



## Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

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To: VSAP Advisory Committee  
RR/CC Internal VSAP Team

From: Monica Flores

Re: VSAP Advisory Committee Meeting- March 31, 2011 Notes

### Summary

In an effort to provide a platform for continued citizen participation and continued transparency, the RR/CC established the Voting Systems Assessment Project Advisory Committee. The VSAP Advisory Committee, composed of experts, stakeholders, and community leaders, held its kickoff meeting on March 31, 2011 at the RR/CC headquarters in Norwalk.

During this initial meeting the group was presented with background information on the Los Angeles County voting system, the needs of the county, and the Voting Systems Assessment Project. As part of this background, the group toured Los Angeles County's election operations. The Committee was also briefed on the research findings concluded during the initial phase of the VSAP.

Finally, during this meeting, the Committee initiated the conversation on setting guiding principles for the county's new voting system. The group engaged in a short exercise to brainstorm some initial thoughts on potential principles for a voting system.

The group will continue to discuss principles for a new voting system as well as discuss committee governing documents during the next meeting, which will be scheduled for the end of April.

### Meeting Notes

#### Welcome and Introductions- Dean Logan

Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, thanked the members for their time and commitment to this effort.

Everyone around the table introduced themselves.

Dean provided a background of voting systems in Los Angeles County and the challenges the county is facing with its current voting system and how these challenges are being addressed by the Voting Systems Assessment Project. Dean discussed the importance of the project and its unprecedented approach to incorporate citizen participation in the acquisition/development of a new voting system for the county.

## Tour of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Election Operations

Marcia Ventura, RR/CC Media Section Head, lead the group through a tour of LA County election operations.

## Committee Overview- Monica Flores

Monica Flores, VSAP Advisory Committee Coordinator, thanked the Committee for joining and asked members to review the documents drafted to govern the committee and email her any feedback or edits. Documents will be further discussed during the next meeting.

\*Action Item: Members to review contact sheet, charter, and engagement agreements and submit feedback to Monica

## “Voting Systems in Los Angeles County- Assessing Critical Factors”- Presented by Dean Logan

Dean Logan presented the history of voting systems in LA County leading up to the current system used, the InkaVote Plus. He also provided the group an overview of the critical operational factors the County must consider in implementing the next voting system.

## “Voting Systems Assessment Project- Phase I Findings”- Presented by Efrain Escobedo

Efrain Escobedo, RR/CC Executive Liaison, provided an overview of the VSAP Phase I activities and research findings.

Some of the questions asked by committee members included defining what was meant by a partnership model in developing a voting system, as well as what criteria determines a “cost-effective” voting system.

Members also noted that the highest criteria voters assigned to new voting system is accuracy, lowest is cost-effectiveness, which is one of the highest priorities for elected officials and election administrators. Members advised that the committee should recommend system that’s best for voters but just note that elected officials priorities might be reversed of voters.

## General Requirements for a New Voting System Discussion

Committee members engaged in a discussion surrounding general principles for Los Angeles County’s new voting system.

Efrain Escobedo informed the group that we would like to start to identify some key areas of focus to begin fleshing out the first major deliverable, which is brainstorming to start drafting a set of general requirements and principles for a new voting system. These principles and requirements should take into account voter needs, member expertise, constituencies represented, research and department's operational challenges. He informed the group that the goal is to have a final document listing these general requirements and principles by June.

Committee members asked how broad their role is in implementing a new voting system. In particular, they asked if they should be concerned about outreach and turnout. Committee members suggested that the breadth of committee considerations in establishing these general requirements should be focused.

Dean Logan stated that while Committee members do need to stay focused towards an end goal, they should also consider all the factors that are going to affect the implementation of the new system as well as the overall election experience for voters.

\*Action Item: Monica will email members a list of items/assignment to do by next meeting.

### Exercise

June Lagmay, Los Angeles City Clerk, suggested the group complete a short exercise, in which everyone around the table completed the following statement.

LA County's voting system should:

- Be Accurate. Make sure every vote is counted as cast
- Offer a range of choices for the voter
- Be easy to use for voters and pollworkers
- Instill public confidence and trust
- Be accountable
- Have integrity
- Evolve
- Be accessible
- Be accurate
- Be accessible for voters with special needs but also as far as voting methods
- Be diverse
- Be easy to use
- Accessibility and ensure ability to vote independently
- Scalability
- Accountability
- Transparency

Proposed Task: Members should identify what the above keywords and phrases mean to them, as one word can have varying definition to different individuals.

#### Meeting Schedule- Monica Flores

Monica suggested next meeting date/time be coordinated via email. Committee members agreed.

\*Action Item: Monica to email proposed meeting date and time

#### Conclusion- Dean Logan and Efrain Escobedo

Dean and Efrain thanked the members for their time and commitment.

#### **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](http://www.lavote.net/voter/vsap).