

Blue Suede News

Update on ELECTION Voter Information System December 2005

Update: Almost live statewide!

ELVIS adds Agency Central

HAVA legislation requires the state to coordinate the voter registration list with state agency records on felony status and records on death for the purpose of removing names of ineligible voters from the statewide voter registration database.

The ELVIS system will meet this requirement by adding a new component to ELVIS called Agency Central. There are two points when agency Central will impact ELVIS users: when adding new voter registration records and through a notification process.

The first point will check new voter information against the deceased and felon files each time a new voter is added and a user clicks the save button. If a possible match is found, ELVIS will display an additional screen with the potential match information. The county user must then decide if the match is valid or invalid based on the information displayed and their local knowledge.

The second point of validation will occur when a process is initiated on the ELVIS system that will check all deceased and felon records against the statewide voter registration database searching for potential matches. If a possible match is found, the county will receive a notification of this and, if the county determines that the match is valid, they will remove the voter from the database.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will provide data on deceased persons from the Vital Statistics database, and the Kansas Department of Corrections will provide data on felons from the Kansas Adult Supervised Population Electronic Repository (KASPER) system to assist us with this effort. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that these state agencies have contributed to ensure that Kansas is HAVA compliant.

Upgrade complete

How do you implement the new, central, statewide computerized Election Voter Information System and ensure adequate bandwidth, high availability and security to all 105 county election offices? With KANWIN, of course!

However, this was much easier said than done. KANWIN (Kansas Wide Area Information Network) did not have near enough bandwidth to accommodate ELVIS when we began the project earlier this year, and the KANWIN router in every county had to be upgraded to accommodate this additional capacity. This was a daunting task in the beginning. Fortunately, the state of Kansas has many great entities that committed resources to ensuring the upgrade occurred on time and under budget. The entities that partnered together are the Division of Information Systems and Communications (DISC), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR),

Continued on page 4

IN THE SPOT LIGHT

ELVIS adds Agency Central	Page 1	Questions & answers	Page 3
Upgrade complete	Page 1	Featured staff	Page 3
Message from the Secretary	Page 2	Calendar of events	Page 4
Security top priority	Page 2		

A message from Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh...

The past few months have been busy ones for folks in the Kansas elections community! As you know, county orders for voting equipment were due December 2 and our Central Voter Registration Database, ELVIS, is only a few weeks away from being fully implemented.

Our office is in the process of reviewing voting equipment order forms and we plan to place orders with the vendors in the coming weeks. We are on schedule and hope to continue to work with the counties to ensure every polling place will be fully HAVA compliant by the 2006 elections.

As for ELVIS, we are down to only a few counties! This final group is scheduled to go online December 29. This database, when fully functioning, will help ensure that Kansas counties have the most up-to-date voter information available to them at the touch of a button.

During November, I met with a number of state organizations, including the Kansas County Officials Association (KCOA) and the Kansas Association of Commissioners (KAC). These meetings provided me a valuable opportunity to talk with election officials from around the state, as well as let county commissioners know what a wonderful job county elections officials (CEO) have been doing. CEOs' involvement from this project's inception has been valuable and has certainly been a key factor in getting us to where we are today.

So, as we bring the year to a close, I want to thank everyone who has been involved in implementing these election reform measures. Because of your hard work and commitment, Kansas is leading the way in HAVA compliance. I look forward to working with all of you again in the coming year.

Sincerely,



RON THORNBURGH
Secretary of State

Security remains top priority

ELVIS system security is everyone's responsibility. From each user protecting their USB token, keeping passwords secret and changing them when required, to verifying the identity of anyone asking for ELVIS system information or access, we all have a part in keeping voter registration data secure.

Remember, all ELVIS users are required to follow the ELVIS security policies, available online at: <http://www.kssos.org/counties/> - follow the downloads link to ELVIS Security Policies.

Please report security policy abuse to the SOS 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
Brian Henson
Mary Hill
Mike Stewart
Ron Thornburgh
Stephanie Wing

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.

Questions & Answers!

Q: Do my temporary election workers need tokens to access ELVIS?

A: Yes. Anyone needing access to ELVIS must have a token.

Q: Can users share an e-mail address when requesting a token?

A: No. All users must have their own e-mail address in order to enroll and receive a token.

Q: Once I have my token, do I ever have to get a new one?

A: The token itself can be used indefinitely. However, all users must re-enroll once a year to renew the digital certificate with Kansas.gov.

Q: I am unsure whom I should call when I have questions about ELVIS?

A: All calls should be routed to 1-800-353-2832. The call center will log your call, open a ticket with your question/issue and route it to the appropriate person for resolution.

Q: After using ELVIS for a few weeks I discovered something I think the system should be able to do, but can't. What should I do?

A: All enhancement requests should be submitted to the call center, 1-800-353-2832.

Featured staff:
Nancy Bryant

For more than 18 years she has been a steady force behind the Secretary of State's Office. She has been involved with many different projects and aspects of the office, including making the big move from the Capitol to Memorial Hall. She oversees the Human Resources department and financial activities of the SOS. She is Nancy Bryant.

Bryant is the chief of staff. Originally from Glasco, Kansas, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Fort Hays State University. As chief of staff, Bryant spends lots of time in meetings. She is involved in nearly every project in the office, including serving as a project sponsor for the new accounting system and planning the Midwest Election Officials' Conference.

In her role with ELVIS, Bryant develops and tracks the budget for ELVIS and HAVA in general. She was involved in obtaining the state general fund match required by federal law. Overseeing the budget makes her the person to call when budget committees have questions.

With her ELVIS experience, Bryant understands the commitment it takes to make ELVIS work and has this to say about it: "Congratulate yourself on a job well done. ELVIS has been a major undertaking. I would guess you were swamped in the pre-ELVIS days yet managed to pull your resources together and bring ELVIS to life."

When she is not managing the SOS office, Bryant is busy keeping up with her four children and her husband Brad Bryant, assistant secretary of state for Elections and Legislative Matters. She also finds time to serve on the Silver Lake City Council.

Upgrade continued from page 1

Southwestern Bell Corporation (SBC) and many of the local internet service area providers.

Starting last June, SOS, DISC, KDOR and SBC held weekly meetings to plan and coordinate the upgrade. Due to suggestions by KDOR and DISC, the state was able to save significant dollars by replacing many of the frame relay circuits with DSL, giving higher bandwidth at a much reduced cost. As of No-

vember 18, all circuits have been upgraded.

Special thanks to Bill Kelley, Clayton Kinnett and Dave Timpany of DISC. Thanks to KDOR's Glen Yancey and Jerry Gibson (a true road warrior who traveled to EVERY county to make sure the router upgrade went smooth), and to all county offices. Without their help, this would not have been successful.

***Happy
Holidays!***

***Thank You, Thank You,
very much for all
you have done for me!***



UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS & TIMELINE

December 19, 1957

Elvis is served with draft notice.

December 1966

Elvis formally proposes marriage to Priscilla.

January 2006

ELVIS live statewide!