



**OFFICE OF
VOTING
SYSTEMS
TECHNOLOGY
ASSESSMENT
(OVSTA)**

**LANGUAGE
ACCESSIBILITY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MEETING
FEBRUARY 2023**

OVSTA BACKGROUND

- The Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment (OVSTA) was created in September 2005. When created, OVSTA was charged with two main responsibilities: 1) voting system examination, testing, and certification for use in California elections; and 2) overseeing the approval of ballot printers, as well as authorizing and monitoring the manufacture and distribution of ballots for an election. Over the years, that scope has expanded to voting technologies including ePollBooks and Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Systems.

WHAT DOES OVSTA DO?

- Review and Testing of Voting Technologies and Oversight
 - Voting Systems;
 - Remote Accessible Vote By Mail Systems (RAVBMs);
 - Electronic Pollbooks (e-pollbooks);
 - Ballot On Demand Printers (BODs);
 - Ballot Printers (BPs); and
 - Escrow Facilities.

CALIFORNIA LAW

- California Elections Code (EC)
 - Division 13 Ballots, Sample Ballots, and Voter Pamphlets
 - Division 19 Certification of Voting Systems & Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Systems
- California Code of Regulations (CCR)
 - Division 7, Chapter 3.6 Electronic Poll Books
 - Division 7, Chapter 4 Ballot Printing
 - Division 7, Chapter 6 Escrow of Source Codes
 - Division 7, Chapter 6.1 Procedures and Standards for Reviewing Voting Systems, Parts of a Voting System, and Ballot Marking Devices for Certification or Conditional Approval

CERTIFICATION TESTING PHASES

Application Phase



- The Application, including technical documentation, is submitted.
- The Application is reviewed for completeness.

Pre-Testing Activities Phase



- Project Test Schedule
- Statement of Work
- Open Escrow Account
- Trusted Build (Equipment & Software) to SOS
- Request for Proposal Bid
- Request for Proposal Review
- Contract Awarded & Signed
- Non-Disclosure Agreements between SOS, Applicant, and Test Laboratory Staff
- Test Plan

Testing Phase



- Functional Testing
- Usability/ Accessibility /Privacy Testing
- Hardware Testing
- Software Testing
- Telecommunications Testing
- Security Testing
- Quality Assurance and Configuration Management
- Volume Testing

Report Issuance & Post-Test Activities Phase



- Final Reports
- Public Hearing & Comment
- Certification Awarded or Denied

CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

- Certified Voting Technology Vendors

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/voting-technology-vendors>

- Certified Ballot Printers

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/certification-and-approval/ballot-printerballot-demand-bod-certification>

CONTACT OVSTA

EMAIL: VOTINGSYSTEMS@SOS.CA.GOV

[WEBSITE - HTTPS://WWW.SOS.CA.GOV/ELECTIONS/OVSTA](https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta)

PHONE: (916) 695-1680