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Voting Systems in Los Angeles County

A History of Certification with the CA Secretary of State



Early Years: 1968 - 1997

- Key Events
 - 1968 – First automated tabulation developed by IBM
 - 1974 – County rewrites mainframe system
- Approval Process with SOS
 - No inspection or testing by SOS
 - Pro forma approval by SOS
 - Small community of software engineers
 - Security around process, not system
 - No established SOS procedures/requirements



MTS Years: 1998 - 2005

- Key Events

- 1998: Microcomputer Tally System 1.2 first approved
- 2002: MTS card readers converted to mark-sense
- 2004: MTS 1.3.1 to support modified open primary

- Approval Process with SOS

- SOS more engaged, but still delegating
- One consultant contracted by SOS to test system
- Small-scale L&A testing. No security/stress testing.
- Testing to FEC Voting System Standards
- Pro forma administrative approvals
- No established SOS procedures or requirements



Recent Years: 2006 - Present

- Key Events
 - 2006 – InkaVote Plus conditionally approved
 - 2007 – Top To Bottom Review of Voting Systems
 - 2008 – MTS Conditions and PEMT
- Approval Process with SOS
 - More proactive - response to election integrity interests
 - Expanded scope of testing
 - Large testing teams of numerous consultants
 - Federal VVSG testing by Independent Testing Authority
 - No established SOS procedures or requirements



Summary of SOS Approval

- Regulatory environment more complex
 - Complex conditions for use
 - Dual state/federal approval requirement
 - Increased timeframes/costs for approval
- Shift from assistance to enforcement role
- Rules/process remain undefined, unclear
- Process is SOS-driven, not statute-driven
- Risks for election jurisdictions
 - Impacts on established operations and costs
 - Threat to viability of newly acquired voting systems