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June 22, 2020

Secretary of State Kim Wyman

Washington Secretary of State
Legislative Building · PO Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

RE: Request for State Certification of Runbeck Agilis Automatic Signature Verification Software

Secretary Wyman:

Pierce County Elections requests use certification of Automatic Signature Verification (ASV) Software provided by Runbeck Election Services.

During the April 2020 Special Election our office piloted this software with the assistance of your office. We used the Runbeck ASV software concurrently with manual verification. No discernable differences in acceptance rates were found when comparing the two methods.

IMPORTANT: The Runbeck ASV software only accepts signatures that match. It does not reject signatures. Signatures which are not matched are referred to the traditional manual verification / challenge / resolution process.

Pierce County Elections was very satisfied with the results and is confident in the Runbeck ASV software.

Your certification of this software will speed processing as well as reduce the number of images that need to be checked manually. It also aligns well with social distancing initiatives. We look forward to utilizing this software in the August Election and to continue building best practices and audit procedures with your team.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Anderson".

Julie Anderson
Pierce County Auditor



**Elections Division
Office of the Secretary of State**

**Report of the Secretary of State on the Examination
of Runbeck's Automatic Signature Verification
software**

May 2020

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Overview

Application

On April 8, 2020 Pierce County contacted the Office of the Secretary of State with the interest of reviewing Runbeck's Automatic Signature Verification software for use in Pierce County as allowed under WAC 434-335.

Prior to its use or purchase by any Washington county, an automated signature verification system must be reviewed and approved by the Secretary of State for use with that county's particular election management system.

Prior to approval, an automated signature verification system must:

- (1) Be able to integrate with the election management system in use by the test county and the ballot accountability processes implemented by the county;
- (2) Have variable levels of confidence which the county may adjust and set to the level as subscribed by the secretary of state in the system's approval report; and
- (3) Provide a setting that must not accept a signature that an election worker with required signature training should not accept.

Review of System

During the 2020 April Special Election, Pierce County did a 100% signature comparison by staff and compared those results to the automated signature verification results to ensure that the system did not accept any signature that an election worker would not have.

The table below shows the confidence level and total count of signatures that fell into that particular level. 100% of signatures that are a 0 – 20 confidence level will be required to be reviewed by a county staff member. Signatures that are in the 21 – 99 level should be audited at a level that ensures that any unexpected behavior is identified. An audit that is familiar with elections officials is a Risk Limiting Audit and could be used to sufficiently audit those levels. This audit would need to be performed prior to the ballot being removed from the returned envelope.

ASR Log Summarizer				
		Confidence	Count	Percentage of Total
Average Elapsed Time (ms)	91.61025284	0 - 0	283	8.03%
Signatures per Minute	655	1 - 10	560	15.89%
Number of Registration Errors	554	11 - 15	125	3.55%
Number of Missing Envelope Images	0	15-20	128	3.63%
SixVerify- Unsupported Image Format	0	21 - 30	172	4.88%
SixVerify- Can't Locate Signature	11	31 - 40	192	5.45%
PimLoadImageFile- Wrong extension	147	41 - 50	139	3.94%
Number of No Match	1808	51 - 60	177	5.02%
Number of Match	2428	61 - 70	186	5.28%
Percent Matched	57%	71 - 80	226	6.41%
Total Processed	4236	81 - 90	312	8.85%
AppID Length	10	91 - 99	1024	29.06%

SessionID AppID Disposition Confidence ElapsedTime (ms)

Conclusion and Conditions for Use

After an evaluation of the system, the Secretary of State's Office believes the system and its components should be used with a minimum threshold that signatures that obtain a confidence level of 0-20 to be checked by election workers and meets the requirements of WAC 434-335-615. In addition, a random audit of all accepted signatures with a confidence level of 21-99 should be conducted to ensure that there is also sufficient confidence and review of the accepted signatures to ensure that the system continues to perform as expected and any unexpected changes are detected immediately as described in WAC 434-335-625 (4)

As described in WAC 434-335-625 (2), the version number of the signature verification software must be the same as the version number of the software approved by the Secretary of State. Any hardware must be the same model number and contain the same version of firmware that is reviewed by the Secretary of State. Any changes to the version number or hardware need to be tested and inspected prior to use in an election.

Additionally, this review only applies to Pierce County. Any other county that opts to use this software must also go through their own review process even if using the same version and software.



Review of Runbeck's Verus Pro Automated Signature Verification 1.0 software

On April 8, 2020 the Pierce County Auditor's Office requested review of Runbeck's Verus Pro Automated Signature Verification 1.0 and associated software and firmware, for use in Washington State.

Upon examination of the system, the Secretary of State finds Runbeck's Verus Pro Automated Signature Verification 1.0 satisfies the requirements of Washington State law and has been reviewed by the Secretary of State's Office. This version of the system consists of:

Software comprised of:

- Automatic Signature Verification 1.0

Hardware comprised of:

- Agilis Ballot Sorting System

On this date, under the provisions of WAC 434-335, the Office of the Secretary of State hereby approves "Runbeck's Verus Pro Automated Signature Verification 1.0" for use in the State of Washington when used in compliance with the procedures contained in this review, accompanying Reports and Findings, and Washington State law.

Certified on this June 26, 2020



Kim Wyman
Secretary of State

