

Technology Services Board – Project Synopsis

Agency: Office of the Secretary of State

Project: Elections Modernization Project - VoteWA

Description: The Washington State Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) and the 39 County Auditors in Washington State have implemented a modern elections management system for Washington State. The OSOS and counties collaborated to define requirements and all 39 counties are committed to using the new system, VoteWA.

VoteWA integrates the tasks of Voter Registration, Elections Management including Ballot Creation, Candidate Filing, and Voter Transfers. The system also replaces over 41 separate systems: the State’s Voter Registration Database and Washington Elections Information System; as well as the 39 county Voter Registration systems.

Real-time exchange of data is one critical factor to support new legislation requiring Same Day Voter Registration (SDVR). The core challenge of SDVR is that in a vote-by-mail state, a voter can be registered in one county and receive their ballot and then could move to another jurisdiction prior to the end of a voting period. If the voter attempts to register to vote on the day of an election, there is a risk that a voter would submit the two different ballots and have them both counted. VoteWA is capable of checking if the original ballot has been mailed, returned, and processed (counted), all while maintaining the privacy of their vote. This system capability allows elections administrators to enact the proper business processes to ensure that the voter can be issued a new ballot in their new jurisdiction, while eliminating the risk that a voter would be allowed to vote twice in the same election.

VoteWA improve data exchange with Federal and State agencies such as the Social Security Administration, DOL, DOH, AOC and DSHS. For example, DOL provides: identity verification based on Social Security Number and Driver’s License Number; signature images based on Driver’s License Number; Motor Voter registration packets. Federal Social Security provides the Master Death List.

Current Status:

VoteWA began final data conversion activities on May 23, 2019. On June 15, 2019, VoteWA became the official Voter Registration Database of Washington State. Also in production are the Online Voter Portal, Elections Management and Total Address. There is now an election GIS layer for every address in the state.

As of July 16, 2019, the DOL real-time interface is the first in the country. This is significant for Future Voters, Same Day Registration, and Auto Voter Registration.

Primary Election Day is August 6, 2019 and certification of the Election is on August 20, 2019

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VoteWA was successfully used during the August 2019 primary election as the system of record. Optimization continues to be the focus for the next major election event which is the November 2019 General Election.

Project Schedule	
Baseline project end date	12/31/2019
Proposed end date	03/31/2020

Budget	
IT Pool Funding	\$5,883,000
Remaining HAVA Funding	\$3,600,000
Total Project Cost	\$9,483,000

Current Assessments	
OCIO	Yellow
QA - Overall Project Health & Environment	Yellow