# Request for Information
# Amendment #2

State of Alaska
Office of the Governor
Division of Elections

**Date Issued: January 11, 2024**

| MICROSOFT DYNAMICS 365 DEVELOPERS |
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*Introduction:*

**THIS IS NOT AN ORDER**                    **DATE AMENDMENT ISSUED:  January 19, 2024**

## This amendment is being issued to answer questions received.

Questions Received and Answered:

Questions General

1. Can you provide a summary of your understanding of the project's objectives based on the given overview?

   **ANSWER:  The overall project objective is to utilize Microsoft Dynamics, SharePoint, and Power Apps to design and develop a new central VREMS application, the Voter Registration Application, the Online Absentee Ballot Application, and the Bulk Import Processing System; to be functionally ready for production by January 2026.**

2. Can you elaborate on the current VREMS features and the technologies it employs?

   **ANSWER: The current system is largely .Net based and includes IIS applications, MSSQL databases, Crystal reporting functions, and document storage. There are five main features to the VREMS system: the central VREMS application, the Voter Registration Application, the Online Absentee Ballot Application, the My Voter Information Portal, and the Bulk Import Processing System.**

   **The replacement project will not "copy" the current application but will have functionality covering all the applications' informational domains.**

3. Are you open to a hybrid engagement model i.e. Onshore + Offshore?

   **ANSWER: No, all workers must reside in the United States.**

4. Can you share the budget allocated to this implementation?

   **ANSWER: 7-9 million dollars**

5.  We are assuming this is a time & materials engagement type, please confirm.
    **ANSWER: Yes. We are seeking developer support, billable on a time and expenses basis.**

Access Management

1.  What M365 license do you have?
    **ANSWER: We have enterprise level E5 licenses. The state will pay for all licenses related to the development process.**

Integrations

1.  Can you outline your strategy for integrating with SharePoint for document management and organization?
    **ANSWER: Our understanding of SharePoint is limited, hence its inclusion in the RFI. Our hope is to leverage SharePoint to manage and maintain the election management documents. The management system will store links to those documents on individual records. System processes should be able to read and write to various list and libraries.**

Design

1.  How would you approach designing and developing a user-friendly interface for voter registration and absentee ballot requests?
    **ANSWER: This will be a collaborative process. We know the data. We are seeking developers with user experience (UX) development expertise.**

Development

1.  How do you propose to ensure secure and reliable mechanisms for voter data management?
    **ANSWER: Voter information is treated as PII. Therefore, we look for the proper PII compliance, specifically Data Loss Prevention, on multiple levels. The platform deployment will leverage the Dynamics 365 core security features and tools. We will also employ network monitoring solutions and perform annual security audits.**
    **From an architecture perspective, we will follow good data modeling practices and leverage an n-tier architecture for service and front-end applications. Data will be encrypted in transit and at rest.**

    **Preferably, the partner vendor will have experience with Microsoft's security features and tools and assist in the proper configurations and use of tools while the project is in development.**

2.  What strategies would you employ to facilitate efficient election administration, including candidate information, polling place, and election worker management?
    **ANSWER: Workflows in the new system design will be similar to our current system workflow. System development will rely heavily on testing and input from Division employees who will perform periodic testing to ensure the workflow meets the objective.**

3.  How would you manage and process absentee, early, and questioned ballots effectively?
    **ANSWER: Workflows in the new system design will be similar to our current system workflow. System development will rely heavily on testing and input from Division employees who will perform periodic testing to ensure the workflow meets the objective.**

4. How do you plan to manage daily bulk imports of voter registration files derived from Motor Vehicle (DMV) and Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) registrations?
**ANSWER: Workflows in the new system design will be similar to our current system workflow. System development will rely heavily on testing and input from Division employees who will perform periodic testing to ensure the workflow meets the objective.**

5. What is your approach to converting existing voter, precinct, election, and candidate data from the current databases and election management systems?
**ANSWER: Much of the data model is similar to current systems. We will be doing mini data conversion projects for each entity as we develop each entity in the base platform.**

Division of Elections
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