



Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) Konnech History

A review of documentation and current events related to the implementation timeline, development evolution, and organizational structure of Montana's UOCAVA online voting system; software developed in collaboration with voting software company Konnech Inc and CEO Eugene Yu.

Research prepared October 11, 2022 by:

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What is the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS)?

2022 Montana Secretary of State EAS Overview

THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT (UOCAVA)

UOCAVA created special provisions to make registering to vote, obtaining, returning, and tracking absentee ballots easier for members of the armed forces, their families and overseas U.S. citizens who are absent from their Montana voting residence.

ELECTRONIC ABSENTEE SYSTEM (EAS)

The **EAS** provides Montana voters covered under **UOCAVA** with a one-stop online service to seamlessly prepare voter registration materials and mark their ballot.

UOCAVA Voters

Montana resident
their place of residence

- Member of the armed forces
- Spouse or dependent
- U.S. citizen resident

AVAILABILITY

Montana resident

• Access the **EAS** from either:

- The Secretary of State's website: <https://sosmt.gov/elections/military-overseas/>
- The EAS website: <https://www.Vote4Montana.us>

• Complete the affirmation and user information.

- Once approved, an email will be sent to confirm your information and provide a pin # to access your ballot.
- Follow the instructions for each step of the online service.

Step 2: Mark Ballot

- Mark your ballot selections.
- Review and confirm your ballot selections.

Step 3: Submit Ballot

- Select your ballot submission method:
- Depending on the return method you selected, save or print your marked ballot and related materials.
 - If returning by email, you must first save as a PDF, then attach to an email. Ensure your identification number (MT driver's license number OR last four of social security number) or digital signature is used in lieu of signature are included on the cover sheet.
 - If returning by fax or mail, ensure that your cover sheet includes your signature.
- Return your ballot and supporting documents to your Montana county election office.
- Track your ballot online at My Voter Page or contact your Montana county election office.

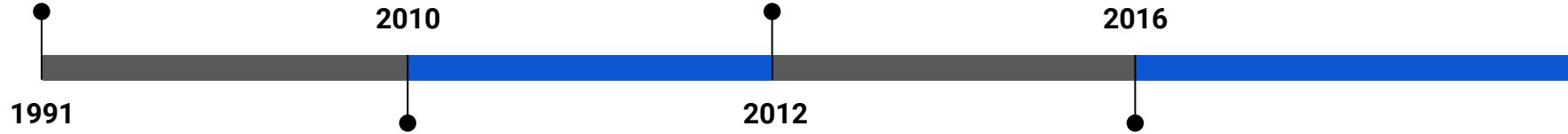


Montana Legislature Passes HB 225

“An act permitting election administrators to allow registration and voting by facsimile transmission.” ([link](#))

Montana Secretary of State FVAP Grant Proposal

Secretary of State Linda McCulloch requests grant funding from Federal Voting Assistance Program to finalize Electronic Voter Support Wizard into the Montana Electronic Absentee System. Konnech and Eugene Yu listed as contractors. ([link](#)) ([Exhibit B](#))



1991

2010

2012

2016

Department of Defense Grant Award for Electronic Voting Support Wizard for UOCAVA voters

Grant awarded to Konnech for “research and development for online wizard providing absentee voting capability for the State of **Montana**.” ([link](#))

From 2012 SoS Federal Voting Assistance Program Grant Proposal lays out Konnech collaboration:

“In 2010, the Montana Secretary of State was one of 17 state election officials that participated in the Federal Voting Assistance Program’s Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVSU) project.

*The Secretary of State worked with the vendor who was the successful bidder for the project for **Montana, Konnech Inc.**, to develop Montana’s EVSU; a model that was calculated by FVAP to have the highest usage rate among participating states.”*

Konnech Partners with Votem

Konnech enters partnership with election software company Votem, touting long-term partnership with Eugene Yu. ([link](#))

*“We are so pleased to add the **ABVote** product line as a complement to our Mobile Voting Platform (MVP)™. **Eugene Yu** and his team have built outstanding products for the mobile and online voting space. Even more importantly, they have given care and attention in deploying them at jurisdictions such as the **State of Montana** and Washington, DC so Votem benefits from now having an end-to-end mobile voting product line as well as a larger satisfied customer base. Eugene and **Konnech** are well respected in this industry and **we look forward to continuing our partnership with them well into the future.**”*

ABVote® in North America is administered by Votem, Inc., and by Konnech throughout the rest of the world. ([Exhibit C](#))

LA District Attorney Arrests Eugene Yu

Eugene Yu, CEO of Konnech, Inc., is arrested by Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon in connection with poll worker data stored on servers in the People's Republic of China. ([link](#)) ([Exhibit E](#))

Oct 6 2022

Oct 4 2022

Detroit, Michigan Halts Use of Konnech Software

"Detroit Clerk Janice Winfrey says her office has decided to stop using a Michigan-based election software vendor that's facing a high-profile data breach allegation involving poll worker information." ([link](#))

Fairfax, Virginia Halts Use of Konnech Software

Since learning about the arrest, the Fairfax County Office of Elections has halted using Konnech's PollChief election officer management software, Eric Spicer, the director and general registrar of the county's Office of Elections, said in an emailed statement to The Epoch Times on Oct. 6." ([link](#))

Montana Electronic Absentee System

2012 Technical Proposal Montana Secretary of State

CFDA: 12.217

BAA: HQ0034-FVAP-11-BAA-0001

CAGE Code: [REDACTED]

DUNS: [REDACTED]

Montana Secretary of State, Linda McCulloch

Administrative Contact:

Lisa Kimmet
PO Box 202801
Helena, Montana 59620
lkimmet@mt.gov
P: (406) 444-5376
F: (406) 444-2023

Technical Contact:

Justus Wendland Casey Sj
PO Box 202801
Helena, Montana 59620
jw@mt.gov
P: (406) 444-7911
F: (406) 444-2023

Signature: [REDACTED] 11.4.2013

Name: Lisa Kimmet

Period of Performance: July 1, 2011 – December 31, 2020

06 January 2012 through 30 November

Executive Summary

Access to voting for Montana's absent military citizens, their families, and overseas citizens long been a priority for the Montana Secretary of State. Montana has been at the forefront providing electronic voting capabilities for UOCAVA voters for several decades. Past legislation authorizing the use of electronic means for voting in 1991, Montana was one of the first states to address the challenges for voters covered under UOCAVA.

In 2010, the Montana Secretary of State was one of 17 state election officials that participate in the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVS Wizard) program and was one of a handful of states that included all local jurisdictions in the program. The Secretary of State worked with the vendor who was the successful bidder for the project, Montana, **Konnech** Inc., to develop Montana's EVS Wizard; a model that was calculated by FVA to have the highest usage rate among participating states.

Planning for the 2012 election cycle, Montana has the advantage of being able to analyze successes and failures of the 2010 program, and to build a better product for even better results for 2012.

The Secretary of State has been working since completion of the 2010 general election to strengthen the electronic ballot marking tool to address the following main areas:

- Security of the elector's provided personal identification number
- Seamless access to and preparation of voter registration materials
- Accurate ballot access for new/updated registrants
- Electronic ballot access for primary election as well as general election
- Defined tracking of types of users for utilization in the national research effort
- Outreach to UOCAVA voters regarding availability of services, including the electronic absentee system

These efforts will not only benefit absent military voters, their families and overseas citizens but will also benefit the national research effort by providing more detailed data on each type of user, as well as data on the trend for voter registration and successful ballot marking for UOCAVA voters.

Montana's tradition of high voter participation for UOCAVA voters, combined with outreach and access efforts during the 2012 election cycle made possible with the FVAP grant program, will help Montana to again be at the forefront for voter satisfaction for all eligible UOCAVA voters. A voter who utilized Montana's system the best, summing up the affect the Wizard had on his right to vote:

*"Hi Diane,
The voting system itself was easy to use and greatly appreciated. Last time I was even try to vote, with this system I will everytime..... I would recommend it for absentee ballot. Mattingly, Joseph"*

TECHNICAL APPROACH

Montana's technical approach is detailed below and includes descriptions of the goals of the Secretary of State that meet the Federal Voting Assistance Program's grant objectives to assist UOCAVA voters.

Goals and Objectives

Goal No. 1

To improve the UOCAVA voter experience in Montana through the development of a successful, sustainable and affordable Electronic Absentee System (EAS). This goal was partially met in 2010 with the Ballot Marking Wizard established in conjunction with the FVAP and **Konnech**, Inc. Enhancements to the 2010 service will further improve those voting opportunities.

- **Successful:** Montana's 2010 absentee service was calculated by FVAP to have the highest usage rate among participating states. Montana can build on that success by implementing the enhancements described in this proposal.
- **Sustainable:** Montana's Electronic Absentee Service will be sustainable because of the Montana Secretary of State's commitment to researching and providing new and innovative approaches to making voting more efficient and accessible for voters covered under UOCAVA. Sustainability funding will be provided by remaining funds in Montana's Help America Vote Act fund, office funds, and Federal Voting Assistance Grant funds.
- **Affordable:** Montana plans to partner with **Konnech**, Inc. to build the 2012 service, utilizing a 2010 FVAP grant opportunity. Between **Konnech**, Inc. and the Montana Secretary of State, resources in the form of personnel and time have been allocated to developing the necessary enhancements to the service for 2012. Technology that was developed for another service, the Google Voting Information Project is used to match a voter with the correct precinct specific ballot, drastically reducing development costs. Affordability for 2012 is

Collaborations

Montana's collaborative efforts will involve working closely with, and seeking ideas and input from the following entities:

- The Federal Voting Assistance Program
- The Montana National Guard
- Montana Army, Navy, Air Force, and Reserve units, through commanders and contact established during the 2010 Wizard process
- Montana's 56 county election administrators
- The Montana Election and Technology Advisory Council
- A consortium of states with the same ballot creation vendor, including North and South Dakota

Contractors

- Konnech Inc.
 - Eugene Yu
 - Laura Potter

Current and Pending Project Proposal Submissions

- Montana is not involved in any complimentary proposals, current or pending

Montana Electronic Absentee System
2012 Technical Proposal Montana Secretary of State.
Federal Voting Assistance Program grant application.

https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Grants/Montana_application.pdf

Department of Defense Grant

From Jul. 2010 to Jan. 2011, the **Department of Defense** granted **Konnech** with a Blanket Purchase Agreement award of \$91,617 ([exhibit D](#)) to “provide research and development for an online wizard providing absentee voting capability for the **State of Montana.**”

Montana Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVSW)

Montana Electronic Voting Support Wizard implemented in 2010 for UOCAVA voting “in conjunction with FVAP and **Konnech, Inc.**” as noted in 2012 FVAP grant proposal from **Montana Secretary of State** Linda McCulloch.

Montana SoS FVAP Grant Application

In 2012, **Montana Secretary of State** Linda McCulloch requests Federal Voting Assistance Program grant to “improve the UOCAVA voter experience in Montana through the development of a successful, sustainable and affordable **Electronic Absentee System (EAS).**”

Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS)

Since at least 2013, the **Montana EAS** has been active, according to Internet Archive which recorded [snapshots](#) of portal ([vote4montana.us](#)).



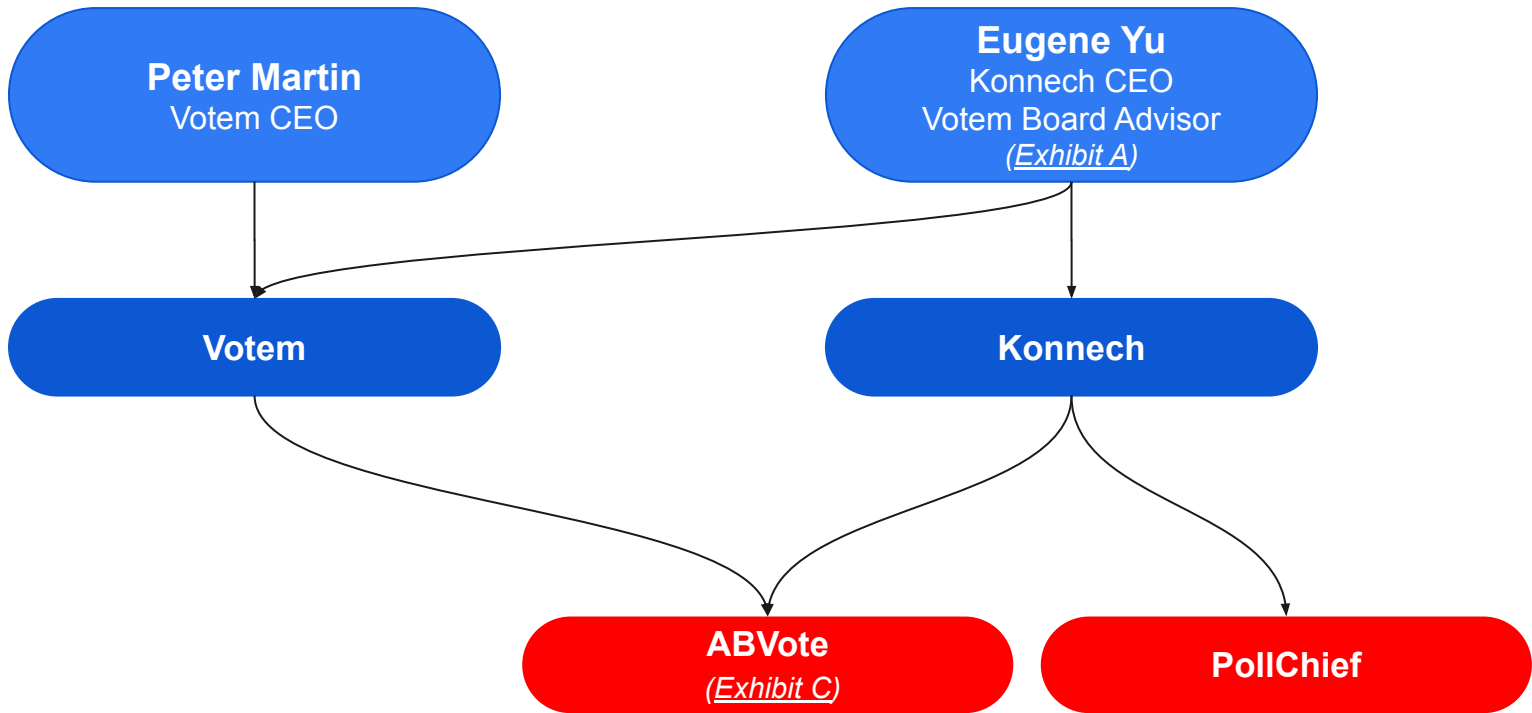
Konnech and Votem Partnership

In February 2016, **Votem** entered into a partnership with **Konnech** for access to their **ABVote** software. The software was deployed prior to 2016 in Montana for use as the **Montana Electronic Absentee System**.

Pete Martin, CEO of Votem, stated, "We are so pleased to add the ABVote product line as a complement to our Mobile Voting Platform (MVP)". Eugene Yu and his team have built outstanding products for the mobile and online voting space. Even more importantly, they have given care and attention in deploying them at jurisdictions such as the **State of Montana** and Washington, DC so Votem benefits from now having an end-to-end mobile voting product line as well as a larger satisfied customer base. Eugene and Konnech are well respected in this industry and we look forward to continuing our partnership with them well into the future."

Eugene Yu, CEO of Konnech, remarked, "Votem has quickly become a leader in the online voting market with a number of exciting accomplishments including the completion of their Global Innovation Challenge which brought together some of the best minds in the world to develop their secure online voting platform. Konnech is very happy to become a long-term partner of Votem so we can contribute our industry experience to speed up the implementation of new voting technologies, and enjoy mutual success in what is both a challenging and rewarding business."

[Votem Announces Acquisition of Mobile Voting Business. February 15, 2016](#)

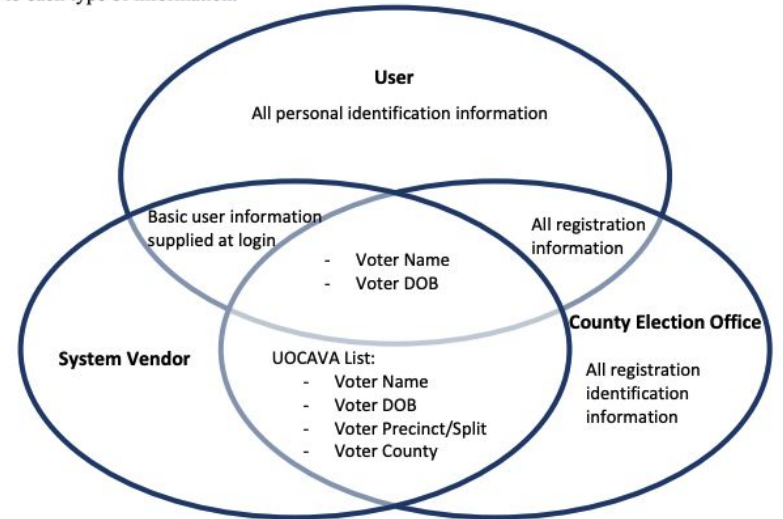


*Konnech and Votem
Relationship*

Personal Identification Information

The personal identification information of UOCAVA and disabled persons using the Montana Electronic Absentee System is accessible to Konnech including: login information, name, DOB, precinct, county,

The following diagram displays the correlation between personal information and the party with access to each type of information.



Source: Montana FVAP Grant Proposal (Page 5)

Konnech Chinese Counterpart

Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd is chinese company that “focuses on providing software products and overall solutions related to election, voting and voting for domestic government organs at all levels, CPPCC [Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference],” according to an [announcement](#) for the company on Weibo, the Chinese version of Twitter.

In the announcement, the company’s “predecessor” was named as “Konnech., Ltd.” described as a company founded in 2005 that does “software offshoring services for more than a decade, listing the State of Montana as a client.



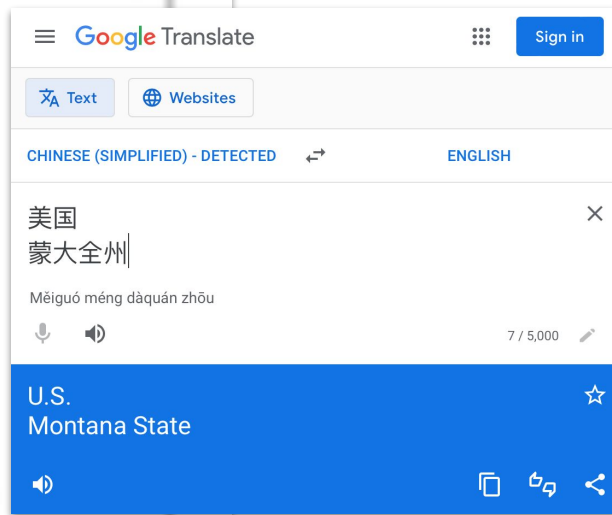
Page machine translated to English

Jin Huahong is pursuing a corporate culture of "caring, pragmatism and innovation". Founded in November 2005, its predecessor, **Konnech., Ltd.** is a software company that has been engaged in software offshoring services for more than a decade as a partner of Microsoft for 10 years. r Partner and Apple's six-year-old iOS Enterprise Developer have multi-software copyright and product invention patents.

Overseas customers served more than 20 government customers in North America, including Washington, D.C., and Edmonton, Canada.

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
|  美国 华盛顿特区 |  美国弗吉尼亚州 劳登谷郡 |  美国密歇根州 底特律市 |  美国密苏里州 圣路易斯郡 |  EDMONTON elections 加拿大阿尔伯塔省 埃德蒙顿市 |
|  美国 蒙大拿州 |  美国弗吉尼亚州 威廉王子郡 |  美国密苏里州 圣查尔斯郡 |  美国佛罗里达州 希尔斯伯勒郡 |  REGINA 加拿大萨斯喀彻温省 里贾纳市 |

Source: Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd. Weibo. April 14, 2016
<https://archive.ph/8xlqe>

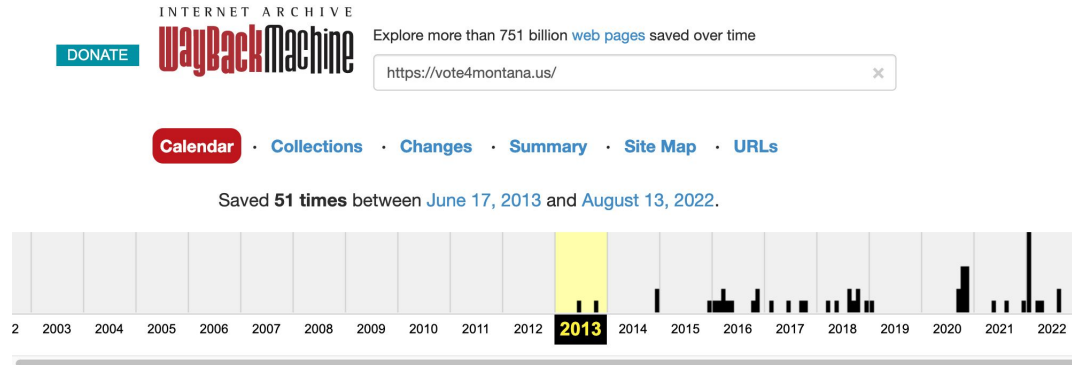


The Seal of the State of Montana on Chinese election software company Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd. website.




Montana EAS Portal

The **Montana EAS** platform portal has been in use since at least 2013, according to Internet Archive snapshots. The portal's software version has moved sequentially from 1.0.x to 2.0.0 since at least **December 14, 2014 to October 10, 2022**.




https://vote4montana.us/ Go OCT DEC DEC 22 2013 2014 2016 About this capture

51 captures 17 Jun 2013 - 13 Aug 2022

 **MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE LINDA McCULLOCH
MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTER EMPOWERMENT (MOVE) ACT
ELECTRONIC ABSENTEE SYSTEM (EAS)**
www.Vote4Montana.US

Version 1.0.140830



Polls in Montana have now closed.

If you are currently unregistered, and would like to register and request absentee ballots for future elections, please fill out an FPCA and submit it to your county election office. Register and request an absentee ballot for the next election by clicking [HERE](#).

You can track election results as they come in at: <http://electionresults.sos.mt.gov>


Thank you for visiting the Montana Electronic Absentee System.

Montana Secretary of State • P.O. Box 202801 • Helena, MT 59620-2801
(406) 444-9685 or toll free at 1-888-884-8683 • sos elections@mt.gov • Fax (406) 444-2023
[List of Montana County Election Administrators](#)


December 2014
Version 1.0.140830

https://vote4montana.us/ Go DEC FEB MAR 07 2014 2016 2017 About this capture

51 captures 17 Jun 2013 - 13 Aug 2022

 **MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE LINDA McCULLOCH
MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTER EMPOWERMENT (MOVE) ACT
ELECTRONIC ABSENTEE SYSTEM (EAS)**
www.Vote4Montana.US

Version 1.0.140830



Thank for your interest in the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas citizen voters. The EAS will open for the 2016 Primary Election to voters covered under UOCAVA and allow them to access and mark a ballot, starting at 8 a.m. Mountain Time, on April 22nd, 2016, and will close at 8 p.m. on primary election day, June 7, 2016. The system will be available for the 2016 General Election starting at 8 a.m. Mountain Time on September 23 and will close at 8 p.m. on general election day, November 8, 2016.

If you are currently unregistered and you would like to register before the EAS opens for voting, or if you would like to update your voter registration, you can do so by clicking this [link](#), completing the form, saving it as a PDF and emailing it to the contact information provided for your county.

If you are unsure about, or you would like to verify your registration status, please visit [My Voter Page](#), or visit the Montana Secretary of State's website at sos.mt.gov.

February 2016
Version 1.0.140830




Platform Screenshots

https://www.vote4montana.us/ Go JUN OCT MAR 15 2016 2017 2018 About this capture

51 captures
17 Jun 2013 - 13 Aug 2022

Montana Secretary Of State Corey Stapleton Military And Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act Electronic Absentee System (EAS)

www.Vote4Montana.US Version 1.0.170913



Thank you for your interest in the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas citizen voters. The EAS will open to voters covered under UOCAVA for the 2017 Federal Special Election starting at 8:00 AM MDT on Monday, April 10th and will close at 8:00 PM MDT on election day, May 25, 2017.

If you are currently unregistered and would like to register before the EAS opens for voting, or if you would like to update your voter registration, you can do so by clicking this [link](#), completing the form, saving it as a PDF and emailing it to your county election office. A list of county election office contact information can be found [here](#).

If you are unsure about, or you would like to verify your registration status, please visit [My Voter Page](#), or visit the Montana Secretary of State's website at [sos.mt.gov](#).

You can track election results as they come in at: [electionresults.sos.mt.gov](#). If you have any questions, please contact [soselections@mt.gov](#)

Montana Secretary of State • P.O. Box 202801 • Helena, MT 59620-2801
(406) 444-7911 or toll free at 1-888-884-8683 • [soselections@mt.gov](#) • Fax (406) 444-2023
[List of Montana County Election Administrators](#)


October 2017
Version 1.0.170913

Platform Screenshots



https://www.vote4montana.us/election/2429332b-c8e8-42b3-b3bd-e8ccf0cdf029 Go SEP OCT NOV 20 2019 2020 2022 About this capture

13 captures
20 Oct 2020 - 30 Mar 2022



www.Vote4Montana.us Need Help?

Montana Secretary Of State Corey Stapleton
Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act
Electronic Absentee System (EAS) Version 2.0.0

Request Ballot Mark Ballot Submit Ballot

Thank you for your interest in Montana's Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas voters. The EAS will open to voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) for the 2020 Federal General Election beginning at 8:00AM MDT on Friday September 18, 2020 and will close at 8:00PM MST, on November 3, 2020.

If you are not registered to vote in Montana or need to update your voter registration before the EAS is available on September 18, 2020, click [here](#). Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), save as a PDF and email to your local county election office. Montana County Election contact information can be found [here](#).

To verify your registration status visit [sosmt.gov](#).

You can track election results on election day at: [https://sosmt.gov](#). If you have any questions, please contact [soselectionshelp@service.mt.gov](#) or call [406-444-9608](#) or toll free [888-884-8683](#).

1. Request a PIN 2. Sign in and Vote

Waiting for web.archive.org...

October 2020
Version 2.0.0

The screenshot shows the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) website. At the top left is the Montana State Seal. The header includes the URL www.Vote4Montana.us, the text "Need Help?", and the Montana Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen's name and title: "Montana Secretary Of State Christi Jacobsen, Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, Electronic Absentee System (EAS)". The version number "Version 2.0.0" is in the top right. Below the header is a navigation bar with three items: "Request Ballot", "Mark Ballot", and "Submit Ballot", each with a checkmark icon. The main content area contains a thank-you message for interest in the EAS, stating it opens for the 2022 General Election on September 23, 2022, and closes on November 8, 2022. It provides instructions for non-registered voters to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and offers links for registration status verification and election results tracking. At the bottom of the main content area are two blue buttons: "1. Register and get your PIN" and "2. Sign in and Vote". The footer contains three links: "FIND YOUR COUNTY", "MAIL ADDRESS", and "EMAIL OR CALL".

October 2022
Version 2.0.0

Platform Screenshots

crunchbase Search Crunchbase Advanced START FREE TRIAL Solutions

Votem Corp

Summary Financials People Technology Signals & News

Board Member and Advisor Profiles

Number of Board Member and Advisor Profiles
8

Votem Corp has 8 board members and advisors, including Steve Babbage.







| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>Steve Babbage Advisor Sep 6, 2015</p> |  <p>Michael Barrett Advisor Sep 24, 2015</p> |
|  <p>Peter Haynes Advisor Jul 17, 2015</p> |  <p>Eugene Yu Advisor</p> |
|  <p>Alex Tapscott Advisor Mar 13, 2017</p> |  <p>Ian Scaffe Advisor Feb 2018</p> |

Exhibit A - Votem Corp Crunchbase Board Member Profiles
<https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/votem-corp/people>

Collaborations

Montana's collaborative efforts will involve working closely with, and seeking ideas and input from the following entities:

- The Federal Voting Assistance Program
- The Montana National Guard
- Montana Army, Navy, Air Force, and Reserve units, through commanders and contact established during the 2010 Wizard process
- Montana's 56 county election administrators
- The Montana Election and Technology Advisory Council
- A consortium of states with the same ballot creation vendor, including North and South Dakota

Contractors

- Konnech Inc.
 - Eugene Yu
 - Laura Potter

Current and Pending Project Proposal Submissions

- Montana is not involved in any complimentary proposals, current or pending

Key Personnel

- Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State
- Lisa Kimmet, Montana Deputy Secretary of State for Elections

pollchief.com/ABVote.html

can also be set to provide online registration.

Security is the most significant attribute of this platform. The system has passed penetration testing from two well-known U.S. test laboratories, follows the guidelines of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), scrubs the users' personal data, and was developed with the experiences designing it for use in Nevada, Michigan, New Jersey, and Montana, as well as with the Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP). In addition, the smart phone mobile app was tested by City of Detroit under the terms of a grant from the Federal Voter Assistance Program.

We are also looking for your participation to enhance the platform. Civic and voting support groups are encouraged to provide feedback. Casual users are invited to forward this app or the web site link to friends. Election administrators are invited to peruse the information posted for their jurisdictions and to post their data at no charge; contact us to be given access to your jurisdiction's specific service/support channel.

ABVote® in North America is administered by Votem, Inc., and by Konnech throughout the rest of the world.

Please contact us at info@konnech.com or give us a call at 1-800-381-1499 or 517-381-1830.

usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_0003_9700_HQ056610A0004_9700

USASPENDING.gov Spending Explorer Award Search Profiles Download Resources

AWARD PROFILE **Contract Summary** Share Download

Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Call **PIID 0003** **Completed**

Unlinked Award

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Awarding Agency Department of Defense (DOD) | Recipient KONNECH' INC. 4211 OKEMOS RD STE 3 OKEMOS, MI 48861-3287 Congressional District: MI-08 UNITED STATES | Related Awards Parent Award Unique Key CONT_IDV_HQ056610A0004_9700 | Dates Start Date Jul 09, 2010 Current End Date Jan 31, 2011 Potential End Date Jan 31, 2011 |
|--|---|---|---|

| \$ Award Amounts | Description |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| \$91,617 Obligated Amount | THE EFFOR WILL PROVIDE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ON-LINE WIZARD PROVIDING ABSENTEE VOTING CAPABILITY FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA |

Exhibit D - Blanket Purchase Agreement Awarded To Konnech for “online wizard providing voting capability for the State of Montana
https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_0003_9700_HQ056610A0004_9700

da.lacounty.gov/media/news/head-election-worker-management-comp.

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[2020](#) [2021](#) [2022](#)

October 4, 2022: Head of Election Worker Management Company Arrested in Connection with Theft of Personal Data

Contact:
Media Relations Division
(213) 257-2000
Media@da.lacounty.gov

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced today that an executive with a Michigan-based company responsible for the software used in managing Los Angeles County election poll workers has been arrested as part of an investigation into the possible theft of personal identifying information of those workers.

"I want to thank my prosecutors and investigators for their commitment to eliminating cyber intrusions against government entities and local businesses," District Attorney Gascón said. "Data breaches are an ongoing threat to our digital way of life. When we entrust a company to hold our confidential data, they must be willing and able to protect our personal identifying information from theft. Otherwise, we are all victims.

This investigation is concerned solely with the personal identifying information of election workers. In this case, the alleged conduct had no impact on the tabulation of votes and did not alter election results. But security in all aspects of any election is essential so that we all have full faith in the integrity of the election process."

Earlier today, Konnech Corporation Chief Executive Officer Eugene Yu was taken into custody on suspicion of theft of personal identifying information by investigators from the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation with assistance from the Meridian Township Police Department in Michigan. In addition, hard drives and other digital evidence were seized by LADA investigators.

The District Attorney's Office is seeking Yu's extradition to Los Angeles.

Konnech distributes and sells its proprietary PollChief software, which is an election worker management system that was utilized by the county in the last California election. The software assists with poll worker assignments, communications and payroll. PollChief requires that workers submit personal identifying information, which is retained by the Konnech.

Under its \$2.9 million, five-year contract with the county, Konnech was supposed to securely maintain the data and that only United States citizens and permanent residents have access to it.

District Attorney investigators found that in contradiction to the contract, information was stored on servers in the People's Republic of China.

The East Lansing Police Department and Ingham County Sheriff's Office in Michigan also assisted in the investigation.

Exhibit E -Los Angeles County District Attorney Press Release - October 4

<https://da.lacounty.gov/media/news/head-election-worker-management-company-arrested-connection-theft-personal-data>