

# Blue Suede News

Update on Election Voter Information System November 2004

## ELVIS Lives!!

When we talk about ELVIS we will not be talking about rock and roll. We won't be debating whether he has left the building or not. When we talk about ELVIS we are talking about Kansas' new **E**lection **V**oter **I**nformation **S**ystem (ELVIS). The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires all states to maintain a centralized voter registration database and when fully operational in 2006 ELVIS will meet that requirement for Kansas.

"Once ELVIS arrives in 2006, it will be a significant step forward in full implementation of sweeping federal election reform requirements," stated Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh. "ELVIS will serve all of Kansas well and it will set a national standard for our sister states. This new system will have a number of benefits to voters, election administrators and for the overall election management process."

"The new system will have enhanced security of election registration and timely, accurate registration validation checks," stated Thornburgh. "Significant savings will be seen through the reduction of paperwork and the elimination of time consuming state and local record maintenance activities. The end product will preserve the critical

state and county balance in the election process while providing a uniform system that is secure and uniform to maintain."

Kansas recently teamed with Accenture to help in developing the new system. Kansas will use Accenture Election System Manager (AESM) 2004 for Microsoft.NET. The company's system, designed to comply with HAVA, will deliver real-time reporting capability and enhance election administration functions in every county. InfiniTec of Hays, Kansas, a leading supplier of software and services to Kansas

county government is a subcontractor to Accenture on this project. Another subcontractor, Aradyne Corporation, will help collect and provide the data Extraction, Transformation and Loading (ETL) solution

needed to consolidate the state's 105 county voter registration databases into a single statewide system.

ELVIS will improve election management in Kansas and will set a national standard of excellence for voter registration and election management systems. Based upon requirements identified by the State of Kansas and county election officers, the system will standardize the election management process statewide.

**“ELVIS will serve all of Kansas well and it will set a national standard for our sister states. This new system will have a number of benefits for voters, election administrators and for the overall election management process.”**

- stated Ron Thornburgh

### IN THE SPOT LIGHT

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# Who is Accenture?

Accenture is a recognized leader in delivering innovative solutions to meet the economic and organizational challenges of government and business. Accenture eDemocracy Services delivers a full suite of solutions designed to help election agencies manage the election process prior to and on Election Day.

Accenture's election services approach is integrated with their consulting business, so you gain access to the full range of their solutions and resources. In addition, Accenture has partnerships with InfiniTec, Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard to name a few. These partnerships will give you access to leading edge tools and technologies that will enable you to implement and manage elections efficiently and effectively.

We are looking forward to working with Accenture and its partners to develop and implement the best election system in the nation.

## JAD Sessions?

The term JAD session is new to many of us involved with the ELVIS project. So just what is a JAD session? JAD stands for Joint Application Design. Not clear yet? Okay, let's make this a bit simpler. JAD sessions bring people together to identify business requirements for a project...such as ELVIS. On October 4-8, 2004, the Secretary of State's Office, county election officers and members of the Accenture team met to discuss everything we could possibly think of that ELVIS would have to provide to be a success in Kansas, including the 136 requirements the county work group originally drafted. Issues such as voter registration, advance voting, polling place management, candidate management, board workers (just to name a few)

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were discussed. Over 60 counties attended the JAD sessions and every region of the KCCEOA was represented.

The outcome of the sessions is a series of documents that list everything the state of Kansas will require ELVIS to provide. The Accenture team has compiled these requirements to ensure they meet each one. So how does Accenture ensure they meet each requirement? Well, they take the compiled results of the JAD sessions and use the information in conducting the Conference Room Pilot (CRP) phase of the project.

# Pilot Counties Lead the Way

One phase of the implementation of ELVIS is the Pilot Phase. Nine counties have agreed to share their time and knowledge to help spearhead this phase of the project. Those counties are: Barton, Clay, Miami, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Sherman and Stanton. Criteria for the selection of these counties included size of the county, geography and current software systems.

So what will the pilot counties do? Counties participating in the pilot phase will be the first to convert their voter information data and will be the first to go “live” on the system. The counties will be trained how

to use ELVIS and will learn the system, help troubleshoot any issues that arise and provide feedback on issues that need addressed.

Once the pilot phase is complete other counties will begin to “Go Live.” All counties will be live on ELVIS by late November or early December of 2005. Remember, HAVA requires that all counties must install the centralized voter registration database by January 1, 2006. It is our goal to have all 105 Kansas counties use the full CVR/EMS functions of ELVIS.

## What is a Conference Room Pilot (CRP)?

Conference Room Pilot (CRP) sessions will use the Request for Proposal (RFP) (a copy of the RFP can be found at <http://da.state.ks.us/purch/rfq/rfqdata/06979.doc>) and JAD session business requirements to configure ELVIS for Kansas. In other words, using the information we have provided them, Accenture will work with county election officers and staff from the secretary of state’s office to design and configure the system to meet the specific needs of our election officers.

County staff who participated in the JAD sessions previously described will be eligible to participate in the Conference Room Pilot (CRP) sessions which will be held in Topeka on November 15, 2004, through November 19, 2004, and November 29, 2004, through December 3, 2004.

### Our Mission

***The state, counties and Accenture will set a national standard of excellence through the design, development, and implementation of a state-wide central voter registration and election management system.***

## First Edition of Blue Suede News

This is the first publication of Blue Suede News. It will be published monthly and bring updates on various ELVIS happenings.

Please feel free to share this information with your staff and others who might be interested. Also, if you have ideas or specific items that you would like to hear more about, please email us at [brianh@kssos.org](mailto:brianh@kssos.org). Enjoy!

## UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS

November 15	Announced ELVIS
November 16 - 19	Week one of Conference Room Pilots in Topeka
November 22 - 23	Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) annual meeting in Overland Park
November 23	Secretary Thornburgh will make a presentation to KAC
November 29 - December 3	Week two of Conference Room Pilots in Topeka
December 6 - 17	Pilot County Site Visits