COVR II Fact Sheet

The Secretary of State (SOS) hosts the California Online Voter Registration (COVR) website, which allows eligible California residents to submit a voter registration form electronically on the Internet website of the SOS. The California Online Voter Registration Redesign Project (COVR II) involves multiple upgrades to the current COVR web application and its infrastructure.

COVR II will provide the services and functionality already offered in COVR:

- California residents can register to vote online without printing, signing and mailing an application if COVR can retrieve the applicant's Department of Motor Vehicles signature by matching the applicant's CDL/ID, DOB and SSN4.

- Applicants can print, sign and mail their applications if no DMV signature is found.

- COVR transmits all applications to county elections officials electronically.

COVR II will also provide:

- Improved accessibility features.

- Ten different language versions of the application.

- Improved data standardization.

- A redesigned approach to security.

- Optimization for mobile devices.

- NVRA agency online voter registration tracking.

- A "Post" feature to allow third parties to pre-fill certain data in COVR II for applicants.

- A reporting tool to pull online voter registration data based on a variety of parameters.

Accessibility

COVR II will conform to accessibility standards cited in California Government Code section 11135, Section 508 of the United States Rehabilitation Act, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (W3C World Wide Web Consortium Recommendation WCAG 2.0 12/2008, Level A & Level AA Success Criteria). California State University Accessible Technology Initiative (CSU ATI) is serving as accessibility consultant on the COVR II project.

Additional Language Versions

The COVR II application will be available in ten language versions: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese.

Improved Data Standardization

COVR II will add numerous data standardization requirements and other modifications designed to improve the quality of data received and transmitted to county elections officials. For example, COVR II will only permit English characters to be entered into the data fields. COVR II will prohibit most symbols, as well as foreign language characters, carriage returns, and tabs.

Security Enhancement

COVR II system security will be improved to make the system even more secure by using updated technologies and approaches to system security.

Optimization for Mobile Devices

The system will recognize applicants using mobile devices and present them with a modified screen that will be easier to navigate and use.

NVRA Agency Tracking

Each NVRA agency type will receive special URL to be used as a point of entry for the NVRA agency as it sends applicants to COVR to apply to register to vote. This will enable tracking of online registration applications from NVRA agencies.

"Post" Feature

COVR II will permit third party entities – under written agreement with the SOS -- to post pre-defined data to COVR on behalf of a voter registration applicant. The written agreement will place privacy, security and data requirements on the entity.

Reporting Tool

The COVR II system will allow the SOS to generate reports on demand, including: application totals by county; college student application totals by campus and college system; application totals by age, ethnicity, language preference, and party preference.

Future Improvements Planned for VoteCal

The VoteCal system planned for release in 2015-16 will have a public website that will enable voters to submit a voter registration application online and check the status of their voter registration application, party affiliation, and permanent vote-by-mail status. The VoteCal website will also allow a voter to check the status of his or her provisional ballot or vote-by-mail ballot.