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February 6, 2020

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #20040

**TO:** All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters  
**FROM:** /s/ Susan Lapsley  
Deputy Secretary of State and Counsel  
**RE:** Voting Systems: OVSTA Monthly Update – February 2020

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 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.

### **Recent and Upcoming Events**

The California Secretary of State's office has launched the new "Where's My Ballot?" tool. Voters in 25 counties can now sign-up at [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](http://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov) to receive automated notifications about their vote-by-mail ballots by email, text (SMS), or voice call.

As a reminder, counties are required to make remote accessible vote by mail (RAVBM) systems available to voters ([AB 1013](#)). Disability Rights California and the state Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) have created a remote accessible vote by mail FAQ as a resource for counties to use for their voters that are interested in using an RAVBM. The FAQ contains information about what RAVBMs are, how they work, requirements for receiving a ballot, and more. It can be located [here](#).

For the upcoming March 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election, please submit to the Secretary of State by 5 P.M., February 21, 2020, the following:

1. Election Observer Panel Plan (EOPP). Please email your EOPP to: [VotingSystems@sos.ca.gov](mailto:VotingSystems@sos.ca.gov).

2. A copy of your election computer vote count program, containing the ballot definition, for the March 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election (Elections Code section 15001).

Please refer to [CCROV 19167](#) for more information regarding EOPP and computer vote count program submittals.

California Elections Code section 13002 requires all ballots used in an election to be tinted and watermarked or overprinted with a design, to be furnished by the Secretary of State. This includes ballot on demand ballots. For information regarding tint and watermark for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election, please refer to [CCROVs 19138 and 19140](#).

Counties upgrading or implementing a ballot on demand solution for the upcoming election must submit their application to OVSTA immediately so that OVSTA is able to review the application and documentation in advance of the election. The application can be located [here](#).

### **Voting System and RAVBM Testing and Approvals**

Los Angeles County's Voting Solutions for All People 2.0 (VSAP) voting system was approved on January 24, 2020.

Los Angeles County's Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) Interactive Sample Ballot (ISB) Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) system was approved on January 29, 2020.

Voting technology application status is as follows:

| <b>System</b>                  | <b>Type</b>               | <b>Applicant</b>          | <b>Submission Date</b> | <b>Testing Phase</b>         |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| VSAP Tally Version 2.0         | Voting System             | Los Angeles County        | 11/6/2018              | Approved January 24, 2020.   |
| VSAP Interactive Sample Ballot | RAVBM                     | Los Angeles County        | 11/6/2018              | Approved on January 29, 2020 |
| NOVUS 5.1                      | Ballot Duplicating System | Runbeck Election Services | 10/14/2019             | Testing                      |

### **Administrative Approval Requests and Approvals**

Dominion Voting Systems was granted Administrative Approval for the addition of imprinters to the scanners certified in the Democracy Suite 5.10 system on January 16, 2020.

Runbeck Election Services' NOVUS 5.1 ballot duplication system is currently in testing.

ES&S submitted an administrative approval application requesting modification of their EVS 6.0.4.2 voting system. The modifications are as follows: collapsible ballot bin improvements, ExpressVote booth improvements, update COTS embedded controller settings on ExpressVote XL, and add ballot bag to DS200 ballot box. The application is currently under review.

Information regarding administrative approval requests can be found [here](#).

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

The EAC provides [updates](#) on voting system testing. The latest update from the EAC was provided on January 28, 2020. However, based upon discussions with vendors, no systems currently undergoing testing and certification at the EAC are relevant to California.

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

### **Defects, Failures, and Faults**

No defects, faults or failures were reported in January.

### **Ballot Printing Certification Requests and Approvals**

No ballot printing requests were received in January.

A list of certified ballot printers can be found [here](#).

### **Ballot on Demand Printing Requests and Approvals**

No ballot on demand printing requests were received in January.

A list of certified ballot on demand systems and jurisdictions can be found [here](#).

### **Electronic Poll Book Certification Requests and Approvals**

KNOWiNK's PollPad 2.5.0 ePollBook was approved on January 31, 2020.

A list containing certified electronic poll book vendors can be found [here](#).

Electronic poll book application status is as follows:

| System          | Type      | Applicant       | Submission Date | Testing Phase             |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| AskED 3.4.130.0 | ePollBook | Robis Elections | 02/23/2019      | Withdrawn January 6, 2020 |
| PollPad 2.5.0   | ePollBook | KNOWiNK Inc.    | 12/26/2019      | Approved January 31, 2020 |

## **Notes and Reminders**

**California Air-Gap Requirements** – All certified voting systems in California must be utilized in an air-gapped configuration. The certifications state: 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 vote 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.

**Ballot Card Releases-** Per [California Code of Regulations Section 20233](#), jurisdictions wishing to purchase ballot cards directly from a ballot printer or wishing to have unfinished ballot cards removed from a warehouse for finishing, shall request and receive a release from the Secretary of State. No ballot cards or unfinished ballot cards shall be manufactured, and no unfinished ballot cards shall be removed from the warehouse for finishing, prior to issuance of a specific release. The [Request for Ballot Card Release](#) is available on the Secretary of State website. Requests should be submitted to the Secretary of State at [ballotrelease@sos.ca.gov](mailto:ballotrelease@sos.ca.gov).

**Election Record Retention-** As a reminder, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 17301-17306, the retention and preservation of election records, which includes digital ballot images is 22 months. Several voting system tabulation components are capable of producing digital ballot images. Additional information regarding how to backup, retain, and preserve the digital ballot images, and whether or not your jurisdiction's voting system has this capability, can be found in the respective Use Procedures, [here](#).

**Disposal or Sale of Equipment-** Regarding the disposal or sale of equipment:

- In 2012, the California Secretary of State issued guidance regarding the disposition or sale of equipment purchased with HAVA and/or VMB funding. See Secretary of State (SOS) 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.

**RAVBM Systems Required-** Governor Brown signed [AB 1013](#) into law, requiring a county elections official to permit a voter with a disability, or a military or overseas voter, to cast his or her ballot using a certified RAVBM system. As a reminder, the county accessibility contracts and the voting system replacement contracts allow for reimbursement of costs associated with the acquisition or deployment of an RAVBM system. The following systems are either certified or are navigating the testing and certification process in California:

- Democracy Live Secure Select 1.2.1 (Certified).
- Five Cedars Group Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) 5.2.1 (Certified).
- Dominion ImageCast Remote 5.10 (Certified).
- Los Angeles VSAP Interactive Sample Ballot 1.2 (Certified for LA County only).