



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

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Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 18, 2017

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Voting Systems Assessment Project Named Semifinalist in Harvard's 2017 Innovations in American Government Awards Competition

LOS ANGELES – The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, recognized today the [Voting Systems Assessment Project](#) as part of the 100 programs named as Semifinalists in this year's Innovations in American Government Awards competition. The Voting Systems Assessment Project will compete to be named a Finalist in the competition and have the chance to be awarded the \$100,000 grand prize in Cambridge this spring.

The Voting Systems Assessment Project advanced from a pool of more than 500 applications from all 50 states, and was selected by the Innovations Award evaluators as examples of novel and effective action whose work has had significant impact, and who they believe can be replicated across the country and the world.

The Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) was developed by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) in 2009 to address an aging voting system and an increasingly large and complex electorate. The project seeks a collaborative approach to voting system design that will put voters at the center and maximize stakeholder participation.

"We are delighted and humbled to be recognized among such an esteemed group of projects by Harvard's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. More so, we are encouraged by the creative and dynamic work occurring to address challenging and important public issues in a manner that is citizen-focused and that emphasizes civic engagement. This recognition encourages our continued diligence in modernizing the voting experience in Los Angeles County," said Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

Through field research and coalition building, the RR/CC has pioneered a voter-centered approach to voting system design and development. For more information, visit vsap.lavote.net.

“These programs demonstrate that there are no prerequisites for doing the good work of governing” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at the Ash Center, “small towns and massive cities, huge federal agencies and local school districts, large budgets or no budgets at all — what makes government work best is the drive to do better, and this group proves that drive can be found anywhere.”

The Semifinalist programs represent a cross-section of jurisdictions and policy areas, and embody one of the most diverse and sophisticated groups that have advanced to this stage in the competition’s 30-year history. They were invited to complete a supplementary application last fall, answering in-depth questions about their work, the process of creating and sustaining their programs, and how they believe they can teach others to do what they do. The Ash Center expects to announce 10 programs that will be named Finalists and be invited to Cambridge to present to the Innovation Awards Program’s National Selection Committee in March, with the grand prize winners to be named in June.

Please visit the Government Innovators Network at <http://innovations.harvard.edu> for the full list of Semifinalists, and for more information regarding the Innovations in American Government Awards.

About the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, education, international programs, and government innovations awards, the Center fosters creative and effective government problem solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world’s citizens. For more information, visit www.ash.harvard.edu.

The mission of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is to serve Los Angeles County by providing essential records management and election services in a fair, accessible and transparent manner. For more information, visit lavote.net and follow us on Twitter [@LACountyRRCC](https://twitter.com/LACountyRRCC).

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