

Information Technology Update

Overview of Recent IT System Development

Testimony to House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure
March 11, 2025

Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
David Hall, Director, Business Services
Seán Sheehan, Director, Elections and Campaign Finance





IT Landscape - 2023

- When sworn in January of 2023 it was immediately apparent that 4 systems within SOS needed to be rebuilt.
- Spring 2023: Put out RFPs with assistance from ADS
- Summer/Fall 2023: Contracts executed for all 4 systems
- Winter/Spring 2024: Safe at Home RFP issued and Contract executed



New Systems

Safe at
Home

Business
Services

Campaign
Finance

Lobbying
Information

Election
Management

Safe at Home

Contract Date:

Scope: Introduce online portal to improve user access to the program and streamline its operation.

Key Partners: Reframe Solutions and Agency of Digital Services

	Contracted Target	Actual	Note
Launch date	03/01/2025	2/20/2025	
Implementation cost	\$96,052	\$96,052	
Maintenance cost (annual)	\$35,512	TBD	

Safe at Home
Address Confidentiality Service
Vermont Secretary of State's Office



Safe at Home

Status

- Portal has been in use for roughly three weeks.
- 125 households
- 201 total participants

Next Steps

- Weekly meetings with vendor.
- Continuous performance/bug fixes.

https://safeshome.vermont.gov/applicant/sign-up

Escape to weather.gov

VERMONT
The Secretary of State
Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program

SIGN UP
Provide your information to register as Applicant

First Name *
Enter First Name

Last Name *
Enter Last Name

Email *
Enter Email Address

Password *
Enter Password

Confirm Password *
Confirm Password

Submit

Already have an account? [Sign In](#)

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Learn more about Vermont's Safe At Home program:

Vermont Safe at Home Program Overview

Watch later Share

Safe at Home
Address Confidentiality Service
Vermont Secretary of State's Office

Watch on YouTube

Download Paper Application

Schedule an Appointment for Assistance

Other Questions? Click On [Help Center](#)

Call: 802-828-2372 Mail: Safe at Home Coordinator, PO Box 1568, Montpelier, VT 05601

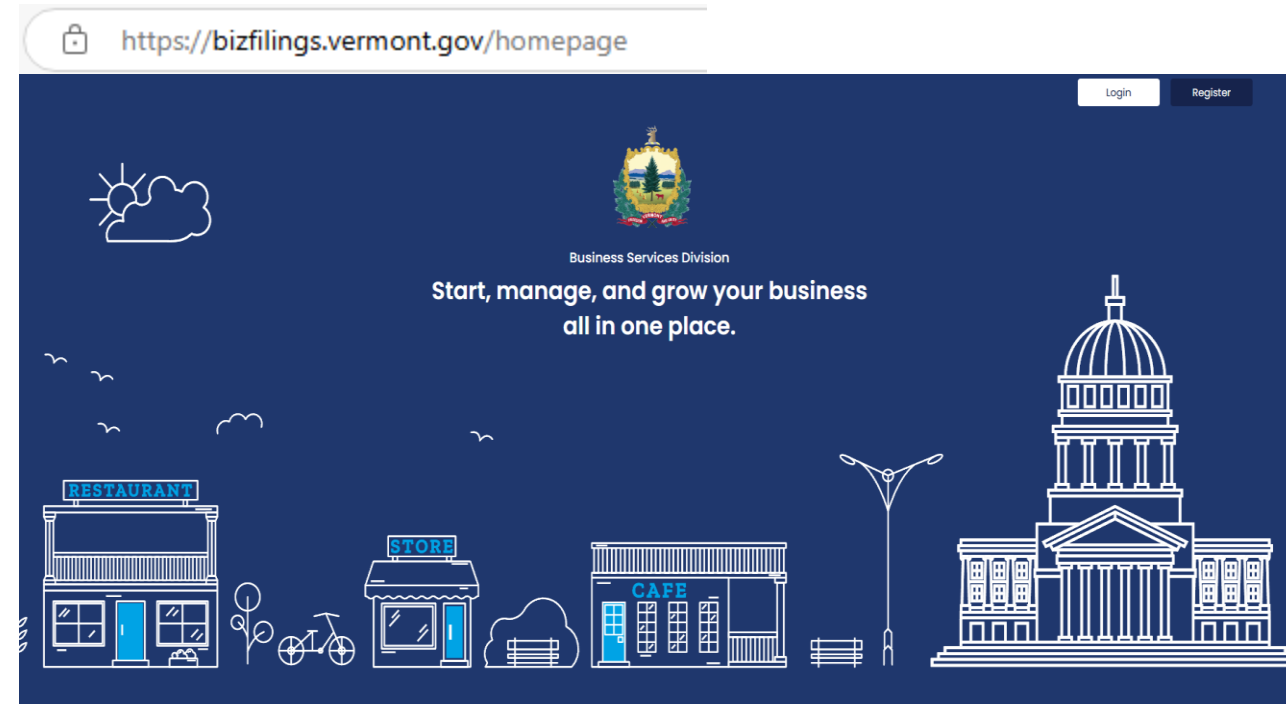
Business Services

Contract Date:

Scope: Upgrade legacy online filing system to improve ease of use, accuracy of data and compliance with law, and optimize customization with lower cost.

Key Partners: Reframe Solutions and Agency of Digital Services

	Contracted Target	Actual	Note
Launch date	12/13/24	12/15/24	Chose weekend
Implementation cost	\$3,508,272	\$3,087,856	
Maintenance cost (annual)	\$356,189	TBD	Compared to prior vendor (\$465,612)



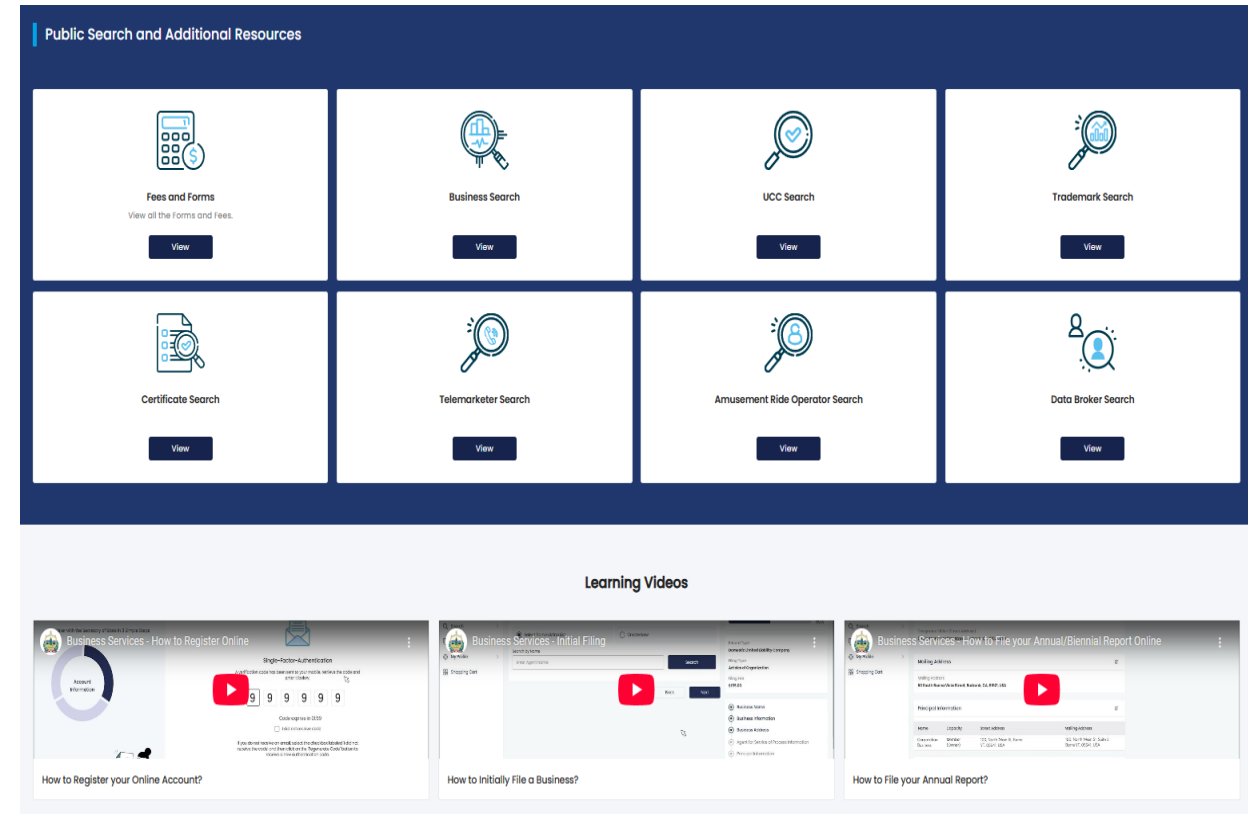
Business Services

Status

- System used for last 2+ months; 44,000 records submitted by over 1800 distinct users.
- Over 97% of filings to date have been submitted and processed electronically.
- Completing warranty period and bug fixes
- Continue to identify improvements and enhancements, e.g., bulk data download, advanced search.

Next Steps

- Legislative proposal; Phase 2



Campaign Finance

Contract Date:

Scope: Improve public access and transparency to how campaigns are funded in Vermont through a system that is easier for filers to use and for the public to search.

Key Partners: Reframe Solutions and Agency of Digital Services

	Contracted Target	Actual	Note
Launch date	Dec. 2024	Jan. 6, 2025	
Implementation cost	\$360,587	TBD	\$281K paid to date, on track to be on budget
Maintenance cost (annual)	\$20,025	TBD	

Campaign Finance

Status

- System used for last two months, especially for local elections.
- Weekly trainings & office hours.
- Quickly address minor bugs that arise.

Next Steps

- Office hours continue – every Friday at 12p

CAMPAIGN FINANCE SYSTEM OF VERMONT

Home Campaign Finance

Candidates Committees Contributions Expenditures Filings & Reports Download Data

Browse Filed Report Data

Home > Filings & Reports (21,865)

Filter By: Filer Name Report Type Office More Filters Clear All

Report Name	Due Date	Filed Date ↓	Filer Name	Filer Type	Office	Report Type	Report Version
2025 Mar 18 - Local Disclosures	03/18/2025	03/04/2025	MOSKOWITZ, KELSEY	Candidate	School Director	Campaign Finance Disclosure Report	Original
2025 Feb 02 - Local Disclosures	02/02/2025	03/04/2025	WEST, JONATHAN	Candidate	Selectperson	Campaign Finance Disclosure Report	Original
2025 Feb 22 - Local Disclosures	02/22/2025	03/04/2025	WEST, JONATHAN	Candidate	Selectperson	No Activity Report	Original
2025 Feb 28 - Local Disclosures	02/28/2025	03/04/2025	WEST, JONATHAN	Candidate	Selectperson	No Activity Report	Original
2025 Mar 18 - Local Disclosures	03/18/2025	03/04/2025	WEST, JONATHAN	Candidate	Selectperson	No Activity Report	Original
2025 Apr 13 - Final Report (Local Disclosures)	04/13/2025	03/04/2025	WEST, JONATHAN	Candidate	Selectperson	No Activity Report	Original
2025 Mar 18 - Local Disclosures	03/18/2025	03/03/2025	KOHN, PELIN	Candidate	City Councilor	No Activity Report	Original
2025 Mar 18 - Local Disclosures	03/18/2025	03/02/2025	SWEET, CHRISTINA	Candidate	School Director	Campaign Finance Disclosure Report	Original
2025 Mar 18 - Local Disclosures	03/18/2025	03/02/2025	ZAKARAS, JENNIFER MONROE	Candidate	City Councilor	Campaign Finance Disclosure Report	Amended
2025 Mar 18 - Local Disclosures	03/18/2025	03/01/2025	LAWSON, MICHAEL	Candidate	School Director	No Activity Report	Original



Guide to Vermont's Campaign Finance Law

Published by:
Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Updated June 2024

2023-2024 Local, Primary and General Elections

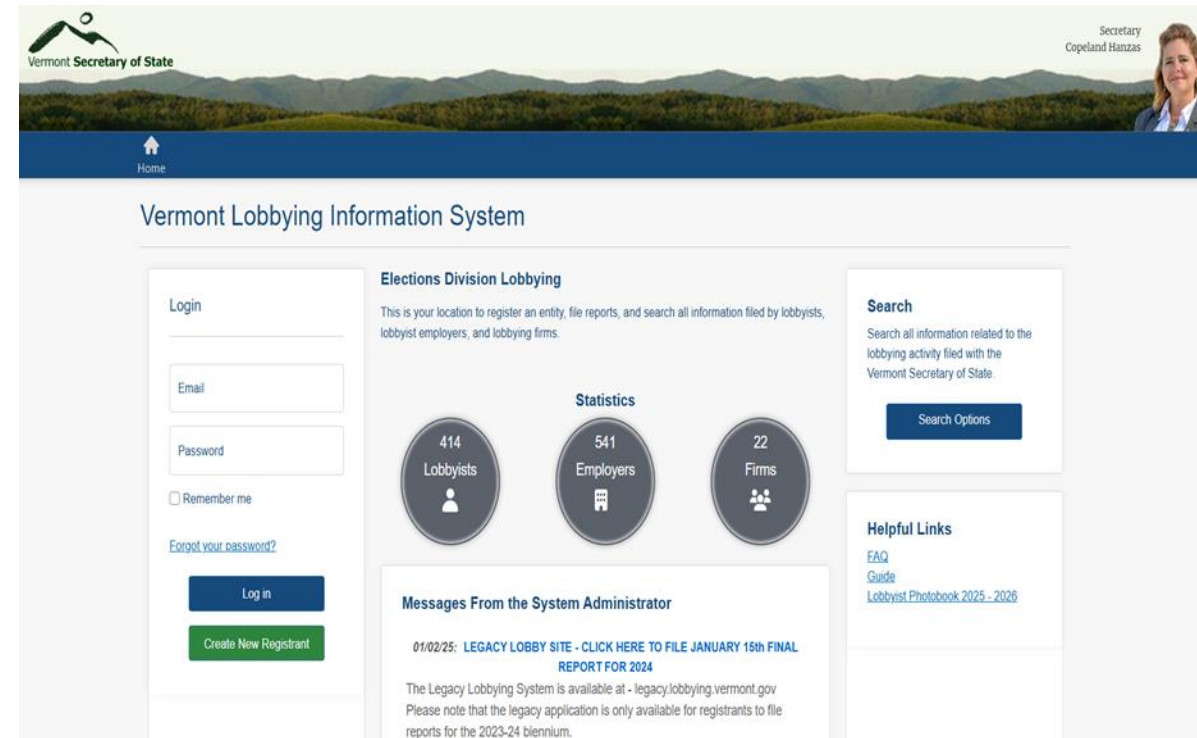
Lobbying Information

Contract Date:

Scope: Improve public access and transparency into lobbying activities through a system that is easier for filers to use and for the public to search.

Key Partners: Stonewall Solutions, Agency of Digital Services

	Contracted Target	Actual	Note
Launch date	Dec. 2024	Jan. 2, 2025	
Implementation cost	\$630,250	TBD	\$484K paid to date, on track to be on budget
Maintenance cost (annual)	\$61,000	TBD	



Lobbying Information

Status

- System used for last two months.
- In-person and online trainings.
- Quickly address minor bugs that arise.
- 500 lobbyists, 622 employers registered.




Next Steps

Home

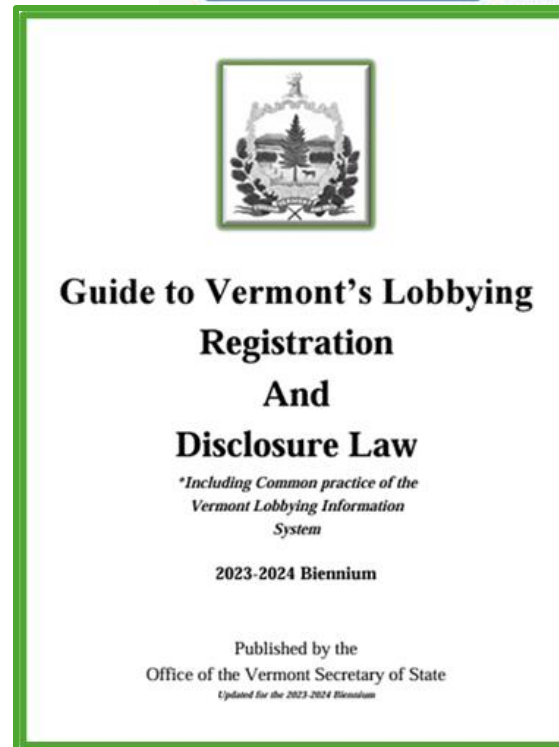
Choose Your Registrant Type

Choose from the options below to register an entity with the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State and set up an account in the system.

[I'm Not Sure What to Register As](#) Select this link to answer a few questions to help determine which Registrant Type you are.

 Lobbyist With a Firm	All lobbyists working with a firm are required to register with the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State before or within 48 hours of commencing lobbying. Please note that Lobbying Firms must complete the Lobbying Firm registration before proceeding to register individual Lobbyists.
 Lobbyist Without a Firm	All lobbyists are required to register with the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State before or within 48 hours of commencing lobbying activities.
 Lobbyist Employer Registration	All lobbyist employers are required to register with the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State before or within 48 hours of engaging a lobbyist.

g firms are required to file a listing of the lobbyists they employ within 48 hours of lobbyist commencing lobbying activities.



Election Management

Contract Date:

Scope: Support Statewide Voter Checklist to be used by town clerks and state staff; facilitate the Automatic Voter Registration program; and support absentee ballot tracking, a voter portal, election results reporting, a candidate registration/election management feature, and online voter registration module.

Key Partners: ReFrame Solutions and Agency of Digital Services

	Contracted Target	Actual	Note
Launch date	Dec. 2024	~May 2025	Shifted to focus on general election and other systems and push launch past TMD
Implementation cost	\$3,856,378	TBD	\$2.9M paid to date, on track to be on budget
Maintenance cost (annual)	\$610,200	TBD	Decreases to \$385K by Yr 5

Election Management

Status

- February end-user testing with clerks.
- Continued testing, bug fixes, and walkthroughs of various interfaces.

Next Steps

- Targeting a May 2025 launch.
- Planning and scheduling robust set of trainings.

The screenshot displays the Vermont Secretary of State Election Management System interface. At the top, the Vermont Secretary of State logo is on the left, and a 'Manage Your Account' section on the right welcomes users and lists functions like registering voters and managing elections. Below the header, four blue boxes show key statistics: 247 towns, 503,014 registered voters, 109 representative districts, and 16 senatorial districts. The main content area features an 'ACCOUNT LOG IN' section with fields for 'Username' (containing 'TSINK') and 'Passphrase' (masked with dots), a 'Remember Me' checkbox, a 'FORGOT PASSPHRASE?' link, and a 'LOGIN' button. To the right of the login section is a 'LATEST NEWS' area with three entries, all dated '16th July 2022', each containing a message about the 45-day deadline for UOCAVA requests.

247	503014	109	16
NUMBER OF TOWNS	NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS	NUMBER OF REP DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF SEN DISTRICTS

ACCOUNT LOG IN

Conduct all of your Election Activities here

☐ Remember Me

[FORGOT PASSPHRASE?](#)

LOGIN

LATEST NEWS

16th July 2022

CLERKS: 45-DAY deadline has passed. We are still reconciling, but please continue to send out any UOCAVA request as soon as received. THANK YOU to all who called or emailed us on Saturday!!

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What's Next

Upcoming Projects

- OPR Licensing Platform (expires 12/31/25)
- Campaign Finance (expires 12/3/29)
- Lobbying Information (expires 12/31/29)
- Business Services (expires 4/20/30)
- Safe at Home (expires 5/1/30)
- Election Management (expires 4/30/31)

Note: some of these contracts have options for extension.

How do we budget?

- SOS has two special funds
 - SOS fund
 - OPR fund
- These funds are based on Fiscal Year.
- Excess money from SOS fund is swept into General Fund
- Business Services build was possible because SOS kept money that otherwise would have been swept
- Elections builds where possible because of Federal Grant monies which are not a dependable revenue source at this time