



# **Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.**

## **California Secretary of State**

### **Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment**

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March 18, 2025

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #25022

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

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

RE: Voting Systems: Approval of Dominion Voting Systems,  
Inc.'s Democracy Suite Version 5.19 Voting System

The California Secretary of State has conditionally approved the Dominion Voting Systems, Inc.'s Democracy Suite 5.19 Voting System.

Attached below is a copy of the approval documents.

Attachment: (1)

# State of California



## SECRETARY OF STATE

### **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF DOMINION VOTING SYSTEMS, INC. DEMOCRACY SUITE VERSION 5.19 VOTING SYSTEM**

*Whereas*, pursuant to Elections Code section 19202, no voting system, in whole or in part, may be used unless it has received the approval of the Secretary of State; and

*Whereas*, Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. submitted an application for the Democracy Suite 5.19 voting system, which is comprised of Election Management System 5.19, Election Event Designer 5.19, Results Tally Reporting 5.19, Audio Studio 5.19, File System Service 5.19, Data Center Manager 5.19, Application Server 5.19, Election Data Translator 5.19, EMS Service 5.19, ImageCast Evolution 5.19, ImageCast Central 5.19, ImageCast X 5.19, Adjudication Client 5.19, Adjudication Services 5.19, ImageCast Precinct 2 5.19, ImageCast Voter Activation 5.19, with Dell PowerEdge R660 Server, Dell Latitude 3400 Laptop, Dell Latitude 3410 Laptop, Dell Latitude 3420 Laptop, Dell Latitude 3340 Laptop, Dell Precision 3440 XE Workstation, Dell Precision 3460 XE Workstation, Dell Latitude e3480 Laptop, Dell Latitude 3490 Laptop, Dell OptiPlex XE4 Workstation, Dell OptiPlex 7050 Workstation, Dell OptiPlex 7060 Workstation, Dell OptiPlex 7070 Workstation, Dell OptiPlex 3050 All-In-One Workstation, Dell OptiPlex 5270 All-In-One Workstation, Hewlett Packard Laser Jet Pro 4001dn Printer, Hewlett Packard M402dne Printer, Hewlett Packard Laser Jet Pro M404dn Printer, InoTec HiPro 821 Scanner, Canon DR-G2140 Scanner, ImageCast Precinct 2 PCOS-330A Scanner, ImageCast Evolution PCOS-410A Scanner, Image Cast X Avalue SID-21V-Z37B1R Voting Terminal, ImageCast X Avalue HID-21V-BTX Voting Terminal, APC SMT-1500 Uninterruptible Power Supply, CyberPower PR1500LCD-VTVM Uninterruptible Power Supply, APC SMT-1500C Uninterruptible Power Supply; and

*Whereas*, during a series of tests conducted by the Secretary of State's office, the voting system performed in a manner consistent with California Voting System Standards, and California law; and

*Whereas*, the voting system was able to successfully and accurately execute all test cases, scenarios, and scripts developed by the Secretary of State's office; and

*Whereas*, the request for approval of the voting system as described above was considered at a public hearing held February 28, 2025, at Sacramento, California.



***Therefore, I, Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D, Secretary of State for the State of California, find and determine, pursuant to Division 19 of the Elections Code, as follows:***

For the reasons set forth above, the Democracy Suite 5.19 voting system is hereby approved.

Use of the Democracy Suite 5.19 voting system must comply with all California Election Code and California Code of Regulation requirements and is also subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Jurisdictions are prohibited from installing any software applications or utilities on any component of the voting system that have not been identified by the vendor and approved by the Secretary of State.
2. Prior to sale or use of the system in California, the vendor must provide to all jurisdictions its Use Procedures, entitled "Democracy Suite Use Procedures, Version 5.19," which the Secretary of State hereby approves. Compliance with the Use Procedures by the vendor and jurisdictions is a condition of the approval of this voting system. Compliance with all requirements set forth in the Use Procedures is mandatory, whether or not a particular requirement is identified in this approval document.
3. The system shall be utilized in a configuration of parallel central election management systems separated by an "air-gap" where (1) a permanent central system known to be running unaltered, certified software and firmware is used solely to define elections and program voting equipment and memory cards, (2) a physically-isolated duplicate system, reformatted after every election to guard against the possibility of infection, is used solely to read memory cards containing voting results, accumulate - and tabulate those results and produce reports, and (3) a separate computer dedicated solely to this purpose is used to reformat all memory devices before they are connected to the permanent system again.
4. No substitution or modification of the voting system shall be made with respect to any component of the voting system, including the Use Procedures, until the Secretary of State has been notified in writing and has determined that the proposed change or modification does not impair the accuracy or efficiency of the voting system sufficient to require a re-examination and approval.
5. Dominion Voting Systems Inc. shall deposit an exact copy of the trusted build files to a State of California approved escrow facility within 10 business days. These build files along with the source code and all associated software and firmware shall be escrowed in a California approved source code escrow facility, pursuant to California Elections Code section 19212. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 20641, within five working days, the vendor shall certify to each affected election jurisdiction, with a copy to the Secretary of State, that it has placed the software in escrow.
6. Immediately after any repair or modification of any voting system component that requires opening the housing, the integrity of the firmware and/or software must be verified using an automated mechanism, or all software must be reinstalled by the jurisdiction from a read-only version of the approved firmware and/or software supplied directly by the Secretary of State before the equipment can be put back into service.
7. No network connections to any device not directly used and necessary for voting system functions may be established, pursuant to California Elections Code section 19205. Communication by or with



any component of the voting system by wireless or modem transmission is prohibited at any time. No component of the voting system, or any device with network connectivity to the voting system, may be connected to the Internet, directly or indirectly, at any time.

8. Upon request, members of the public must be permitted to observe and inspect, without physical contact, the integrity of all externally visible security seals used to secure voting equipment in a time and manner that does not interfere with the conduct of the election or the privacy of any voter.
9. Where voting equipment is used to record and tabulate voting results in a polling place, elections officials must develop appropriate security procedures and chain of custody for all polling place device logs and reports, which must be preserved for 22 months after a federal election and 6 months after a local election.
10. Poll workers are not permitted to participate in any post-election manual count auditing of precinct results from a precinct in which they were a poll worker.
11. Elections officials must develop appropriate security procedures for use when representatives of qualified political parties and bona fide associations of citizens and media associations, pursuant to their rights under Elections Code section 15004, check and review the preparation and operation of vote tabulating devices and attend any or all phases of the election. The security procedures must permit representatives to observe at a legible distance the contents of the display on the vote tabulating computer or device. This requirement may be satisfied by positioning an additional display monitor or monitors in a manner that allows the representatives to read the contents.
12. With respect to any part or component of the above described voting system for which the chain of custody has been compromised, the security or information has been breached or attempted to be breached, or experiences a fatal error from which it cannot recover gracefully (i.e., the error is not handled through the device's internal error handling procedures with or without user input, such that the device must be rebooted or the device reboots itself to restore operation), the following actions must be taken:
  - a. The chief elections official of the jurisdiction(s) affected Secretary of State must be notified within 24 hours upon discovery;
  - b. The equipment must be removed from service immediately and replaced if possible;
  - c. Any votes cast on the device prior to its removal from service must be subject to a 1% manual tally, by the processes described in Elections Code section 15360, as part of the official canvass;
  - d. Any memory card containing data from that device must be secured and retained for the full election retention period;
  - e. An image of all device software and firmware must be stored on write-once media and retained securely for the full election retention period; and
  - f. All device software and firmware must be reinstalled from a read-only version of the approved firmware and software supplied directly by the Secretary of State before the equipment is placed back into service.
13. The Secretary of State reserves the right, with reasonable notice to the vendor and to the jurisdictions using the voting system, to modify the Use Procedures used with the voting system and to impose



additional requirements with respect to the use of the system if the Secretary of State determines that such modifications or additions are necessary to enhance the accuracy, reliability or security of any of the voting system. Such modifications or additions shall be deemed to be incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

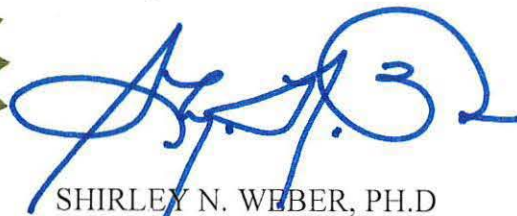
14. The Secretary of State reserves the right to monitor activities before, during and after the election at any precinct or registrar of voters' office, and may, at his or her discretion, test voting equipment.
15. Voting systems certified for use in California shall comply with all applicable state and federal requirements, including, but not limited to, those voting system requirements as set forth in the California Elections Code and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and those requirements incorporated by reference in the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Further, voting systems shall also comply with all state and federal voting system guidelines, standards, regulations and requirements that derive authority from or are promulgated pursuant to and in furtherance of the California Elections Code and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 or other applicable state or federal law when appropriate.
16. Voting system manufacturers or their agents shall assume full responsibility for any representation they make that a voting system complies with all applicable state and federal requirements, including, but not limited to, those voting system requirements as set forth in the California Elections Code and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. In the event such representation is determined to be false or misleading, voting system manufacturers or their agents shall be responsible for the cost of any upgrade, retrofit or replacement of any voting system or its component parts found to be necessary for certification or otherwise not in compliance.
17. The vendor must establish a California County User Group and hold at least one annual meeting where all California users and Secretary of State staff are invited to attend and review the system.
18. Prior to the disposal or sale of this voting system or portion thereof, all equipment shall be cleared with a minimum of a two-pass wipe so that no software, firmware or data remains on the equipment. At the time of disposal or sale, the equipment shall be returned solely to a non-functioning piece of hardware and the following documented for each:
  - a. Whether the machine is void of all software, firmware and data.
  - b. The hardware model name.
  - c. The hardware model number.
  - d. The hardware serial number.
19. Voting systems certified for use that utilize a barcode or QR code for tabulation shall be subject to the following:
  - a. Jurisdictions shall develop procedures and conduct training for poll workers, prior to every election, regarding voter verification of barcodes or QR codes used for tabulation.
  - b. In conducting pre-election testing pursuant to Elections Code section 15000, the jurisdiction shall validate the logic and accuracy of the barcodes or QR codes used for tabulation.
  - c. In conducting a one percent manual tally pursuant to Elections Code section 15360, the jurisdiction shall perform a further review of any ballot examined pursuant to those sections

that contain a barcode or QR code used for tabulation. The further review shall verify that the information contained in the QR code or barcode matches the voter verified, human readable text.

20. Only the Secretary of State supplied trusted build for the Democracy Suite 5.19 voting system shall be installed. Jurisdictions shall validate prior to any election that the voting system is identical to the Secretary of State supplied trusted build by utilizing the Secretary of State trusted build HASHes.
21. For any jurisdiction that will use the Democracy Suite 5.19 Rank Choice Voting module, the jurisdiction shall, 180 days prior to any election in which the Democracy Suite 5.19 Rank Choice Voting module will be utilized, provide written notice to the Secretary of State of its intent to use the Democracy Suite 5.19 Rank Choice Voting module. As part of the notification, the jurisdiction shall include certification that the Democracy Suite 5.19 Rank Choice Voting module meets all local provisions, ordinances, and/or bylaws related to ranked choice voting in that jurisdiction.
22. Pursuant to Elections Code section 15000, no later than seven days prior to any election, the election official shall conduct a test or series of tests to ensure that the Democracy Suite 5.19 Rank Choice Voting module accurately records each vote. Immediately following the completion of these tests, the election official shall submit a report of the results to the Secretary of State. The exact methods employed in this test shall conform to the voting procedures for the specific voting systems, as adopted by the Secretary of State as well as section 20279 of the California Code of Regulations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and  
affix the Great Seal of the State of California, this  
18th day of March 2025.



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D  
Secretary of State