



New Mexico  
Office of the Secretary of State  
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# **Voting System Recertification**

**Report of Findings for the Voting System Certification  
Committee**

**for**

**Dominion Voting System v 5.4**

**September 5, 2017**

On August 24, 2017, Dominion Voting Systems (DVS) submitted a request for certification by the New Mexico Secretary of State of the Democracy Suite 5.4 voting system; a modification of the previously certified version 4.14 system that has been used in New Mexico elections since 2014. Pages 4 – 8 of the Voting System Test Lab Report provides a summary of the modifications included in version 5.4 including the ability to process rank choice voting contests on all DVS voting systems owned by the State of New Mexico.

Specifically, DVS is seeking certification for:

**Democracy Suite Election Management System v5.4.17.5** – application software used to manage the election workflow, from import of election definition information, ballot layout, voting machine programming and pre-election test, Election Night reporting, and post-election activities.

**Democracy Suite Adjudication v5.4.17.3** – application software used to allow ballots with exceptions or out-stack conditions such as over-votes, blank ballots, write-ins and marginal marks to be resolved on-screen and sent to tally.

**ImageCast® Evolution v5.4.8.3** – an accessible voting machine that combines an optical scanner and a ballot marking device, suitable for use by all voters while complying with the accessibility requirements of the Help America Vote Act and the 2005 Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG).

**ImageCast Precinct v5.4.2.001** – a lightweight optical scanner for in-precinct use. The ImageCast Precinct can optionally be configured to provide accessible voting.

**ImageCast Central v5.4.2.1** – a high-speed absentee ballot central scanning solution that utilizes Canon brand scanners (DR-X10C and DR-G1130).

This report is being published by the Office of the Secretary of State as required by Section 1-9-14(C) NMSA 1978, after an examination of all application and test materials submitted by DVS. The report and applications for certification is available on the SOS website at [http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Elections\\_Data/Voting\\_System\\_Cerifications.aspx](http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Elections_Data/Voting_System_Cerifications.aspx) and is subject to a 21 day public comment period as of the date of this report.

This report focuses on two primary areas, as required by statute, in order to determine certification readiness: (1) Conformance with the federal Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) and, (2) Conformance with the specific technical specifications for voting systems as outlined in Chapter 1, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

The SOS has reviewed application materials submitted by DVS including the laboratory report issued by the Voting System Test Laboratory (VSTL)<sup>1</sup>, Pro V&V, which the SOS confirmed to be an EAC certified VSTL. The VSTL report indicates that the voting system and software tested meet the requirements of the 2005 VVSG (version 1.0).

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<sup>1</sup> A list of EAC certified VSTLs can be found on the EAC website at <https://www.eac.gov/voting-equipment/voting-system-test-laboratories-vstl/>.

In addition to meeting the specifications of the VVSG, voting systems are also required to meet specific requirements set forth in statute. Specifically, Sections 1-9-7.7 to 1-9-7.10 NMSA 1978 are required for all tabulation systems used in elections conducted pursuant to the New Mexico Election Code. In order to verify that these sections are met, the SOS reviewed materials submitted by DVS, including technical or user documentation to further verify that the requirements are met by the voting system.

Upon review of the VSTL lab report, application for certification, and other reference materials submitted by DVS, the SOS has determined that version 5.4 of the software, as submitted by DVS for certification, meets the statutory requirements for use in elections in New Mexico. Additional testing has also been conducted using version 5.4 of the voting system software using real election data from past elections to ensure continued interoperability with SERVIS. This is critical as SERVIS generates the ballot content and tabulator configuration files used to program statewide elections by the DVS election programming software called Democracy Suite. Democracy Suite also generates the result files that are uploaded to the SERVIS Election Night Reporting System in order to report results to the public and populate the statewide canvassing system used by the county clerks and SOS to verify election results.

The only finding worth noting, which has been documented in previous finding reports prepared by the SOS, is in regards to Section 1-9-7.10(A) which requires that voting systems “accept ballots that are a...maximum of twenty-four inches long.” The DVS voting systems appear to fall short of meeting this particular requirement as certification materials submitted indicate that the DVS systems have the capability to accept ballots only up to 22” long. In fact, no tabulator system submitted for certification in New Mexico or used in statewide elections since this law was enacted in 2010 have ever met the 24” long maximum included in statute. Additionally, the longest ballot that has been produced to date for use in a statewide election was 19” long printed on both sides which is the current limitation of the ballot printing systems certified for use in New Mexico.

The contents of this report of findings is being posted along with the test reports and non-proprietary application materials submitted by the voting system vendors to the SOS website for a 21 day public comment period beginning on the date of this report. All public comments should be submitted to [sos.rules@state.nm.us](mailto:sos.rules@state.nm.us) by September 26, 2017. The public comment will be reviewed by the SOS and provided to the VSCC for their consideration during their meeting conducted in order to recommend certification.

Following the period of public comment, the SOS is required to submit the report of findings and any public comment to the Voting System Certification Committee (VSCC). The VSCC shall review the information and make recommendations regarding the suitability and reliability of the use of the equipment in the conduct of elections covered by the Election Code.

If the VSCC determines that the voting system does not comply with all requirements for certification, the SOS shall allow 30 days for an appeal of the findings to be filed or for the deficiencies to be corrected by the vendor(s). Following this period, the SOS shall prepare a final written report and the VSCC shall reconvene to consider the report and make final recommendations regarding the reliability and suitability of the voting equipment.

If the VSCC recommends that the voting system is suitable for use in elections in New Mexico, the SOS

shall recertify the equipment for use in elections in this state, within 30 days of receiving the recommendation from the VSCC. Likewise, if the VSCC does not recommend the voting system, the SOS shall deny the application or decertify the equipment for use in elections in this state.