



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

California Secretary of State

Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment

1500 11th Street, 6th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | 916.695.1680 | votingsystems@sos.ca.gov

July 11, 2024

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #24142

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

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

RE: Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update – July 2024

Each month, the Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment (OVSTA) provides an update on the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and Secretary of State (SOS) activities related to voting technology.

Each update provides information on:

- Voting technology related events that may be of interest.
- Administrative approval requests and denials since the prior month's update.
- Voting technology testing and approval at the SOS office.
- Defect, failure, and fault reports issued since the prior month's update.
- Ballot printing certification requests since the prior month's update.

Helpful Updates and Reminders

Ballot Counting Regulations – The Secretary of State submitted proposed regulations to the Office of Administrative Law related to the counting of ballots on June 9, 2023. The regulations provide California jurisdictions a clear, concise path for conducting a manual counting of ballots. In addition, they provide updates to the Uniform Vote Counting Standards and the Recount regulations. On May 16, 2024, the Secretary of State submitted the final rulemaking file to the Office of Administrative Law for review. The final rulemaking file was approved on June 27, 2024, and was effective upon filing with the Secretary of State's office. Information regarding the ballot counting regulations can be found at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/proposed-regulations> or <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations>.

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. Voting technology has evolved, and now is the time to update the standards to match new and emerging voting technology. The Secretary of State has contracted with the Freeman Craft McGregor group to begin the process of updating the CVSS. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact OVSTA at votingsystems@sos.ca.gov.

Tint and Watermark Assignment Requests – California Code of Regulations section 20280 requires any jurisdiction conducting an election in California to request a ballot tint and watermark from the Secretary of State's Office. Jurisdictions may submit tint and watermark requests to votingsystems@sos.ca.gov.

When submitting your tint and watermark requests, please provide the following information:

- 1) The name of the jurisdiction conducting the election.
- 2) The date of the election.
- 3) The title of the election.
- 4) The date of the close of candidate filing for the election, if applicable.
- 5) The date on which the ballot order designation will be determined by a randomized alphabet drawing for the election, 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 California Code of Regulations 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. Once the form is completed and emailed back to our office, a Ballot Release number will be issued.

Disposal or Sale of Equipment – Regarding the disposal or sale of equipment:

In 2012, the California Secretary of State issued guidance regarding the disposal or sale of equipment purchased with Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) and/or Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002 (VMB) funding. Contact OVSTA for additional guidance, including an archived copy of County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) [Memorandum #12219](#) - Handling the Sale and Funds from the Sale of Voting Systems or Voting Equipment. The document outlines proper disposal or sale procedures of voting systems or voting equipment purchased with HAVA and/or VMB funding. The document also highlights 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 the US-CERT issued Security Tip (ST18-005) outlining proper disposal procedures for electronic devices.

Election Record Retention – As a reminder, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 17301-17306 and 15209, the retention and preservation of election records, magnetic or electronic storage medium used for the ballot tabulation program, and any magnetic or electronic storage medium containing election results, which includes digital ballot images, is six (6) months for state or local elections and twenty-two (22) months for elections for federal offices. Several voting system tabulation components can produce digital ballot images. Additional information regarding how to backup, retain, and preserve the digital ballot images, and whether the voting system for your jurisdiction does or does not have this capability can be found in the respective Use Procedures at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/voting-technology-vendors>. Jurisdictions should also refer to CCROV #22216 for detailed guidance regarding election record retention.

Testing and Certification at the Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

The EAC provides updates on voting systems that are currently undergoing certification testing to the Federal Voluntary Voting System Standards (VVSG).

The California Secretary of State is legally mandated by California Elections Code section 19006 to certify all voting systems to California’s Voting Systems Standards (CVSS), which meet or exceed the federal standards. Certification by the EAC is voluntary and not required in California.

Additional EAC information regarding each voting system is available at: "[Voting Systems Under Test](#)" and "[Certified Voting Systems](#)".

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	Testing
ES&S	EVS 6.3.0.2	Voting System	2/24/2024	Administrative Approval	Approved 6/14/2024

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 testing phase.

OVSTA received an application for administrative approval of the Election Systems and Software's (ES&S) EVS 6.3.0.2 voting system to replace end-of-life DS450 and DS950 printers. Administrative approval was granted on 6/14/24.

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 remote accessible vote by mail system applications were submitted to OVSTA in June.

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

No electronic poll book applications were submitted to OVSTA in June.

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 June.

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 printing applications were submitted to OVSTA in June

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 – As a reminder, the California Elections Code, California Code of Regulations, and conditions of certification require jurisdictions to submit the following reports regarding any incidents, which includes the defect, fault, or failure of any voting system, ePollbook, or RAVBM system or ballot printer:

- 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 2 days of discovery (California Elections Code [section 13004](#)).