

# Blue Suede News

Update on ELECTION Voter Information System October 2005

## ELVIS live

The Secretary of State's office (SOS) is proud to announce the launch of ELVIS. After many long hours of discussion, decisions and revamping, ELVIS went live on August 29, 2005, in the pilot group one counties. ELVIS also went live in the additional four pilot group two counties on September 20 and 21.

The counties that went live first were Ellis, Lyon, Miami, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Sherman, Stanton and Wyandotte. This is the first chance to see ELVIS functioning. "We are very excited to see ELVIS in action and to see the capabilities that it has," Brad Bryant, deputy assistant secretary of state for elections and legislative matters, said.

Those counties that went live September 20 and 21 were the pilot group two counties. Those counties

were Barton, Clay, Cloud and Crawford.

Even though there have been a few bumps in the road in the first few counties implementing ELVIS, counties are working

**ES&S help desk:**  
**1-800-353-2832**

**SOS IT help desk:**  
**(785) 296-7810**

**SOS Elections Division:**  
**(785) 296-0080**

through these issues and two of our large counties have already conducted elections using ELVIS.

"Communication is key to making the ELVIS process run smoothly," Trella Berscheidt, HAVA coordinator for Barton County, said.

"We appreciate these counties being the first to launch this new program," Brian Henson, HAVA coor-

dinator, said.

The end result of ELVIS is to preserve the critical state and county balance in the election process while providing a uniform system that is secure and uniform to maintain.

"We applaud those counties that have implemented ELVIS," Henson said.

"It is very exciting to know that very soon all counties will be using ELVIS," Bryant said.

Statewide rollout pilot group one went live on September 29 and statewide rollout group 2 went live on October 7. A total of 40 counties will be live on October 14. ELVIS is on schedule for full implementation, and all 105 counties are scheduled to be live by December 20.

If you have questions regarding ELVIS, you can contact one of the help desks.

### IN THE SPOT LIGHT

ELVIS live	Page 1	Voting equipment calendar	Page 4
Keeping the system secure	Page 2	First test for ELVIS	Page 5
The matrix makes selection easier	Page 3	Featured staff	Page 5
HAVA dominates regional meetings	Page 3	Calendar of events	Page 6
The fair is coming	Page 4		

# Keeping the system secure

It seems every day we hear a report on local news about someone being a victim of identity theft. Identity theft occurs when a criminal wrongfully obtains and uses another person's personal data in some way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain.

At a minimum, criminals need a person's name, driver's license number, and date of birth for identity theft. Where do these criminals go to get the information they need? State and local government information systems along with financial institutions seem to be their targets of choice.

ELVIS processes, transmits, and stores data that could be valuable to criminals and hackers. For this reason, ELVIS was designed from the ground up with a focus on security. Security of Kansas voter registration data is *everyone's* responsibility. Adjusting to new security technologies (tokens, PKI, complex passwords, etc.) can be a frustrating experience. There is a delicate balance between user accessibility and system security that we must constantly fine-tune.

Right now, you might be thinking, "I'm just an ELVIS user, what can I do to improve security of voter registration data?" Here are some preven-

tive security measures that we should all implement:

- ❖ Keep your USB token secure. Treat your token with the same level of security as your credit cards and car keys. In other words, when you leave the office, take your token with you.

- ❖ Do not share your passwords. ELVIS and PKI passwords are exclusive to each user. Do not write your password down or share it with anyone.

- ❖ Change your passwords periodically. Use a combination of letters (both uppercase and lowercase), numbers, and special characters (!@#\$%^&\*).

- ❖ Be suspicious of anyone wanting specific information about ELVIS systems. Be sure to verify the identity of anyone claiming to provide service or support to ELVIS systems. Check with the SOS help desk at (785) 296-7810 to confirm the identity of contractors or ELVIS support personnel.

Finally, as an ELVIS user you have been entrusted with a tremendous responsibility. Our Kansas voters are counting on all of us to help keep their information secure. Please visit our Web site for more guidelines on ELVIS security at [www.kssos.org/counties/downloads](http://www.kssos.org/counties/downloads).

**Need help?**  
**Call the IT help desk**  
**(785) 296-7810**

## Blue Suede News

Published by the office of

**Secretary of State  
Ron Thornburgh**

Memorial Hall  
120 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612-1594  
(785) 296-4564

Editor  
Jodi L. Spindler

Layout and Design  
Jodi L. Spindler

Contributing Writers  
Jesse Borjon  
Brad Bryant  
Bryan Caskey  
Phillip Cockrell  
Brian Henson

If you have any suggestions or comments about this or future issues, please call (785) 368-8095.

This publication may be duplicated for informational purposes only. No written permission is required with the exception of articles or information attributed to a source other than the Office of the Kansas Secretary of State.

## Voting equipment - update

**\*Editor's note: In the September issue of Blue Suede News it was mentioned that a new section would be introduced regarding voting equipment. This section will be dedicated to keeping you informed about the latest news on voting equipment implementation.**

### The matrix makes selection easier

The Secretary of State's office wants to make sure county election officers (CEOs) get the right voting equipment that will best serve their county and its voters. The Voting Equipment Evaluation Committee (VEEC) is trying to help make counties' selection process much easier. VEEC is the committee that evaluated the responses submitted by the vendors to the request for proposals (RFP). VEEC is a subset of the Voting Equipment Work Group, which is composed mostly of county election officers and

Secretary of State staff. VEEC met several times to review the proposals from the vendors and decided to offer contracts to five vendors who met the requirements of the RFP.

VEEC also created a document called a features matrix to help guide counties to make informed decisions on voting equipment. This matrix summarizes the features of each vendor's voting system. It contains information on how each system deals with various aspects, such as size, portability, weight, storage, setup, font size of ballot on screen,

ADA features, etc.

The matrix was sent to the counties on October 14, 2005. This should give counties time to look over the information before they head to the vendor fair.

"VEEC has worked hard to make the selection process easier for the counties. We have tried to take under consideration everything involved in running voting equipment, from keyboards to software," Brad Bryant, deputy secretary of state for elections and legislative matters, said.

### HAVA dominates regional meeting discussions

Each year Secretary of State (SOS) staff regularly attend county election officer's (CEOs) regional meetings. These meetings are a way to talk about current issues and give an update on elections. This year is no exception. SOS staff is on hand to take questions and hear the concerns of CEOs.

This year HAVA projects have dominated most dis-

cussions at these meetings. CEOs are interested in any new ELVIS developments as well as what is in store with the voting equipment.

At these fall regional meetings, information also will be presented on the formula for allocation of spending authority for voting equipment. This is the amount of HAVA money each county is authorized to spend on voting equipment. The

equipment selected has to comply with HAVA.

The formula is a little cumbersome. SOS staff will explain all the factors that went into the formula. The VEEC first presented the formula at a meeting on September 8, 2005. It was recommended to SOS staff that the formula be presented to CEOs at regional meetings.

## Voting equipment - update

### The vendor fairs are coming

Generally, the word fair conjures up midway rides, funnel cakes, pronto pups and a variety of games. However, this fair will be a little different.

This fair is for vendors to display and answer any questions counties might have as they chose the voting machines for their counties. The vendor fairs will take place October 18 in Emporia and October 19 in Great Bend.

The five vendors selected by the VEEC that met the RFP will be in attendance. Each will have an area to set up their system and have it on display. Each vendor has been asked to

provide a 20-30 minute presentation. These presentations will take place five

#### Vendor fair dates:

October 18 -

Emporia

October 19 -

Great Bend

times throughout the day. "This should help the counties as they decide which equipment best fits their needs," Brad Bryant, deputy assistant secretary of state for elections and leg-

islative matters, said.

CEOs can visit each vendor to see the setup of the equipment. They will have an opportunity to hear each vendor's presentation. CEOs can then select the machine they like best.

"This will be CEO's chance to ask the vendor direct questions on how the equipment works" Bryant said. The fair also gives counties a chance to compare notes with each other and draw off of each other's opinions about the best equipment to buy.

### Voting equipment - calendar of events

October 18	Vendor fair - Emporia
October 19	Vendor fair - Great Bend
October 20	Southeast clerks - Columbus
October 21	Northeast clerks - Branded B Ranch near Meriden

**The vendor fairs along with the features matrix should help the counties with the selection process for voting equipment.**

**Brad Bryant,  
deputy assistant secretary of  
state for elections and  
legislative matters**

# First test for ELVIS

The real test for ELVIS is an actual election. Sedgwick and Wyandotte counties have had the opportunity to use ELVIS in an election. Having that first experience behind them, these two counties share some of their experiences with the rest of Kansas.

Sedgwick County processed 2,500 registrations and a small petition, held a small election, and cleaned up some duplicate information with ELVIS. They have worked on street files and political subdivisions. Sedgwick County has utilized most facets of the new

system and is happy with the results. "We are feeling very good about ELVIS," Lanetta Schatz, departmental information analyst, Sedgwick County Election Office, said.

Sedgwick County only needed two people to process a large amount of registrations in 12 days, and they used only two people to process a petition in one day. Their September 27, 2005, election was set up, polling place change cards were sent out, and advance voters were all processed in ELVIS. "We ran our poll books without a problem, and had good responses

back from the board workers about the poll books," Schatz said.

Wyandotte County held a small election as well and had a good experience with the walk-in advance voting using ELVIS. Wyandotte County also said their poll book printed accurately.

Even though Sedgwick and Wyandotte counties had some success with ELVIS, they did encounter a few problems. Sedgwick County said the process hasn't been exactly pain free but county staff has worked to find solutions to the challenges. "If there is a process that needs to be

*Continued on page 6*

## Featured staff

### Jesse Borjon

This month Jesse Borjon will become the public affairs director for SOS and a new division in the office will be born. The communications for the office will be handled in this division and a public information officer will be added to the SOS team. Before he was appointed the public affairs director, he served as the communications director for more than four years.

For almost seven years, Jesse has been a member of the SOS team. Besides serving as the communica-

tions director, he also has served as a student intern and Secretary Thornburgh's administrative assistant.

Since Jesse handles communications, he is involved in almost every project at SOS at some level. He coordinates the press for the office and voter education programs. His role in the ELVIS project is to head up the communications team and manage the ELVIS communications plan.

Jesse's advice for counties is to make sure to communicate all the ins and outs of ELVIS to their staff. Imple-

menting a new system is not always the easiest of tasks, but good communication will make it much easier to get everyone on board.

Jesse was born in Homestead, Florida, but has spent most of his life in Topeka. He graduated from Washburn University with a degree in political science. When Jesse is not in the office, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Stacie, and six-month-old son, Garrett. He also likes to play golf.

**Test continued from page 5** \_\_\_\_\_

changed, we work together to find solutions,” Schatz said.

Wyandotte County had problems changing information in the poll book once it was finalized. “If a change is necessary, you have to call the vendor to open it back up so you can make a change and reprint it,” Patricia Rahija, Wyandotte County Elections Commis-

sioner, said.

Overall, both counties were pleased with the Secretary of State’s office’s support desk, Infinitec and ES&S help desk. “All have been very responsive to our questions and needs. They have helped us work with the ELVIS system, and have given us great direction on how to make it work even better in the future,” Schatz

said.

“The best advice I can give is, as counties start working with ELVIS, keep an open mind, be open to change, and be willing to look at things in a new way. This will make their ELVIS experience as positive as ours has been,” Schatz said.

**UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS 2005**

- October 20 Southeast clerks meeting in Columbus**
- October 21 Northeast clerks meeting in Jefferson County**
- November 9 - 11 Kansas Counties Officers Association Conference in Wichita**
- November 21 - 23 Kansas Association of Counties Conference in Topeka**
- December 11 - 14 Midwest Election Officials Conference in Overland Park**