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County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #24231

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ NaKeshia Robinson
Deputy Secretary of State, HAVA

RE: Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update – December 2024

Each month, the Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment (OVSTA) provides an update on the Secretary of State's (SOS) activities related to voting technology. This includes relevant voting technology events, administrative approval requests/denials, voting technology testing/approvals, ballot printing certification requests/denials, and various reports.

Helpful Updates and Reminders

Update to the California Voting System Standards – The California Voting System Standards (CVSS) were officially adopted by the Secretary of State in November of 2014. The standards have been used in the evaluation and testing of all voting technology, including remote accessible vote by mail systems, certified for use in California. The Freeman Craft McGregor group has been contracted to update the CVSS. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact OVSTA at VotingSystems@sos.ca.gov.

Tint and Watermark Assignment Requests – The California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 4, Article 9, section [20280](#) requires any jurisdiction conducting an election in California to request a ballot tint and watermark from the Secretary of State's Office. Requests may be submitted to VotingSystems@sos.ca.gov with the following information:

- 1) Jurisdiction name.
- 2) Election Date.
- 3) Election Title.
- 4) Close of candidate filing date, if applicable.

5) Randomized alphabet drawing date, if applicable.

Ballot Release Forms – Any jurisdiction wishing to purchase ballot cards from a ballot printer shall request in writing a ballot release from the Secretary of State per the California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 4, Article 9, sections [20233](#) and [20234](#). To request a ballot release number, email the Secretary of State’s office at BallotRelease@sos.ca.gov for the Ballot Release Form.

Disposal or Sale of Equipment - County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) [Memorandum #12219](#) outlines procedures for disposing of or selling voting equipment purchased with Help America Vote Act (HAVA) or Voting Modernization Bond Act (VMB) funds and that all equipment must be void of any software or firmware and returned to a condition of a non-functioning piece of hardware prior to its disposal or sale. See also [California Elections Code section 17603](#) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agencies (CISA) guidelines outlining proper disposal procedures for electronic devices located at <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/proper-disposal-electronic-devices>.

Election Record Retention - California Elections Code sections [17301-17306](#) and [15209](#) provide the retention and preservation periods of various voting technology records. Jurisdictions should also refer to [CCROV #22216](#) and [CCROV #24220](#) for detailed guidance regarding election record retention.

Voting Technology Certification and Administrative Approval Requests

OVSTA receives and reviews applications for certification and administrative approval testing from voting technology vendors on a continuous basis. The status of current applications can be found below:

Applicant	System Version	Voting Technology	Submission Date	Type of Testing	Testing Phase
Dominion	Democracy Suite 5.19	Voting System	08/29/2023	Full Certification	Post-Testing
Tenex Software Solutions	Precinct Central 6.1.2	Electronic Poll Book	09/25/2024	Administrative Approval	Testing

Voting System Certification and Approval Requests

OVSTA received an application for testing and certification of the Dominion Democracy Suite 5.19 voting system. Dominion withdrew the application for Democracy Suite 5.17

and replaced it with Democracy Suite 5.19. The system is currently in the post-testing phase.

A list containing certified voting technology vendors can be found at:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/voting-technology-vendors>.

Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) System Certification and Approval Requests

No RAVBM system applications were submitted to OVSTA in November.

A list containing certified RAVBM system vendors can be found at
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/voting-technology-vendors/>.

Electronic Poll Book (ePollbook) Certification and Approval Requests

OVSTA received an application for administrative approval of the Tenex Software Solutions Precinct Central 6.0.1 electronic poll book to update the EPB Touchpad app, the Precinct Central Console backend website, and the iOS operating system to iOS 17.6.1. The system is currently in the testing phase.

A list containing certified ePollbook vendors can be found at:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/voting-technology-vendors/>.

Ballot on Demand Printing Certification and Approval Requests

No ballot on demand applications were submitted to OVSTA in November.

A list of certified ballot on demand systems can be found at:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/certification-and-approval/ballot-printerballot-demand-bod-certification/>.

Ballot Printing Certification and Approval Requests

No ballot printer applications were submitted to OVSTA in November.

A list of certified ballot printers can be found at:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/certification-and-approval/ballot-printerballot-demand-bod-certification/>.

Defects, Faults, Failures, and Other Error Reporting

Voting Technology Incidents –The California Elections Code, California Code of Regulations, and conditions of certification require jurisdictions to submit the following reports regarding any of the following:

- Notification of any voting system defect, fault, or failure within 30 days of discovery (California Elections Code [section 19210](#)).
- Notification of any RAVBM defect, fault, or failure within 30 days of discovery (California Elections Code [section 19284](#)).
- Notification of any ePollbook breach, attempted breach, defect, failure or fault within 24 hours of discovery (California Code of Regulations [section 20161](#)).
- Notification of any ballot card printing flaw or defect within 24 hours of discovery (California Elections Code [section 13004](#)).
- Notification of any part or component of certified voting technology for which the chain of custody has been compromised or the security or information has been breached or attempted to be breached within 24 hours of discovery (California Elections Code, [section 17603\(b\)](#)).