

CARS Project External Stakeholder Meeting

Date: September 9, 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Welcome and Introductions

Margie Hieter, Project Sponsor

Harjit Basi, Project Director

John Heinlein, Assistant Project Director

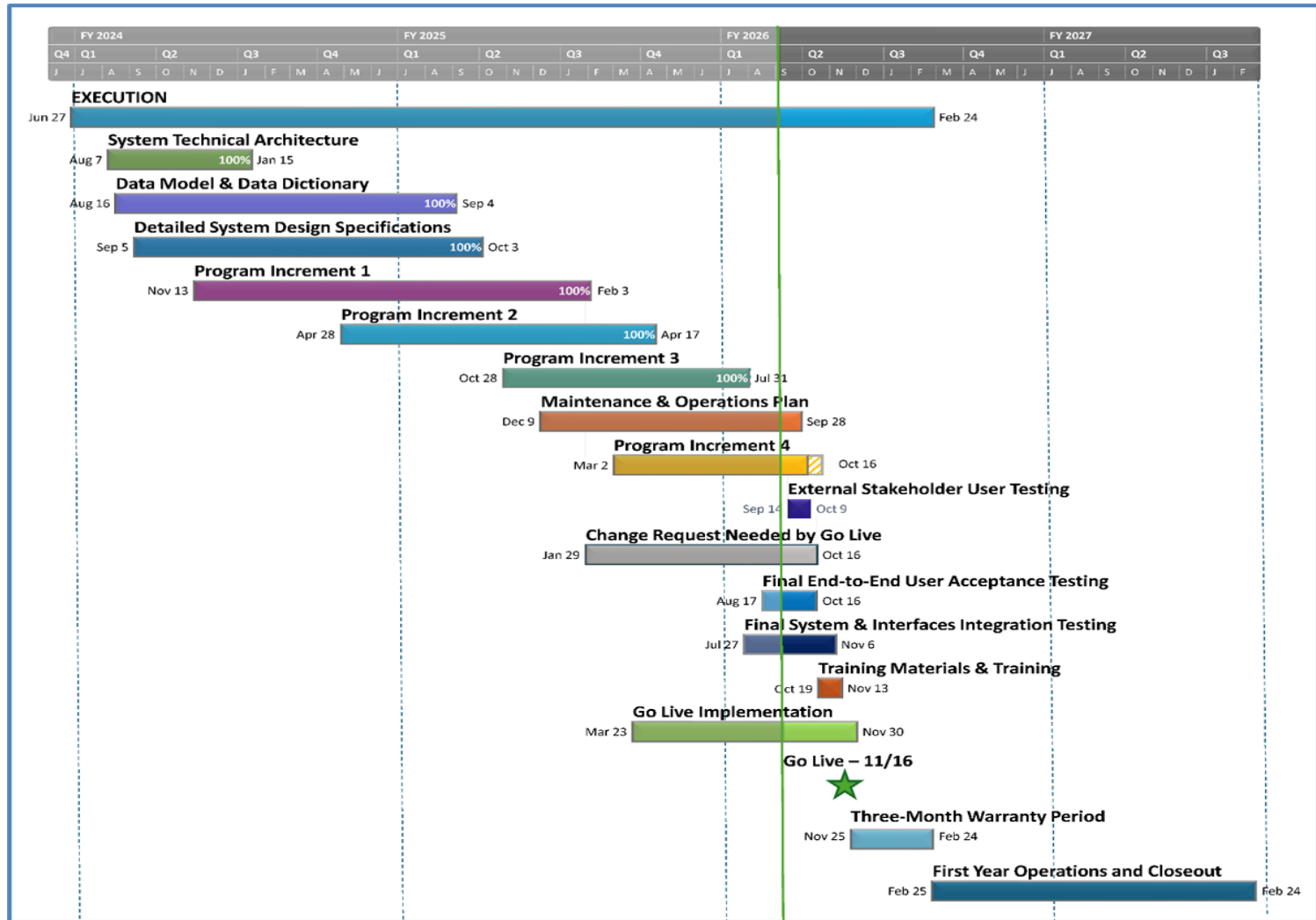
Denise Tower, CGI Project Director

Agenda

- Project Updates:
 - Project Schedule
 - Program Increment IV and Change Request Activities
 - Third-Party Software Vendors
 - September External User Testing
- Preview: Public Portal
- Q&A

Project Updates

Project Schedule



PROJECT SUMMARY



Program Increment	Key Areas	Status
Program Increment I	Filer: Candidate, SMO, Recipient Committee, Major Donor, Lobbyist Employer, Lobbyist, Lobbying Firm, \$5000 Filer (Registrations/Disclosures)	Accepted
Program Increment II	Filer: Remaining Disclosures, Filer Portal Financials: Invoice, Payment, Waivers	Accepted
Program Increment III	Filer: Assess Fees, Fines, Penalties PRD Portal, Correspondence, System Admin Financials: Refund, Reports, Dishonored Check	Accepted
Program Increment IV	Public Portal, Data Warehouse, Reporting	Split into Core and Non-core Development/System Test
Change Controls	17 Required for Go Live that impact the CARS app 10 – UAT, 4 – System Test, 2 – Refinement, 1 - Blocked	In Progress

REQUIREMENTS



Program Increment	Extended Req'ts	% of Total Req'ts	Status
Program Increment I	1480	44%	Accepted
Program Increment II	938	28%	Accepted
Program Increment III	444	13%	Accepted
Program Increment IV	531	16%	124 requirements in Testing
Total	3393	100%	
Change Control	492		362 requirements in Testing
Grand Total	3885		

PROGRAM INCREMENT IV – STATUS



Functions	Functions
Data Warehouse/Public Portal/Data Retrieval Development/System Test	Retrieving Data APIs - Refinement
Partner Portal – UAT	Data Archive - Refinement
System Reports - Development/System Test	

Activities: Development, Unit Testing, System Testing, User Acceptance Testing

- Development and Unit Testing/System Test/UAT in process: 3/23/26 – 10/16/96
 - ✓ Requirements: 531 out of 3,393 total requirements included (16%), excludes Change Controls

PROGRAM INCREMENT CHANGE CONTROLS



Activities: Development, Unit Testing, System Testing, User Acceptance Testing

- Change Controls required for Go Live (17):
 - Core – CRs that Impacts Database, Calculations, flows to complete a filing, third party Software Vendor APIs, includes 14 Change Requests
 - Non-Core – 3 Change Requests
 - CR-012 Simplified Output – 21 available for Testing through the CARS application and the Third-Party SW Vendor APIs. Reviews are in process with FPPC
- Status
 - 10 – UAT, 4 – System Test, 2 – Refinement, 1 – Blocked

PROJECT – ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES



- Implementation Planning
 - Coordinated effort between Prime Vendor, ITD and PRD
 - Bi-Weekly Meeting
- Preparing Help Documentation for the CARS Application
- Executing final Data Conversion practice runs and the migration of Legacy Correspondence and Lobbyist Photos in CARS
- Final End-to-End System Testing started August 10th, Target Acceptance October
- Final End-to-End UAT begins August 17th, Target Acceptance October

DATA CONVERSION



Date	Legacy Schema Record Count	CARS Schema Record Count	Total Record Count
2/24/2026	85,857,882	15,589,494	101,447,376
4/27/2026	87,952,886	121,011,757	208,964,643
5/27/2026	87,952,886	125,578,442	213,531,328
6/12/2026	87,952,886	126,148,737	214,101,623
7/13/2026	90,058,552	138,511,720	228,570,272
7/27/2026	90,058,552	166,046,535	256,105,087
8/10/2026	90,058,552	169,278,961	259,337,513
8/14/2026	94,001,216	180,675,804	274,677,020
8/24/2026	94,001,216	181,541,034	275,542,250
9/7/2026	94,001,216	186,727,574	280,728,790

THIRD-PARTY SOFTWARE VENDORS



- Continue twice monthly meetings to address Application Programming Interface (API) questions and review API specifications
 - Continue troubleshooting, bug fixes with the Vendors
- Publish updates to API specifications after every Sprint
- Weekly checkpoints with vendors testing

DRAFT SCHEDULE – PHASES FOR PREPARATION AND TESTING



Timeline:

Phase	Timeline
Phase 1: Pre-certification Setup (12 of 13 completed)	10/6/25 – 12/19/25
Phase 2: Integration Testing/User Acceptance Testing (Vendors identify testing time slots)	2/23/26 – 9/4/26, extended
Phase 3: Certification	8/24/26 – 10/16/26

- Each Vendor must complete all three phases of the process to certify with CARS for November 2026
- After CARS go-live, no new vendors will be added until after February 28, 2027

CARS THIRD-PARTY SOFTWARE VENDORS – FORMS AVAILABLE FOR TESTING



Campaign Forms

- Form 400/402 - Slate Mailer Organization Statement of Organization
- Form 401 - Slate Mailer Organization Campaign Statement
- Form 409 – Limited Liability Company (LLC) Statement of members
- Form 460/450/425 – Recipient Committee Campaign Statement
- Form 461 - Independent Expenditure Committee and Major Donor Committee Campaign Statement
- Form 496 – 24 hr/10 day Independent Expenditure Report
- Form 498 – Late Payment Report
- Form 501/470/470S - Candidate Intention Statement
- Form 507 – Business Entity Advocacy & Advertisement Statement of Online Activity
- E-530 - Communications Identifying State Candidates
- 410 – Statement of Organization
- 511 – Paid Spokesman

Lobbying Forms

- Form 601/605/606/607 – Lobbying Firm Registration
- Form 602 – Lobbying Firm Activity Authorization
- Form 603/606/607 - Lobbyist Employer/Lobbying Coalition Registration Statement
- Form 604/606/607 - Lobbyist Certification Statement
- Form 615/690 – Lobbyist Report
- Form 625/690 – Report of Lobbying Firm
- Form 630 – Payments made to Lobbying Coalitions
- Form 635/630/635-c/640/690 - Report of Lobbyist Employer/Lobbying Coalition
- Form 645/640/690 – Report of \$5000 Filer

**2 remaining to be developed – (2) SB459 (CR-035),
not required until Jan. 2028**

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE VENDORS



3rd Party SW Vendor	Status
Aristotle (4)	Successful submission 1 Form, continuing to test
Capital Webworks (12)	Done
Campaign Deputy (6)	Successful submission of all forms, continuing to test
<u>Directfile</u> (6)	Done
DDC (3)	Successful submission of all forms, continuing to test
<u>Filpac</u> LLC (1)	Done
Granicus (7)	Successful submission of 2 forms, continuing to test

3rd Party SW Vendor	Status
<u>ISPolitical</u> (21)	Successful submissions on 19 forms, continuing to test, working issues
<u>Netfile</u> (21)	Successful submissions on 21 forms, continuing to test
NGP VAN (9)	Done
Pasadena Consulting Group (13)	Successful submission of all forms, continuing to test
Public Affairs Support Services (3)	Development in Process
Quorum (5)	Successful submission of all forms, continuing to test
Scout Lunar (13)	Done

EXECUTION STATUS



Forms	Status
501: Candidate Intention	Signed off by five vendors; actively tested by others.
400: Slate Mailer Organization	Signed off by five vendors; actively tested by others.
401: SMO Campaign Statement	Signed off by four vendors; actively tested by others.
603: Lobbyist Employer Registration	Signed off by three vendors; actively tested by others.
604: Lobbyist Certification	Signed off by three vendors; actively tested by others.
615: Lobbyist Report	Signed off by three vendors; actively tested by others.
635/635-C/630/640: Report of Lobbyist Employer/Coalition	Signed off by three vendors; actively tested by others.
410: Recipient Committee Statement of Organization	Signed off by five vendors; actively tested by others.
461: Major Donor/Independent Expenditure Committee Campaign Statement	Signed off by eight vendors; actively tested by others.

EXECUTION STATUS



Forms	Status
511: Paid Spokesperson Report	Signed off by four vendors; actively tested by others.
498: Late Payment Report (SMO)	Signed off by six vendors; actively tested by others.
601: Lobbying Firm Registration	Signed off by three vendors; actively tested by others.
460/450/425: Recipient Committee Campaign Statement	Signed off by ten vendors; actively tested by others.
496: 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report	Signed off by eight vendors; actively tested by others.
645/640: Report of \$5,000 Filer & Other Payments to Influence Reporting	Signed off by two vendors; actively tested by others.
625/630: Report of Lobbying Firm & Payments Made to Lobbying Coalitions	Signed off by three vendors; actively tested by others.
E-530: Communications Identifying State Candidates	Signed off by four vendors; actively tested by others.
497: 24-hour Contribution Report	Signed off by eight vendors; actively tested by others.
409: Limited Liability Company (LLC) Statement of Members	Signed off by three vendors; actively tested by others.
507: Business Entity: Advocacy & Advertisements Statement of Online Activity	Signed off by four vendors; actively tested by others.

SEPTEMBER EXTERNAL USER TESTING



Testing Window

- September 14th – October 9th
 - Sign up for a few days or for the full testing period based on your availability
 - Deadline to sign up is **August 21st**

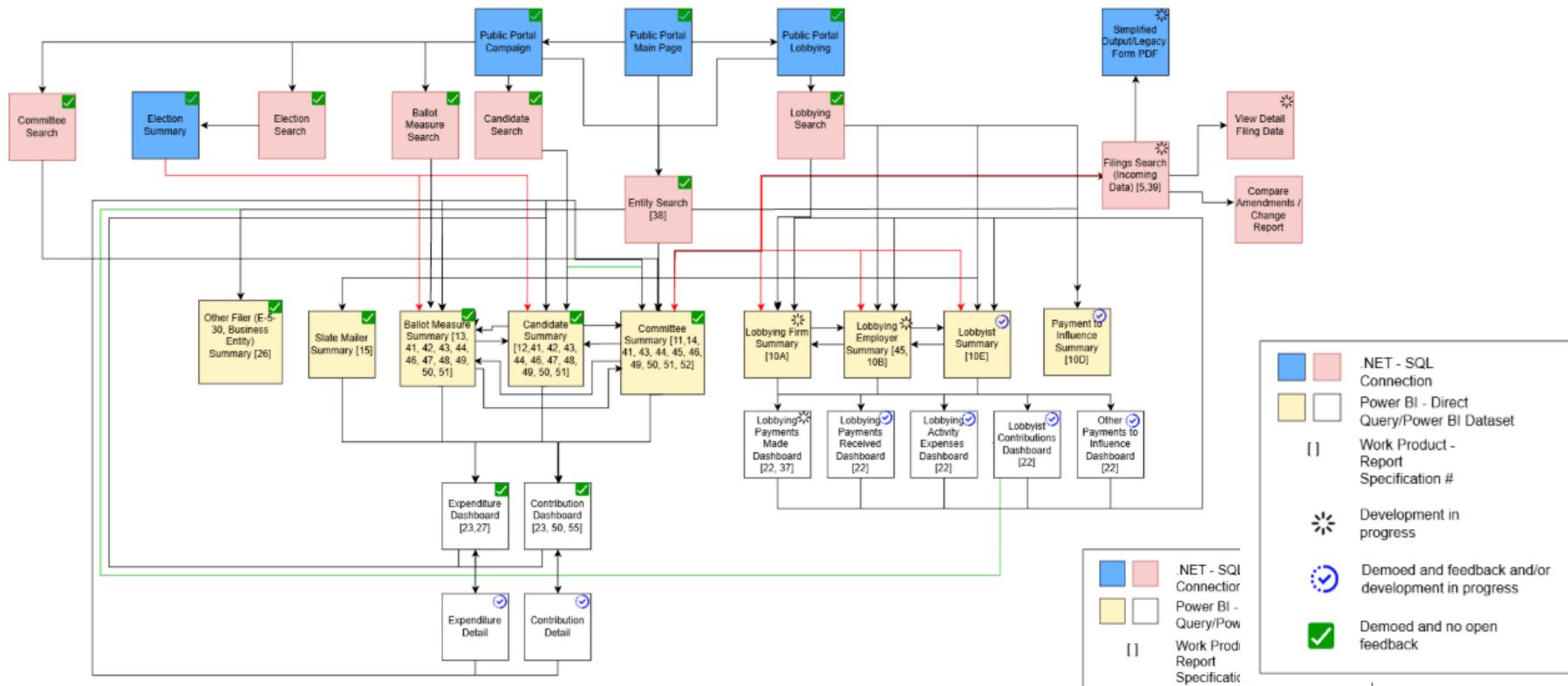
Testers Signed Up

- 53 testers
 - Representation from campaign, lobbying, data consumers, third party software vendors and partner agencies

Public Portal Site Map

Thompson, Madison Yesterday

Public Portal Site Map



QUESTIONS / FOLLOW-UPS



- Public Portal: Are we going to see intermediaries in CARS, like ActBlue?
 - Update: Yes, CARS does track intermediaries, added to Public Portal report

QUESTIONS / FOLLOW-UPS



- California Political Treasurers Association Annual Conference on June 26:
 - Implementation concern: Third Party Vendors – All entities having to register in CARS at "go-live"
 - Update: Investigating ways to work with Third Party Vendors to semi-automate the process and eliminate the requirement to sign into CARS. We will provide an update at the next meeting
- Testing:
 - We need your help with Testing, External Stakeholder testing starting 9/8

Information & Feedback Channels

INFORMATION & FEEDBACK CHANNELS



- Next Third-Party Software Vendor API Meetings will be held on Tuesday 9/22/2026 and 10/13/2026 at 10:30 a.m.
- Next External Stakeholder Meeting on Wednesday, 10/14/2026 at 1:30 p.m.
- PRD Website for [Quarterly Updates](#)
- Post-meeting survey: [September 9, 2026](#)



CARS Project Email Address
Submit questions and comments to the
CARS project team:

PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov

Visit the **CARS Project website**

[CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project](#)

- View documents, news, and events
- Sign up to receive project updates

Visit the **CARS Go-Live Updates website**

[CAL-ACCESS Replacement System \(CARS\) Go-Live Updates](#)



**Sign up for
e-updates**



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State

CARS WEBSITE REMINDERS

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CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project

Helpful Resources

[How To File Electronically](#)

[Electronic Filing Password Request](#)

[Elections Division](#)

[Federal Election Commission \(FEC\)](#)

[Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\)](#)

[Political Reform Audit Program for the California Franchise Tax Board](#)

[Ballot Measure Total Contributions](#)



CARS
CAL-ACCESS REPLACEMENT SYSTEM
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

The California Automated Lobbyist and Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Search System (CAL-ACCESS) was developed to respond to the objectives of the Online Disclosure Act, added to the Political Reform Act by Ch. 866, Stats of 1997.

CAL-ACCESS is the public's window into California's campaign disclosure and lobbying financial activity, providing financial information supplied by state candidates, donors, lobbyists, lobbyist employers, and others. The CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) Project will implement a new data driven system replacing the existing form driven system.

To receive updates on the project as they become available follow the "sign up for e-updates" link at the bottom of this page, and, after entering your email address, select to subscribe to the CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project Updates email list.

To reach us directly, send an email to prdcars@sos.ca.gov, call (916) 653-6224, or write to: Secretary of State, Political Reform Division, 1500 11th Street, Rm 495, Sacramento, CA 95814.

News & Updates

News & Updates for information prior to 2024 can be found on the [CARS Project Pre-2024 Archive page](#).

- June 10, 2026:** Details for the monthly June Stakeholder meeting are in the [June 10, 2026, CARS Project External Stakeholder Meeting PowerPoint](#).
- June 8, 2026:** Please take a few minutes to read our June newsletter, the [CARS Stakeholder Bulletin](#). It contains a few words from our Project Leadership Team, CARS Project updates and accomplishments, and a look ahead at our

[CARS Project Archive](#)



California Secretary of State
Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

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The following news and references are for the previous solution (prior to 2024) and may no longer apply. Current updates can be found on the CARS Project homepage.

Project References

- 2019 Draft version 1.07 of the CAL-ACCESS XML file specifications document (XSD)(ZIP)
- 2019 Draft version 0.12 of the CAL Access Application Programming Interface (API) Requirements (PDF)
- 2017 CAL-ACCESS Replacement Project, System Integrator Vendor, Request for Offer
- 2015 SIBA (PDF)
- 2012 15 - State Survey (PDF)
- 2013 Request for Information (RFI) and Responses (PDF)

CARS Software Vendor/Service Provider Meeting Presentations

- March 30, 2021, CARS Software Vendor-Service Provider Meeting
- January 21, 2021, CARS Software Vendor-Service Provider Meeting
- November 30, 2020, CARS Software Vendor-Service Provider Meeting
- September 10, 2020, CARS Software Vendor-Service Provider Meeting
- July 8, 2020, CARS Software Vendor-Service Provider Meeting

For questions about project communications: PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov

Appendix

Q&A PARKING LOT

July 8, 2026 – Questions

- Will electronic signatures be required on forms such as the 602 and 605?
- Is there a list of character limitations for different fields?
- Are there fields for comments/explanations of unusual situations in Activity Reporting screens (formerly Form 460)?
- For registration documents, will lobbyist statements be linked to the 601/605 and future amendments?
- Will simplified output PDFs replace fillable PDFs currently available on the FPPC site?
- Will tutorials for lobbying activity reporting be made available well before the go-live date?
- How does the Activity Expense data in the new CAL-ACCESS differ from Activity Expense data on the current Form 635?

PROGRAM INCREMENT I – ACCEPTED



Program Increment I – Design, Development, Testing: End to End Workstream

Campaign	Lobbying
Candidate	Lobbyist Employer/Coalition
State Mailer Organization	Lobbyist
Recipient Committee	Lobbying Firm/\$5000 filer
Major Donor/Independent/Other Specific Campaign Types	

- SOS and Prime Vendor completed Program Increment I final acceptance

PROGRAM INCREMENT I – ACCEPTED



Activities: Design, Development, Unit Testing, System Testing, User Acceptance Testing

- Development and Unit Testing Complete:
 - ✓ Requirements: 1469 of 3,336 (excludes Change Requests) total requirements included (44%)
- System Testing: 490 Functional Test Cases passed
- User Acceptance Testing: 192 Test Cases passed
- Training developed and delivered to User Acceptance Testing participants

KEY PROGRAM INCREMENT I

– FUNCTIONALITY ACCEPTED



Campaign

- Register (Initial/Amend):
 - Candidate: Candidate Intention Statement
 - Slate Mailer Organization: Statement of Organization
 - Recipient Committee: Statement of Organization
- Establish: Major Donors, Independent Expenditure, and \$5000 Filers
- Attest, Request Linkages, Withdraw, Terminate, Dispose Linkages, Upload Activity Transactions
- Activity Reports (Initial/Amend):
 - Officeholder/Candidate Campaign Statements (includes short-form)
 - Slate Mailer Organization Campaign Statement
 - Independent Expenditure Committee and Major Donor Committee Campaign Statement
 - Communications Identifying Slate Mailer Candidates
 - Advocacy & Advertisements Statement of Online Activity
 - Paid Spokesperson Report

KEY PROGRAM INCREMENT I

– FUNCTIONALITY ACCEPTED



Lobbying

- Register (Initial/Amend):
 - Lobbyist Employer/Lobbying Coalition Registration Statement
 - Lobbyist Report
 - Lobbyist Certification Statement
 - Lobbying Firm Registration
 - Lobbying Firm Activity Authorization
- Attest, Request Linkages, Withdraw, Terminate, Renew, Dispose Linkages, Upload Activity Transactions
- Activity Reports (Initial/Amend):
 - Payments made to Lobbying Coalitions
 - Payments Received by Lobbying Coalitions
 - Report of Lobbyist Employer/Lobbying Coalition
 - Other Payments to Influence Reporting by Lobbyist Employers and \$5,000 filers
 - 72h – Issue Lobbying Advertisement Report
 - 48h – End of Session Report
 - Enter a Lobbyist Report

PROGRAM INCREMENT II – ACCEPTED



Functionality	Functionality
Financial Transactions (Invoice, Payment Services, Waiver)	Common Services – Filer Portal and User Account Management
System Administration – PRD Staff	Remaining Disclosures

- Development and Unit Testing complete
 - ✓ Requirements: 927 out of 3,336 (28%), excludes Change Requests
- System Test completed
 - 256 of 256 functional test cases passed
- User Acceptance Testing and Data Conversion Testing completed
 - 132 of 132 test cases have passed
- Training developed and delivered to User Acceptance Testing participants

PROGRAM INCREMENT IIA – ACCEPTED



Program Increment II – Design, Development, Testing: End-to-End Workstreams

Financial Transaction

FT-01: Create an Invoice

FT-02: Adjust an Invoice/Re-allocate a Payment

FT-03: Cancel an Invoice

FT-04: Cancel an Invoice for a Terminated Entity

FT-05: Enter and Post an Online (Credit Card) Payment

FT-06: Enter and Post a Manual Payment

FT-07: Cancel a Receipt

FT-09: Create a Waiver Request

FT-10: Process a Waiver Decision

PROGRAM INCREMENT IIA – ACCEPTED



Program Increment II – Design, Development, Testing: End-to-End Workstreams

System Administration/User Account Management/Common Components

Filer Portal – Common Service/Navigation

SA-01.2: Configure System

SA-01.2A: PRD Portal Common Services/Navigation

BCS7: Job Scheduler

SA-01.2D: Manage Batch Processes

SA-01.2C: PRD Disclosure

PROGRAM INCREMENT IIB – ACCEPTED



Functions	Functions
24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report (496)	Common Services – PRD Portal and Audit Logs
24-hour/10-day Contribution Report (497)	System Administration – Link Initiatives & Ballot Measures
Late Payment Report (498)	Lobbying Firm Report (625)
Recipient Committee Campaign Statement (460)	\$5000 Filer Report (645)
Portal: My Filer/Filer Summary/ Registrations/ Disclosures	Void and Reinstate a Lobbyist
Bulk data uploads – MD/IE, Recipient Committee, Lobbying Firm	