

IAM Project Narrative

Interfering with the elections process erodes the trust of the American people and polarizes a nation. Cyber threat actors are constantly looking for ways to penetrate computer networks and access personal or proprietary data. Once accessed, this data can be used for various illegal activities at the expense of individuals whose personal information was compromised, especially in the elections process. In 2016, the voter registration systems of at least 21 states were probed by cyber threat actors who penetrated Illinois' voter registration system and accessed 76,000 voter records. This project identifies and detects suspicious activity committed upon the most vulnerable members of our society and protect people's fundamental right to cast a valid vote by securing voter identity and protect the integrity of our general elections.

Spanning all 14 jurisdictions in the Bay Area region, this project involves the collaboration of local departments of elections, disability, and information technology and promotes collaboration with our fusion center (NCRIC) and state and federal entities. The regional Cyber Work Group has determined that consulting services will be used to identify gaps and needs and conduct research to provide a customized rollout to jurisdictions. The region will create a pilot program through the purchase of standardized development software, hardware and licenses. Further, the project will provide documented proof of electronic voter fraud committed by a terrorist group and does this by recapping the timeline of events for when, where and how the voter fraud occurred. This information is crucial during the aftermath of a terrorist incident in order to create transparency and gain the trust of the people. Any identified elections tampering will be reported to the NCRIC, who will then work with the proper authorities at the state and federal levels to investigate the security breach.

This project supports terrorism preparedness by alleviating the potential for voter fraud committed by malicious actors who prey on the most vulnerable members of our society. Digital identify theft for the purposes of altering election results is a form of voter interference that can be committed by either foreign or domestic terrorist groups. This project prevents a threatened or actual act of terrorism by acting as a gate keeper that ensures the integrity of the voting process by securing the identity of the voter casting the actual ballot.

The region's THIRA indicates a target capability of access control and identify verification whereby physical, technological, and cyber measures should ensure 100% verification of identities to authorize appropriate physical and cyber access to critical locations and systems to enable access for legitimate activities and prevent access for illegitimate activities. This project seeks to at least meet minimum levels of election security as identified by Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST). To reach the target capability, the region proposes to first utilize a consultant to conduct gap and needs analyses and then provide Identity and Access Management (IAM) related technology to enhance transmission of election ballots and sender verification. This project will harden elections capabilities by enabling secure identify verification, using provable encryption for digital signing, and guaranteed secure transmission of the ballots from the voter to the region's Departments of Elections.

Two contracts will be utilized to conduct jurisdiction-specific assessments.

Contract #1: Conduct 14 jurisdiction specific gaps and needs analyses and assessments to identify key players, voting platforms, and individual system needs; collect and analyze data of

local disability and access and functional needs populations, and determine how many end user licenses should be distributed to each jurisdiction; create an after-action or improvement plan on the effectiveness of IAM technology post voting episode. Cost of contract \$550,000.

Contract #2: Pilot project IAM software technology purchase- research, develop, and implement customized IAM software technology for 14 jurisdictions. Conduct bi-annual classroom-based equipment training on the use of IAM technology for 20 IT and elections staff per jurisdiction. This pilot project will ultimately provide 1000 end-user licenses for a period of one year. Development, implementation, tech support, training, hosting, and licenses for 14 jurisdictions. The cost of contract is estimated at \$1,000,625.

The overall estimated budget for this project is: \$1,550,625

Both Title II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 address voting systems and their accessibility to people with disabilities in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation as is provided for other voters. One regional outcome of the IAM project will be more secure voter systems and providing access to those with Access and Functional Needs and People With Disabilities (AFN-PWD). The region's Cyber Resiliency workgroup, in partnership with the 14 Offices of Disability and IT departments will oversee this project and monitor the progress and report out to all partners on a regular basis.

The region's development of a pilot project using the customized roll-out approach will ensure that each agency receives usable planning tools and equipment. It is anticipated that approximately 1,000 licenses will be provided to end users and fund one year of software customization, technical assistance, and hosting as an outcome of the project.

Further outcomes of this project include a successful increase in the number of voters with disabilities returning ballots. The successful protection of voters' identities using the digital encryption and secure transmission of ballots process from the voter to the Department of Elections without intrusion. By protecting high-risk, high consequence areas or systems that have been identified through the region's risk assessments, the anticipated outcome is an increase in cybersecurity.

Collaborative efforts include stakeholders from 14 Bay Area jurisdictions and their respective elections offices, disability offices, and information technology offices. This project also involves coordination with the fusion center (NCRIC), DHS-CISA, MS-ISAC, Elections-ISAC, State Office of Elections, and Cal-CSIC.

This project would be a partnership amongst local government entities such as the Department of Information Technology, Office of Disability, and Department of Elections to support the disabled community and people with access and functional needs during the voter process. The disabled community is a vital part of our elections process. They face additional challenges meeting the regulatory requirements related to signing and submitting their ballots from home. This project will explore and pilot a solution for using IAM-related technology to enhance transmission of election ballots and sender verification. The project will focus on enabling secure identity verification, use of provable encryption for digital signing, and guaranteed secure transmission of the ballots from the voter to the Department of Elections.