3 multiple voting systems, meetings slowed
4 down considerably, including two years
5 where no meetings were held (2009 and
6 2013). The years 2010, 2011, and 2012
7 saw only one meeting per year.

8 "There are currently no
9 applications pending action by the Board;
10 however, Los Angeles County has indicated
11 they intend to submit a project
12 documentation plan for bond funds to be
13 spent on research and development of
14 their new proposed voting system.

15 "All governing documents and
16 policy decisions made by the VMB to date
17 can be found on our VMB website."

18 And I won't read you the
19 address. It's very long.

20 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
21 Katherine, have you guys updated the
22 chart that we have that shows how much
23 has been allocated to each county and how
24 much has been spent, and have those been
25 given out?

1 MS. MONTGOMERY: Yes, they are
2 actually included in the packets that
3 everyone has and the audience. Should be
4 the last page. I'm pretty sure that's
5 what it is.

6 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
7 Yeah, here we go.

8 MS. MONTGOMERY: Sorry.

9 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: And
10 for those of you new folks, this is a
11 listing of all the amounts that were
12 allocated under the formula to the
13 various counties.

14 MS. MONTGOMERY: I'm sorry.
15 It's not in the very back. L.A.'s report
16 is in the very back. So it's right
17 before L.A.'s report.

18 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: It's
19 in the back. Thank you.

20 MR. SANDOVAL: I'm not finding
21 it.

22 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: And
23 this will show you, you know, how much
24 has been used by each county against
25 their limit, and some of the counties

1 have had multiple phases that have come
2 board the before so they got a Phase 1
3 allocation and, you know, didn't quite
4 use up everything and they have come back
5 for additional, you know, functions that
6 they have added on to their voting
7 system.

8 MS. HOLOMAN: Is there a
9 timeline associated with...

10 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
11 Correct, there has been no timeline in
12 place, and we specifically decided not to
13 put a timeline in place when things
14 essentially came to a halt because we
15 thought it would be unfair to the
16 counties to impose a deadline when there
17 weren't sufficient -- there wasn't
18 sufficient equipment for many of them,
19 including the county of L.A. to purchase,
20 so we've kind of been waiting the next
21 phase of approved voting equipment, or in
22 the case of L.A., which I think we're
23 going to hear very shortly, their own,
24 you know, they have now developed a
25 proprietary system that they are prepared

1 to move forward with.

2 MS. HOLOMAN: Um-hmm. Right.

3 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: So
4 that's kind of the day we've been waiting
5 for. For sometime the thought has always
6 been that at the end of the day, if there
7 are funds remaining once all the counties
8 have gone through their kind of first
9 phase, that there might be a reallocation
10 of additional funds, if there are
11 additional funds remaining.

12 MS. HOLOMAN: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: You
14 guys should feel free to fire away at
15 staff if you have any questions about
16 where we started and how we got here.

17 Anybody?

18 Okay. Do you want to talk
19 about the obligations of the bond
20 process.

21 MS. MONTGOMERY: Yes, I do.

22 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
23 Okay.

24 MS. MONTGOMERY: It is very
25 technical, I'm sorry.

1 So there has been a minor
2 change to the way the general obligations
3 are, so I spoke to the treasurer's office
4 about this and I'm relaying what they
5 told me to the best of my ability.

6 "Proposition 41 created the
7 Voting Modernization Finance Committee
8 (Committee). The three-member Committee
9 is responsible for issuance and sale of
10 the bonds authorized by the Voting
11 Modernization Act in accordance with the
12 State General Obligation Bond Law. The
13 Committee consists of the State
14 Controller, the Director of Finance, and
15 the State Treasurer, or their designated
16 representatives. The Treasurer serves as
17 chairperson of the Committee.

18 "Prior to 2009, after funds
19 were awarded to a county, money was
20 borrowed from the Pooled Money Investment
21 Account and those accounts were then paid
22 back after the sale of bonds. However,
23 after the economic downturn in 2008, the
24 Pooled Money Investment Board decided
25 that general obligation bonds could no

1 longer borrow against their Pooled Money
2 Investment Account.

3 "In light of this, the
4 Treasurer's Office decided that rather
5 than requesting bonds be sold in order to
6 free up money for issuance to a county at
7 an undetermined date in the future, they
8 will instead authorize the use of
9 commercial paper. General obligation
10 bonds are sold four times a year; twice
11 in the spring and twice in the fall,
12 whereas, commercial papers are issued
13 once a month. The Voting Modernization
14 Board (VMB/Board) does not always get six
15 or more months advance notice before a
16 county comes before them requesting bond
17 funds. According to the Treasurer's
18 Office, the issuance of commercial paper
19 is a flexible option given the Board's
20 specific needs.

21 "Currently, the staff to the
22 Board reports quarterly to the Department
23 of Finance speculating on the amount of
24 funds that may be need to be available
25 for disbursement to counties. This

1 information is then shared with the
2 Treasurer's Office who works directly
3 with the staff to the Board to borrow
4 money in the commercial paper market for
5 the amount requested. Once the bonds are
6 sold at a later date, the borrowed money
7 will be paid back.

8 "Staff to the Board will need
9 to update our policies and procedures
10 manual in the near future to reflect
11 these changes and remove references to
12 the Pooled Money Investment Account and
13 replace it with language explaining the
14 issuance of commercial paper."

15 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

16 Thank you, Katherine.

17 Any questions?

18 Okay. Mr. Holtzman, I want to
19 respect your notes here. Did you have
20 any additional public comments with
21 regard to matter 6?

22 MR. HOLTZMAN: I guess really
23 fast.

24 I didn't really want to speak
25 about the difference between commercial

1 paper and other types of funding, but
2 anyway, if you need to understand that,
3 just ask me.

4 Anyway, I just want to say that
5 I don't think that SB360 was effective to
6 change what bond money raised by
7 Proposition 41 can be dispersed for in
8 the Article 16 of the California Code of
9 Procedure provides for the purpose of the
10 bonding be specified in the measure.

11 And so -- and let's face it, if
12 you change from purchasing to selling
13 equipment or providing seed money for the
14 organization to sell equipment, they are
15 doing the opposite of purchasing, so I
16 just wanted to put that on the record.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

19 Thank you.

20 Okay. With that, we will move
21 to Item 7, and I'll invite the folks from
22 Los Angeles County, who I know wanted to
23 make a presentation regarding the status
24 of their system, voting systems
25 assessment project.

1 I guess we have a PowerPoint so
2 we will adjust here. Well, why don't you
3 come on up and introduce yourself.

4 MR. GRAY: Definitely. Very
5 brief PowerPoint.

6 Jeremy Gray, Los Angeles
7 County.

8 Okay. Can you hear me? Okay.
9 I don't think I need a microphone.

10 Jeremy Gray, Assistant
11 Registrar Recorder County Clerk. Dean
12 Logan Registrar Recorder County clerk
13 sends his apologies for not being
14 here today. He is actually furthering
15 this very dialogue in Washington DC with
16 the presidential commission on elections
17 administration discussing voting
18 technology and improving the overall
19 voter experience.

20 So today, I will give you a
21 very brief update on our project.

22 With me I have Debbie Martin.
23 She's Deputy Director, Registrar Recorder
24 County Clerk Ken Bennet, IT project
25 manager for our VSAP project.

1 Overall, let me see if I can
2 get this to work. One second. Got to
3 love it. There we go.

4 All right. So the -- L.A.
5 County is probably one of the largest and
6 most complex elections jurisdictions in
7 the nation with almost 5 million voters
8 serving ten languages, a very broad
9 socio-economic, ethnic demographic of
10 voters and constituents is a lot of
11 moving pieces, and designing a voting
12 system for such a broad community
13 obviously is very, very complex.

14 Our goal was to design a new
15 voting system that would best serve the
16 needs of this diverse electorate.

17 Within the project, there are
18 14 principles, core principles, that we
19 have identified and published, and
20 actually attached to your agenda is a
21 more elaborate description of each of
22 these principles.

23 In managing the project, every
24 strategy, every milestone, every task is
25 tied back to one of these -- or multiple

1 core principles related to the project
2 itself.

3 The principles are actually
4 shaping the design of the voting system
5 itself, and we rely heavily upon them.

6 Human centered design is
7 something that I can tell you as 20 years
8 as a IT practitioner, unfortunately is
9 something that is not always done in the
10 IT space.

11 So Debbie and I parked in the
12 same parking lot across the street and we
13 needed tickets to park in a parking lot
14 and it was about 180 buttons on this
15 kiosk, but you only needed one button to
16 actually print out a ticket to; park,
17 right. That's not a good example of
18 human centered design, and basically what
19 human centered design says is design
20 technology for the human, right.

21 It really starts with how human
22 engagement begins with the technology
23 itself. In the IT space, we often design
24 technology based on business
25 requirements, timelines, budgeting, the

1 regulatory landscape, and everything
2 else.

3 So this approach is very, very
4 unique in that it really focuses on the
5 voter first. And while we have to focus
6 on those other very complex aspects
7 within the technology ecosystem, the
8 voter themselves are actually prioritized
9 in our design philosophy.

10 Our proposed voting experience
11 -- and this slide kind of gives a good
12 visual depiction of that -- the ballot
13 marking device will allow for features
14 that are currently not possible with a
15 paper ballot. It provides the ability to
16 present any ballot style, which makes a
17 vote center possible, provides multiple
18 voting options on a single device, and it
19 allows voters with different abilities to
20 vote using the same device, which is
21 slightly unique from previous strategies,
22 and it maintains that paper ballot as the
23 official ballot of record.

24 Or overall high-level project
25 timeline: Phases 1 and 2 kind of set the

1 foundation to our strategy.

2 We conducted numerous public
3 outreach research sessions. That
4 provided us with a agreement amount of
5 data. We established formal bodies of
6 stakeholders from the election advocate
7 community, various community entities,
8 technology subject matter experts.

9 The data was established and
10 gave us general voting system principles
11 to ensure stakeholder needs continue to
12 actually drive our process.

13 Phase 3; the current phase that
14 we're in now, is the design engineering
15 phase, and basically we've collaborated,
16 as you may know, with a human design firm
17 from up north IDEO, and we are actually
18 designing actual iterative prototypes
19 that will assist us in moving forward
20 with our design.

21 Here you see another evolution
22 of that prototype here in Phase 3.
23 Actually, at this very moment, we have
24 staff up north with IDEO conducting user
25 testing where various users with

1 disabilities come in and they actually in
2 realtime are using these prototypes under
3 observation so that we can see various
4 user behavior and how the technology
5 performs under that user behavior.

6 So with that, again, very brief
7 highlights, and we are open to any
8 questions if you have them.

9 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

10 Thank you.

11 Now, Phase 3 that was --
12 correct me if I'm wrong -- that was done
13 with funding requests that was made of
14 our Board last year. No. Okay. That's
15 independent of that.

16 MR. GRAY: Right.

17 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: What
18 is your timeline for completing Phase 3?
19 I know it's flashed by before, but as far
20 as the testing and design is concerned.

21 (Indicating)

22 And then do you have -- I see a
23 "Phase 4 future phase." What are you
24 forecasting at this point to be able to
25 put machinery into play during an

1 election?

2 MR. GRAY: Well, you know,
3 obviously some other aspects of our
4 strategy need to happen to have that
5 fully deployed.

6 Right now, I mean, we are
7 looking at somewhere between 2018, 2019
8 on a soft roll out. We don't foresee
9 this technology existing in the 5,000
10 polling places that we have now.

11 You heard that I slightly
12 touched on the concept of vote centers.
13 Obviously as a parallel strategy we are
14 looking at that as a potential vehicle to
15 deliver this technology to the public to,
16 number one, improve that voter
17 experience, voter turnout, and from a
18 technology perspective, that would allow
19 us to better manage the security,
20 infrastructure, et cetera, that would be
21 associated with a new voting system.

22 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: Let
23 me turn to my other board members,
24 working down the line.

25 Gab, do you have any questions?

1 MR. SANDOVAL: So you're
2 essentially stating that you're going to
3 create these centers to kind of deal with
4 any issues that may arise from the system
5 that's being implemented similar to what
6 is taking place in, for example, Nevada
7 where they have where the community
8 centers or different places where
9 individuals can vote as opposed to having
10 it at each electoral site that currently
11 is in place, so you're going to roll it
12 out in that way as a pilot?

13 MR. GRAY: Well, there are
14 numerous ways we could consider this. I
15 mean, currently, we are discussing at a
16 very -- and this is very premature -- but
17 we're discussing -- so we have 5,000
18 polling places now. Obviously, we would
19 not roll this out in, you know, at the
20 5,000 polling places.

21 MR. SANDOVAL: Right.

22 MR. GRAY: But it may be with
23 our current polling place model, it may
24 be at a few of those polling places
25 throughout the county. Even separate and

1 apart from the vote center model, we
2 could, in fact, consider rolling it out
3 as what we call a soft launch on a soft
4 implementation at a few of those places
5 throughout the county of L.A.

6 MR. SANDOVAL: You mentioned
7 there were other factors that were
8 involved and that you would consider, but
9 you didn't identify them. What are the
10 other factors that would lead to the
11 success of this particular roll out?

12 MR. GRAY: So obviously vote
13 centers are going to be a key element and
14 working along with the Secretary of
15 State's office on the necessary
16 regulations and legislation associated
17 with that.

18 I think that's probably one of
19 the primary aspects that we need to focus
20 on and parallel into our technology
21 development.

22 MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
24 Teri.

25 MS. HOLOMAN: It may be not

1 entirely germane to the conversation, but
2 bear with me. It's my first meeting.

3 MR. GRAY: That's all right.

4 MS. HOLOMAN: But are you
5 working with community groups and voter
6 education groups, League of Women Voters,
7 you know, others in kind of
8 conceptualizing what this roll out will
9 look like or what works for the
10 community?

11 THE WITNESS: Definitely. And
12 I apologize for my brevity.

13 We actually have put together
14 two advisory groups. One advisory group
15 comprised of community entities and
16 presence there that have given us
17 recommendations and opinions from day
18 one.

19 The other advisory group is on
20 the technology side, a group of
21 individuals from our various academic
22 industry environments, et cetera, that
23 have also given us recommendations on how
24 to approach that also.

25 MS. HOLOMAN: Okay.

1 MR. GRAY: Yes.

2 MS. LAGMAY: With the recent
3 passage in Los Angeles city of charter
4 amendments one and two, assuming that
5 elections as proscribed in those charter
6 amendments starting in the year 2020 are
7 consolidated and not concurrent, what if
8 anything, has that entered into your
9 planning stages for development of the
10 county systems if conduct of L.A. cities
11 elections are to be taken on by L.A.
12 County on a consistent basis into the
13 future?

14 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, it's
15 funny you should ask because that's very,
16 very high on our radar.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you
18 repeat the question. She's not using the
19 mic.

20 MS. LAGMAY: So my question was
21 with the recent passage in Los Angeles
22 city of charter amendments one and two
23 which changed the cities election dates
24 to match up with state and federal which
25 the county administers and assuming that

1 L.A. County will conduct those elections
2 instead of L.A. city doing them on a
3 concurrent basis, that means that L.A.
4 County will absorb the administration of
5 the largest city within the county and
6 its large number of voters; my question
7 was how has that recent phenomenon
8 figured into the planning stages of the
9 VSAP and what, if anything, has it
10 changed the timeline or some of the
11 parameters of how has it changed your
12 planning stages for the roll out in the
13 future.

14 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, it's
15 funny you should ask because that is very
16 relevant to our current planning and
17 analysis right now. I mean, we are
18 currently working with all of our project
19 strategists and partners to actually look
20 at system capacity.

21 MS. LAGMAY: Yes.

22 MR. GRAY: Ballot capacity, et
23 cetera. We actually have an internal
24 meeting on Monday, and we have prototypes
25 of large ballots, and we are doing an

1 analysis to really look at ballot real
2 estate and how that's going to look in a
3 current and future landscape.

4 So it is on our radar. We are
5 planning. And we don't have all the
6 answers yet because a lot of things are
7 changing.

8 If you keep up with the media
9 articles, even as early as this morning,
10 I became aware of. But it is on our
11 radar. We are incorporating all those
12 variables into our planning to ensure
13 that a future voting system can manage
14 this changing landscape that we're in
15 now, but there are some unknowns that we
16 currently don't know as you know right
17 now.

18 So further in our future
19 updates, we will definitely have more
20 information on a lot of capacity planning
21 that we're doing now.

22 MS. LAGMAY: Thank you.

23 MR. GRAY: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

25 Mr. Gray, you know, I think given how

1 much of what we do depends on what is
2 outstanding with L.A., we could certainly
3 continuing appreciate continuing updates
4 with the County as you proceed along this
5 path. I'm wondering if we might expect,
6 not to put you on the spot, but might we
7 expect the county to be here before us at
8 any point in the coming months or a year
9 requesting funding that for any portion
10 of this project or any phase of your
11 development project?

12 MR. GRAY: Yeah, well, we
13 actually have submitted our application
14 to the board.

15 MS. LEAN: We have not received
16 that.

17 MR. GRAY: Yes.

18 MS. LEAN: But we have not
19 received that yet. So it's coming down
20 the road.

21 MR. GRAY: It is.

22 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: For
23 at least a portion of it.

24 MR. GRAY: It is.

25 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

1 Okay. Great.

2 Okay. Well, thank you very
3 much. We appreciate it. We look forward
4 to the updates.

5 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
6 Mr. Holtzman, you submitted on this item
7 number as well.

8 MR. HOLTMAN: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman.

10 Welcome to Los Angeles for
11 those of you who weren't from here.

12 While you're here, you might
13 want to take a look at the technical
14 center where the city of Los Angeles has
15 a election system that's pretty much
16 equivalent to the one that the County
17 uses. And, in fact, the County that
18 needs to, and you might consider funding
19 this, could contract with the City of Los
20 Angeles to expand its capacity for doing
21 elections.

22 So it's something to keep in
23 mind in the short-term if there's a
24 demand for consolidating elections like
25 board member Lagmay suggested there might

1 be after charter amendments one and two
2 and new election equipment that is not
3 available to do that -- existing
4 available election equipment could do
5 that. Also, if the county chooses to run
6 a top four runoff using rank-choice
7 voting.

8 But I just want to say I
9 probably wouldn't be here today if I
10 haven't found it from a good government
11 perspective a little bit suspicious that
12 the County was going to award sequential
13 sole source contract to the same firm,
14 this IDEO firm that Mr. Gray was
15 speaking about. I appreciate Mr. Gray's
16 remarks that they have done the
17 investigation, to ballot real estate and
18 accommodating the City elections together
19 with the County elections.

20 I do think although the county
21 did a great job of trying to do -- did a
22 good job, I should say, of doing outreach
23 and getting input on the VSAP. I think
24 they could have done a much better job.

25 Now, under your authority to

1 reject this as inappropriate funding, I
2 would love for you to require that the
3 County proposal flesh out in writing the
4 meaning of the VSAP principle of
5 flexibility, which was in that cloud of
6 principles that was up on the slide there
7 and I would love to see in writing that
8 it includes the flexibility principle,
9 including being able to accommodate
10 different election methods to ensure that
11 it requires the ability to do rank-choice
12 voting.

13 Just be very careful with going
14 forward with new technology given what's
15 happened here in L.A. school district
16 when they tried to roll out an iPad that
17 didn't seem to work as well as we thought
18 or as quickly as we thought it would.

19 I really appreciate the work
20 you're doing. I hope this money gets
21 used for good equipment. And so thank
22 you so much again for coming to Los
23 Angeles for this meeting.

24 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

25 Thank you again, Mr. Holtzman.

1 Okay. Item 8. Other business.

2 Staff, do we have other business
3 to discuss?

4 MS. LEAN: We do have one other
5 business to discuss.

6 So we were looking at proposing
7 that you hold some standard meetings
8 moving forward, perhaps every couple of
9 months, get them on the schedule so we
10 have them ready to go if we get project
11 applications in or if you would like us
12 to come pack and provide any other staff
13 reports.

14 The proposal would be -- we
15 could look at calendars later -- perhaps
16 in May, August, and October.

17 So I'll throw some dates out
18 and see what works for everybody. As
19 soon as we have them established, we will
20 go ahead and post them on the Voter
21 Modernization website and we will also
22 notice it to the county.

23 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

24 Great.

25 And obviously, we're very

1 L.A.-centric on this board right now, but
2 I think, you know, kind of rotating it
3 and providing opportunities for public
4 input both in Sacramento and Southern
5 California would be great as we proceed
6 through the year.

7 MS. MONTGOMERY: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
9 Okay. Any other comments from board
10 members?

11 MS. LAGMAY: As far as
12 housekeeping, I saw this in my packet.
13 Are we supposed to sign these and turn
14 them in?

15 MS. LEAN: Yes, we'll do that
16 at the very end.

17 MS. LAGMAY: Oh, okay. Sorry.
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:
20 Okay. With that, do I have a motion to
21 adjourn.

22 MS. LAGMAY: So moved.

23 CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN: Teri
24 seconds.

25 All in favor of adjourning.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(Aye)

CHAIRMAN STEPHEN KAUFMAN:

Okay. The first meeting of the Voter
Modernization Board for 2015 is
adjourned.

Thank you, everybody.

And thank you L.A. County for
coming today.

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned; 3:00 p.m.)

--o0o--

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Jeanese Johnson, Certified Shorthand Reporter, in and for the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed into typewriting under my direction;

That the foregoing is a true record of the testimony and proceedings taken at that time.

I further certify that I am not attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel of party connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of same by any means unless under the direct control and/or direction of the certifying officer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Jeanese Johnson, CSR No. 11635, CLR