Integrating VVSG 2.0 into State Protocols - An Adaptive Approach

VVSG 2.0: Your Roadmap to Future-Proof Elections

Preparing your state for the future doesn't have to be complicated. By integrating VVSG 2.0 into your state's testing protocols, you can streamline certification, strengthen security, and ensure your elections are designed for long-term success without unnecessary complexity or cost. The EAC designed VVSG 2.0 as a living standard, empowering states to evolve at their own pace while maintaining the highest levels of integrity and transparency.

Myth	Fact
Integrating VVSG 2.0 is overwhelming and standards may change soon.	*VVSG 2.0 is designed as a living standard, meant to support secure and transparent elections now and in the future.*

Preserve the Integrity of Your Elections with VVSG 2.0

VVSG 2.0 and the EAC's Voting System Testing & Certification Program (T&C)

VVSG 2.0 brings significant improvements to election technology by strengthening security measures, enhancing usability, promoting accessibility, ensuring greater interoperability, and increasing transparency throughout the election process. These updated guidelines offer a comprehensive framework to address the evolving needs of today's elections, establishing higher standards for system efficiency, reliability, and auditability. To support the effective implementation of VVSG 2.0, both the EAC and Voting System Test Laboratories (VSTLs) play essential roles.

VSTLs are federally certified Independent Testing Authorities charged with conducting thorough testing and evaluations of voting systems, analyzing compliance with each VVSG requirement, and recording all findings and evidence in detailed test reports. Once complete, a recommendation for or against certification is made to the EAC.

The EAC oversees the Voting System Testing & Certification Program (T&C), providing validation and analysis of the VSTLs findings, and ultimately determines whether to issue system certification.

Uphold Your State Testing Standards while Benefiting from Federal Testing and Certification

Once a voting system achieves EAC certification, states can focus their efforts on testing their own specific requirements, rather than duplicating testing already performed by the VSTL. Requiring EAC VVSG 2.0 certification documents as part of the state certification process for new systems means drastic changes to state testing protocols and state code are not necessary. This framework supports implementation of new voting systems that are tested to the highest standards and responsive to the diverse needs of each state.

Currently fielded systems will still be permitted to receive version updates within the bounds of the EAC Lifecycle Policy to the original VVSG standard to which they were tested and certified.

> **TIP: The EAC website provides tools for tracking system certification status, including detailed documentation, so that all stakeholders or interested parties can independently keep up with federal certification progress.**

By leveraging the assurances provided through EAC testing, states can test to their unique requirements, while benefiting from the rigorous, standardized testing conducted at the federal level.

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Add Flexibility into Your Election Framework

Adapting State Protocols for Lasting Impact

In addition to updating certification processes, review your state's election and administrative codes to identify and update any references to outdated standards, such as the 2005 VVSG 1.0 guidelines. By replacing specific references to these older standards with more generic language that requires federal certification for new systems to VVSG 2.0 or later, states can build in greater flexibility while maintaining high standards, ultimately allowing for easier adaptation over time.

This ensures that state regulations remain relevant and can accommodate future advancements without requiring frequent, burdensome code revisions but also raises the bar for new voting systems, ensuring they remain secure, reliable, and responsive to both state and local priorities.

Sample State Code Language:

"All new voting systems must be federally certified to VVSG 2.0, or a later version, at the time of application for state certification. Version upgrades for currently fielded systems to an earlier VVSG version are permitted."

VVSG 2.0 is the Only Option for New Voting Systems

All EAC Applications for New Systems Must be for VVSG 2.0

Adopting VVSG 2.0 benefits officials and voters by giving them access to the latest voting technology and features. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) no longer accepts applications for VVSG 1.0 or 1.1 systems – except for limited maintenance modifications for existing certified systems. In other words, VVSG 1.0 certified systems will no longer receive feature enhancements or improvements; only updates that meet specific criteria that will keep existing systems in service. All new certification applications for voting systems must be for VVSG 2.0 systems.

Adopting the new guidelines does not mean that you need to decertify or immediately replace any voting systems currently in use – even the EAC is not decertifying VVSG 1.0 systems. Being proactive about moving forward with VVSG 2.0 will protect your voting systems and ensure access to new features and technology that is important to your local officials and voters.

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A Living Standard, Designed to Accommodate Minor, Periodic Updates

Upon adoption of VVSG 2.0, the EAC made clear that it was a living standard, allowing minor revisions to be introduced as needed. For this reason, it is not necessary to wait and see if the EAC will release new, minor updates. VVSG 2.0 is specifically designed to accommodate periodic updates, ensuring it remains relevant as technology, security needs, and election practices evolve. By adopting the current version now, states can be assured their systems and processes will stay aligned with best practices through incremental, manageable changess

The EAC routinely issues clarifications and gathers insights from states, localities, vendors and other stakeholders, incorporating this feedback directly into their guidance. This continuous cycle of improvement keeps the standards current and effective, while also providing states with reassurance that their adoption of VVSG 2.0 will keep them at the forefront of election security, reliability, and auditability. States can confidently update/maintain their protocols, knowing that federal support and updates will help them remain compliant and prepared for the future.

Engage and Empower: Open Communication for a Successful Transition

Effective Stakeholder Management and Outreach

Successfully navigating the transition to VVSG 2.0 requires more than technical updates, it demands proactive engagement and collaboration with all stakeholders. From local election officials and county leaders to poll workers, vendors, and the voters themselves, keeping every voice informed and involved ensures a smooth, confident path forward. Open communication, ongoing education, and shared problem-solving are the foundation for resilient, trusted elections.

- Familiarize stakeholders with the VVSG 2.0 advancements that directly affect them, such as the introduction of advanced security alarms and the use of multi-factor authentication (MFA) in the polling place.

- Work with stakeholders to assess funding resources that can help counties and localities upgrade or invest in new voting systems within their anticipated refresh timeframe.

- Provide reassurance to all stakeholders by reinforcing that no current systems will be decertified. Integration of VVSG 2.0 offers a smooth and practical path forward for all stakeholders.

Future-Proof Elections that Inspire Voter Confidence

State Adoption of VVSG 2.0 is the Clear Path Forward

The path to defensible, transparent, and sustainable elections is through VVSG 2.0. By leveraging federal testing, you will streamline certification efforts and ensure new voting systems are proven to meet the latest standards.

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Integrating VVSG 2.0 into state protocols doesn't have to be complicated or uncertain—by ensuring state and local requirements remain flexible and aligned with the latest EAC guidelines, states can support technology and security needs as they evolve over time, upholding the highest standards of election integrity and voter confidence.

Action Checklist: Steps to Future-Ready Elections

✓	✓	✓
Require Vendors to Provide Proof of Certification to the VVSG 2.0 or Later	**Update State Code for Flexibility**	**Maintain Open Communication with the EAC and Stakeholders**
Require vendors to submit federal testing documentation and proof of certification for new systems to EAC VVSG 2.0 or later, rather than duplicating test efforts.	Make updates that keep the focus on state priorities, while maintaining flexibility to support future updates to federal standards.	Keep open and regular communication with the EAC and local stakeholders to ensure all parties are informed and heard.

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