



Los Angeles



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Building a voter-centric election system for America's largest jurisdiction

- 31,100 ballot marking devices manufactured
- 87% of voters said the voting solution was "very easy" to use*
- More than 2,000 election workers hired and trained since 2018
- Designed and managed a 5-acre operations center

*An exit poll by Loyola Marymount University in March 2020, first election VSAP was deployed

VSAP Modernizes Elections

On June 12, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to award the Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) manufacturing contract to Smartmatic. The County cited Smartmatic's unparalleled experience providing secure, advanced election technology and services to election commissions throughout the world as the primary reason for its choice.

The contract - the largest election equipment contract issued in US elections history - included full-scope system development, manufacture, and deployment. Smartmatic conducted all software development work in Los Angeles County. Smartmatic had, at times, as many as 200 people onsite supporting the project.

The ballot marking devices, a key piece of the VSAP system, came through the 2020 Presidential election with flying colors. During the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, the county deployed almost 20,000 ballot marking devices (BMDs) to nearly 800 vote centers across the county.

Since then, VSAP ballot marking devices have been used in nearly a dozen local, municipal and state elections, as well as California's gubernatorial recall vote in 2021. They were recently used in the June 2022 primary and the November 2022 midterm election. The machines have performed as designed and have demonstrated rugged durability. LA voters continue to praise the BMDs for simplicity, accessibility and accuracy.

Technology

VSAP Ballot Marking Device

The VSAP BMD is portable and self-contained. It is programmable, capable of offering instructions and ballots in multiple languages. (LA offered 18 languages in addition to English for the 2022 election). The touchscreen allows voters to easily review their selections—and change them if they want—before printing their paper ballot. Voters then review their human-readable ballot before casting it. This is done by re-inserting it into the BMD, which collects it in an integrated, secure ballot box.

The VSAP BMD does not store votes or voter data. Its ballots do not contain any individual voter identification. BMD units are never connected to the internet or to other BMDs during elections.

The VSAP BMD is equipped with assistive technologies, including audio playback via headphones, a tactile control pad with braille, and adjustable font and contrast on the tilt-adjustable touchscreen. It accommodates voters' personal assistive devices, such as sip-and-puff controllers. It is wide enough and height appropriate to accommodate voters who use wheelchairs.

Interactive Sample Ballot (ISB)

The ISB is a web interface that allows voters to pre-mark their ballot selections on their smartphone or tablet. They then bring the device to the vote center and download their ballot to the VSAP. This expedites the voting process and can reduce wait times.

VSAP BMD Manager (BMG)

Smartmatic also developed the VSAP BMD Manager (BMG) that enables the County to perform device management tasks, including loading software, locating individual machines in the warehouse, troubleshooting, and downloading usage data from BMDs after elections.



Services

Smartmatic provided the following:

- Engineered and manufactured the BMD hardware.
- Programmed and installed the BMD software.
- Led the California certification process.
- Created the backend software to manage the devices.
- Provided systems integration services.
- Built the VSAP operations center.
- Handled logistics and setup/breakdown of the vote centers.
- Oversaw real-time data management for deployments.
- Supplied Help Desk services during early voting and on Election Days.

"There's no ambiguity in this ballot.
When it prints out there's
no pregnant chads, no deciphering
the intent of the voter. It's very clear.
It's human readable text.
**The device exceeds national
security standards for voting"**

Dean Logan, LA Registrar-Recorder and County Clerk



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Smartmatic is the world leader in applied cybersecurity and secure election technology—from voter registration, to vote tabulation, to results reporting and auditing. Since its incorporation in the US in 2000, Smartmatic auditable and cybersecure solutions have processed more than 6.5 billion votes in elections in more than 30 countries—all with zero security breaches.

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