Voting Systems Assessment Project: Creating the Voting Experience of the Future

County of Los Angeles
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
August 1, 2017
County of Los Angeles

Square Miles
4,105

Total Population
10.1 million
Estimated from Dept. of Finance

Eligible Population of Voters
6.1 million
Estimated by SOS as of Feb. 2015

Registered Voters
4.8 million
As of May 2016
Diverse Electorate

- Hispanic or Latino: 5,060,772
- White, not Hispanic or Latino: 2,659,218
- Black, not Hispanic or Latino: 835,538
- Asian, not Hispanic or Latino: 1,403,728
- Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, not Hispanic or Latino: 23,861
- Two or more races, not Hispanic or Latino: 207,141

Languages:
- Chinese
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Khmer/Cambodian
- Korean
- Spanish
- Tagalog/Filipino
- Thai
- Vietnamese
Project Background

Need to replace existing system

- InkaVote Plus extended past its lifespan
- Antiquated technology
- Lacks flexibility and adaptability

No system available in the market

- County is the largest and most complex election jurisdiction
- Regulatory environment has inhibited innovation
Goals

• Design a new voter experience that is voter-centered and sensitive to the human experience
• Implement publicly-owned voting systems
• Spur innovation in the voting system market
• Encourage a regulatory environment that allows for development, certification and implementation of publicly owned, voter-centered systems
• Establish LA County as the new model for voting system development and implementation
• Make research findings available for other jurisdictions to utilize and replicate process where desired
Human-Centered Process

To date, we have engaged approximately 3,500 voters, poll workers, and election administrators through surveys, focus groups, interviews, workshops, community discussions, and user testing.
Voice of our Voters

U. S. Veteran

Mike

“I am a veteran of two wars. No one in the government has ever asked me my opinion on anything. This matters to me. And I feel so good, being a part of it.”

Retired Postmaster who lost his vision

Ernie

“When I lost my vision, I thought my life was over. I lost my job. Early retirement, as they called it. But then I found out about a whole new way to be a part of the world.”

1st generation American, votes in every election

Sue

“My parents moved here from a repressive regime. My dad became a citizen the year that I was born. With me in the world, he knew he had to make the world into a better place... I’ve never missed an election. But now I never know when it will be too hard to make it to the polls.”
New Voter Experience
Vote Centers and Early Voting

Voters can vote at any vote center throughout the County.
*645 on Election Day

- Fully accessible voting equipment available at every vote center; all devices
- Full early voting available for 10 days at any vote center in the County
- Electronic rosters accessing data in real time and allow for same day registration
New Voter Experience

Vote-by-Mail

Interactive Sample Ballot

Ballot Marking Device
Software

• Open source technologies
• Determine most appropriate open source licensing model
Objective: Phase I of the project sought to compile an array of baseline data from multiple stakeholders that included voters, pollworkers, advocates, key community organizations representing traditionally underserved voter constituencies, and elections staff.

Objective: Phase II of the project sought to define fundamental guiding principles of the project, establish a formalized stakeholder input body for the duration of the project, and to evaluate and assess the landscape for acquiring a new voting system.

Objective: Phase III of the project will identify the development strategy for a new voting system, establish a formal advisory committee with technical expertise, design a new voting system and develop the engineering specifications for manufacturing and certification.

Objective: Phase IV of the project will result in the manufacturing and certification of the new voting system and its components.
Next Steps

Manufacturing:
• Launch RFP for voting system manufacturing
• System testing and certification

Implementation:
• Develop implementation strategy
• Identify method for sharing final voting system with other jurisdictions
Stay Engaged

Website:
http://vsap.lavote.net

Email:
vsap@lacounty.gov