Statewide Uniform Voting System Implementation

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Maryland’s Replacement Voting System Project

- Our project is to implement a new, statewide uniform voting system.
- This is the State’s second statewide system.
- Change from a DRE system - Accuvote-TS, to Optical Scanning - ES&S DS200 system.
- The DRE system was first used in 2002, and last in the 2014 General Election.
- New system will be first used on April 14, 2016
About Maryland

• 23 Counties and 1 Independent City (City of Baltimore)
• 3.8 Million Registered Voters
• 1,900 Precincts and 1,600 Polling Places
• 65 Early Voting Centers, open for 8 days prior to Election Day.
• 6,800 Electronic Pollbooks are in use. These are not being replaced.
Requirements and RFP

• Requirements gathering started in 2014
  – Due to 2014 Gubernatorial Election, project management contractors hired to assist gathering and document requirements.
  – Requirements gathering work sessions with State and all 24 local jurisdictions to capture wider election community input.
  – Gathered requirements reviewed for viability, consistency, legality and ambiguity.
  – Requirements not only covered system itself, but also plans for training, maintenance and repair, quality assurance and power management.
  – Included 4 key staff personnel: Project Manager, Subject Matter Expert, Trainer and Ballot Programmer.

• Requirements fed into RFP.
Requirements and RFP

- RFP released July 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2014.
- Pre-Proposal conference held on July 31, 2015
- Questions submitted by multiple vendors
- Close date initial September 2\textsuperscript{nd}, later modified to September 9\textsuperscript{th} 2015.
- RFP is posted on EAC RFP Repository
RFP Lessons

• Requirements must be complete and detailed.
• Requirements must be unambiguous.
• It is better to answer questions before they are asked.
• Beware of thinking ‘That’s the way we do it now’.
Bids for New Voting System

• There were four bids.
  – Dominion
  – Election Systems and Software (ES&S)
  – Everyone Counts.
  – Hart Intercivic

• Each bid has a Technical Data Package (TDP) and Financial Package.

• TDP reviewed first and ranked, prior to opening financial package.
Reviewing and Ranking Bids

- Selection committee of five representatives: State Board, Local Board, Maryland Association of Counties, University of Baltimore, State Government.
- Several advisors.
- Demonstration from each vendor of proposed solution.
- Equipment left by vendor until final selection.
System Review

1. TDP Reviewed
2. Questions and clarifications for vendor compiled
3. System Demonstration
4. Questions and clarifications forwarded to vendor
5. Demonstration and answers become part of bid.
6. Bid ranked in comparison with others.
7. Financial Package opened and reviewed
8. Selection made.
Selection Lessons

• Thoroughly read each bid
• Be sure it’s known what will be included and what won’t. (If something is described as ‘optional’ it’s not being included…)
• Ensure that being offered is sufficient. For instance – are memory devices of acceptable size?
Certification

• Certification of voting systems ran in parallel with system selection.

• All four systems tested. Two were able to meet requirements for certification.

• Voting system only selected once it was shown to be meet the States certification standards.
Voting System Implementation

SBE Leadership

Project Leadership

Project Management

Project Implementation Team

Workgroups

Voting System

LBE Requirements

Election Judges

Communications

Polling Place Logistics
Voting System Stakeholders

- Vendors and/or System Administrators of other SBE systems.
- Other State and Local Agencies.
- Elected Officials.
- Citizens groups.
- Ballot Printers.
- Transportation contractors.
- Training vendors.
- Voter Outreach vendors.
- Supplies vendors
- ...
Systems Integration

• No system operates in a vacuum. There are interfaces with other systems. In Maryland those are:
  – Voter Registration System (MDVOTERS)
  – Voter Services Application
  – Statewide Pollbook System (EPIC)
  – Agency Election Management System
  – State Election Results Website
Acceptance Testing

• Acceptance Testing
  – All pieces of equipment are centrally delivered and tested.
  – 8 testers led by a quality manager.
  – Local boards invited to observe.
  – Scripts developed by SBE.
  – Equipment is tested to requirements.
Central Warehouse
Regulations

• Major changes to a voting system requires a thorough review of regulations.
• Regulations take significant time to adopt – several months.
Training

• Election Officials – State and Local.
• Election Judges
  – Common Statewide curriculum and judges manual.
• Election Technicians
• Voters
  – Voter Outreach
  – Voter Instructions
Logistics

• Warehouses
  – New delivery cart designed internally and built by Maryland Correctional Enterprises.
  – Warehouse inspection to ensure meeting with storage and operational environmental requirements.

• Transportation
  – Early Discussions with transportation contractor.
  – New system takes more space per polling place. requiring additional delivery journeys.
Questions?