

INVESTMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT & MODERNIZATION PROJECTS OVERSIGHT BOARD

Minutes

November 13, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The sixth meeting of the Investments in Information Technology Improvement & Modernization Projects Oversight Board was held on November 13, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative John Hodgson, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Gex Williams, Co-Chair; Representative John Hodgson, Co-Chair; Senator Max Wise; and Representative Chad Aull.

Guests: Adam Friedman, Chief Executive Officer, Civera; John Fleisch, Solutions Architect, Civera; Troy Havard, Assistant Elections Administrator, Tarrant County, Texas; Clint Ludwig, Elections Administrator, Tarrant County, Texas; Ruth Day, Chief Information Officer, Commonwealth Office of Technology, Finance and Administration Cabinet; Jim Barnhart, Deputy Information Officer, Commonwealth Office of Technology, Finance and Administration Cabinet; Robert Long, General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, Finance and Administration Cabinet; Will Fullerton, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Centegix; and Dean Olds, Vice President of Innovation and Strategy, Centegix.

LRC Staff: Jennifer Hays, Adam Johnson, Sarah Watts, and Heather Hamilton.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Wise made a motion, seconded by Senator Williams, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2024, meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

Senator Williams made a motion, seconded by Senator Wise, to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2024, meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

Election Reporting Transparency Technology

Adam Friedman, Chief Executive Officer, Civera, presented an overview of the Ballot Verifier platform for viewing, comparing, and checking the count of every cast vote record (CVR) in an election. He demonstrated how to use the Ballot Verifier website. Clint Ludwig, Elections Administrator, Tarrant County, Texas and Troy Havard, Assistant Elections Administrator, Tarrant County, Texas shared their experiences with Ballot Verifier. Mr. Friedman discussed how Ballot Verifier protects voter privacy.

In response to Representative Hodgson, Mr. Friedman stated the jurisdiction retains the original copies of both paper and digital ballots, and they use copies from the data.

In response to Senator Williams, Mr. Friedman stated they are implementing a system that uses a digital signature. When the original ballot is scanned, it can then be matched to the copy online and verified.

In response to Representative Aull, Mr. Friedman stated Ballot Verifier is not implemented on the state level but that ElectionStats, which is their historical election results research tool, is used in ten other states. He elaborated on how voter privacy is protected.

In response to Senator Williams, Mr. Friedman stated they do use open-source tools. As they are a for-profit vendor, they do not open-source their code. Mr. Ludwig replied that Hart InterCivic, an election technology company, does not make its source code available for review.

Pending Projects and Legacy Projects

Ruth Day, Chief Information Officer, Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT), Finance Administration Cabinet, updated the committee on the data information request for pending capital IT projects, the progress of gathering information on the direct annual costs for legacy applications and systems, and the replacement and modernizations of legacy systems.

School Security Technology

Will Fullerton, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Centegix, introduced Centegix, an emergency response technology company. Dean Olds, Vice President of Innovation and Strategy, Centegix, explained Centegix technology, how it can be used for school safety, and how the panic button badge works. He discussed how the network and backup system is set up, the installation timeline, and how the platforms are used.

Responding to Senator Williams, Mr. Olds stated Civera handles the service and maintenance of the system.

Representative Aull shared his efforts on passing legislation like Alyssa's law.

Responding to Senator Wise, Mr. Fullerton discussed legislation from Utah and Ohio to mandate and fund wearable emergency response badges. He mentioned upfront and ongoing costs of the system, and explained that Utah has a state commitment of about \$8000 per campus. He said schools should have a part, along with the legislature, in making decisions regarding the standards for school safety.

Next Meeting -To be determined

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM.