



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

Replacing the Virginia Elections and Registration Information System (VERIS)

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Commissioner

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Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee



VERIS History

- 2002 Help America Vote Act
 - Grants to states to modernize voting in wake of 2000 Presidential election
 - Virginia replaced voting equipment and set out to replace legacy Virginia Voter Registration System (VVRS)
 - Went live in 2007



JLARC 2018 Report

- Findings of JLARC on VERIS
 - “VERIS is not sufficiently functional or reliable”
 - “Has ongoing reliability problems”
 - FY 18, General Assembly provided \$1M per year for five years to make improvements to VERIS
 - This was determined after initial cost estimate was \$31M to replace VERIS
- Recommendation
 - General Assembly should include language directing Department to study whether to rebuild or replace VERIS



VERIS Draft RFP

- 2019 Appropriations Act
 - Required ELECT to submit a report with an assessment by the Department regarding the options of replacing or rebuilding the VERIS system, including the use of third-party vendors
 - Contracted with experts in the field and VITA
 - Polled general registrars and their staff as well as ELECT staff
 - Reviewed technical details of VERIS



Findings

- VERIS is a legacy system more than 10 years old and built on out of date technology
- Statewide Voter Registration Systems (SVRS) have matured immensely over the years
- Final Recommendation:
 - Utilize a third party vendor to customize an existing SVRS for Virginia



Request for Information (RFI)

- FY 2020 Appropriations Act
 - Required ELECT to release a Request for Information to estimate costs for replacement of VERIS
 - Contracted with RFI/RFP, technology, and SVRS experts
 - Enlisted a group of ELECT staff and general registrars and their staff to review presentations
 - 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Security Grants
 - Held nearly \$10.2M in reserve for use toward potential replacement
 - Grant requires state to match 20% of funds (\$2.1M)



RFI Findings

- Six Vendors provided information
- Reviewed other states which had recently replaced and/or built SVRS
- Determined replacement of VERIS utilizing third party vendors was estimated at **\$29M**
- Governor's Budget Proposal:
 - Utilize existing HAVA Grant and matching funds (\$12.3as well as \$16.7M in general funds



The Future

- Release RFP ASAP
- Go Live July 1, 2022