



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

12400 IMPERIAL HIGHWAY | NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90650 | www.lavote.net

To: VSAP Advisory Committee
RR/CC Internal VSAP Team

From: Monica Flores

Re: VSAP Advisory Committee Meeting- August 24, 2011 Notes

Summary

The Voting Systems Assessment Project Advisory Committee met for their fifth meeting on August 24, 2011, from 2-4pm. The meeting was held at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk office in Norwalk.

During this meeting the VSAP Advisory Committee adopted guiding principles for a new voting system for the County.

RR/CC staff delivered the first of a series of presentations on four key factors to the implementation of a new system. The presentation delivered to the Committee in this meeting reviewed five possible acquisition/development models that the County can utilize to implement a new voting system, as well as dedicated funding for a new voting system.

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Announcements

Committee Chair, Virginia Mosqueda welcomed the Committee and asked for self-introductions since there were some new faces in the group.

Following introductions Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Dean Logan welcomed the group and provided some announcements. Dean announced that Justin Levitt would not be making it to the meeting as he is teaching a class and sends his regards.

Dean provided updates on election related legislation, including SB 397, SB 641 and AB 80. He also stated that there are conversations taking place regarding the technical corrections needed to be made to SB6, as our current system cannot support the new ballot format. Dean also reminded the group that the department is preparing for the November 8th Election, in which approximately 900 precincts will be participating.

Meeting Notes Review and Approval

Virginia Mosqueda asked if anyone in the group would like to motion for the approval of the June 30th meeting notes. Mimi Kennedy motioned for approval. With no objections the notes were approved.

Voting System Principles

Dean Logan asked Monica Flores, VSAP Advisory Committee Coordinator, to provide the group with the status of the Voting System Principles the group has been working on. Monica informed the group that additional edits suggested by Judy Alter and Justin Levitt were incorporated into the document and that revised documents are in the packet members received.

Virginia Mosqueda opened up the discussion by asking for comments on the revised document.

Judy Alter stated that she believed principle #1 conflicts with Election Code 15004. Nancy Mahr asked for staff interpretation of principle #1 and how it aligns with EC 15004. Tim McNamara and Dean Logan said they don't believe the principle is at risk of violating election code. Tim stated that the principle not only supports 15004 in allowing people "in the room" but also allows people to see source code. The group further discussed the background and intent of EC 15004 to clarify how principle #1 aligns with it.

Jaclyn Tilley Hill suggested that the wording the Committee decides upon be approved by County Counsel to ensure we are within the law. June Lagmay suggested language that may further clarify the intent of the statement so that it is not interpreted as violating election code. The group discussed and agreed with June's language.

Virginia asked if there was a motion to approve June's suggested edits to principle #1. Carolyn Fowler motioned, Clark Lee second the motion, and the group approved the edits with no oppositions.

Virginia Mosqueda asked for additional edits or comments. Mimi Kennedy proposed language for principle #4. She handed out a print out of the edits. The edits surrounded ensuring that the new system retains the ability to produce a "tangible" ballot. Hillary Sklar expressed that voters with disabilities don't find paper ballots accessible and wanted to ensure that the intent of the principle be to provide a paper ballot as an option, but not limit the system to paper ballots. RR/CC staff and Mimi Kennedy agreed with Hillary's interpretation of principle #4.

Virginia asked if there was a motion to approve Mimi Kennedy's revised language to principle #4. Mimi Kennedy motioned, Nancy Mahr second the motion, and the group approved the new language with no oppositions.

Virginia then asked if there was a motion to approve the voting system principles. Judy Alter asked if we can add "paper ballot" or "tangible ballot" to the language in principle #6. The group decided that the language is not necessary and principle #6 would be left as stated.

Virginia again asked if there is a motion to adopt all 14 principles. Clark Lee motioned for the adoption, Carolyn Fowler second the motion, and the principles were approved by consensus.

Dean thanked the group for their hard work in developing these principles. He noted that the adoption of these principles is an important milestone for the project.

Bryce Yokomizo stated that he too is in great appreciation of the Committee and the great work it is doing. He noted that achieving consensus amongst the multiple stakeholders is a great accomplishment. He also recommended that as Jaclyn Tilley Hill suggested, all the documents produced by the Committee be reviewed by County Counsel in order to ensure we are not in violation of code or policy.

Next Steps: Goals and Expectations

Monica Flores thanked the group for their commitment to finalizing the voting system principles and for the feedback provided via phone and email. Monica provided an overview of the next steps. She informed the Committee that during the course of next few months the group will be mapping out and discussing some of the key elements to this process. She explained that the goal of these discussions is to obtain Committee member feedback to help the RR/CC remain aligned with the newly adopted principles as the project moves forward.

Monica stated that the topics that will be discussed in the next few months are:

- Acquisition Development Models (August)
- Funding (August)
- Regulatory Environment/Certification Process (September)
- Voting Systems (October)

Monica then introduced Erika Bonilla who would be providing a staff presentation on the acquisition/development models the County may use to acquire a new system and on the dedicated funding for this new system. She asked the Committee to consider three key questions during this presentation:

1. From what you heard, are we consistent with the guiding principles?
2. What, if anything, conflicts with the principles?
3. What next steps can we take to remain aligned with the principles?

Acquiring a New Voting System: Staff Assessment of Acquisition Models

Erika Bonilla, with the Administration Bureau of the RR/CC presented the findings of research conducted regarding five different acquisition/development models that the County may use to acquire a new voting system. In the presentation, Erika provided examples of how the County has utilized each one of these models, and some best

practices or lessons learned from these experiences. She also discussed funding dedicated to the County's acquisition of a new voting system.

Committee members expressed a desire to see the expertise of the RR/CC rise to a level that would enable the County to maintain its own voting system.

Questions were asked about acceptable use of funds and accessing those funds. Staff agreed that more research needs to be done to clarify these questions, including whether funds can be used for research and development and the process to accessing funds frozen by the Voting Modernization Board.

Members requested an update on the status of the voting system market. Dean responded that the topic will be covered in the next couple months and provided further context to the presentations that will be delivered. Committee members were also invited to contact staff with any additional topics they would like to see covered.

VSAP Facebook Page and Webpage Update

Due to time constraints, the Committee Facebook and webpage will be discussed at the next meeting in September.

Roundtable/Open Discussion

Members were presented with the format that RR/CC staff will be using to publish the voting system principles and make them available to the public. Committee members were asked to submit any concerns regarding the format to Monica Flores by Friday, August 26th.

Monica Flores announced that the next two meeting dates need to be re-assessed and therefore members will receive an email requesting their availability.

Conclusion

Again Virginia Mosqueda and Dean Logan thanked the group for their commitment and congratulated them on the milestone of adopting the voting system principles by consensus.

Additional Information

You can find additional information regarding the VSAP Advisory Committee, including a video archive of this meeting, at www.lavote.net/voter/vsap.