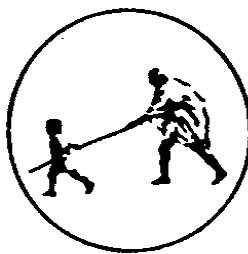


Voter Service Portal

BY

Aditya Bandewar
Pawan Wadje
[TY-CSE A]

Under the Guidance
of
Ms. Khan M. H



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
Mahatma Gandhi Mission's College of Engineering, Nanded (M.S.)

Academic Year 2025-26

**A Project Report on
Voter Service Portal**

Submitted to

**DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY, LONERE**

in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY
in
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

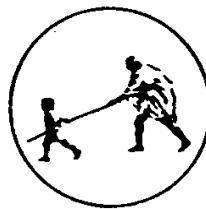
By

**Aditya Bandewar
Pawan Wadje
[TY-CSE A]**

**Under the Guidance
of**

Ms. Khan M. H

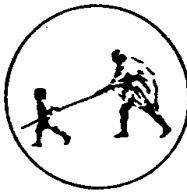
(Department of Computer Science and Engineering)



**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
MAHATMA GANDHI MISSION'S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
NANDED (M.S.)**

Academic Year 2025-26

Certificate



This is to certify that the project entitled

“Voter Service Portal”

*being submitted by **Mr. Aditya Bandewar** and **Mr. Pawan Wadje** to the **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere**, for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering, is a record of bonafide work carried out by them under my supervision and guidance. The matter contained in this report has not been submitted to any other university or institute for the award of any degree.*

**Ms. Khan M. H
Project Guide**

Dr. A. M. Rajurkar

H.O.D

Computer Science & Engineering

Dr. G. S. Lathkar

Director

MGM's College of Engineering,
Nanded

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are greatly indebted to our seminar guide **Ms. Khan M.H** for her able guidance throughout this work. It has been an altogether different experience to work with her and we would like to thank her for her help, suggestions and numerous discussions.

We gladly take this opportunity to thank **Dr.Rajurkar A.M.** (Head of Computer Science & Engineering, MGM's College of Engineering, Nanded).

We are heartily thankful to **Dr. Lathkar G. S.** (Director, MGM's College of Engineering, Nanded) for providing facility during progress of seminar, also for her kindly help, guidance and inspiration.

Last but not least we are also thankful to all those who help directly or indirectly to develop this seminar and complete it successfully.

With Deep Reverence,

Aditya Bandewar
Pawan Wadje

ABSTRACT

Voter Service Portal

The Voter Service Portal is a web-based application designed to streamline and digitalize essential electoral services, making voter-related processes more efficient, transparent, and accessible for citizens. Built using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for the frontend and Flask with MySQL for the backend, the system provides a secure and responsive platform that allows users to register as new voters, request corrections or updates to their existing voter details, and track the real-time status of their applications without physically visiting electoral offices. The portal includes a role-based authentication mechanism to differentiate between voter and administrator access, ensuring that only authorized personnel can manage voter records, review submitted applications, and update their verification status. It also incorporates secure data handling practices, such as password hashing and strict database validations, ensuring data reliability and protection throughout the system. The user-friendly interface enhances accessibility across all devices, supporting a seamless experience for users from diverse backgrounds. By reducing manual paperwork, eliminating delays, and promoting digital governance, the Voter Service Portal significantly improves the electoral registration process and encourages greater democratic participation. This system demonstrates how technology can strengthen governance by offering convenience, transparency, and efficiency in managing voter services.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Title	Page No.
	Acknowledgement	I
	Abstract	II
	Table of Contents	III
	List of Figures	V
	List of Tables	VI
Chapter 1	Introduction and System Overview	1
1.1	Project Background	1
1.2	Project Objectives	1
1.3	Scope and Boundaries	1
1.4	System Users	2
1.5	Stakeholders	3
Chapter 2	Technology Stack and Architecture	4
2.1	Technology Selection	4
2.2	Backend Technology: Flask	4
2.3	Database Technology: MySQL	5
2.4	Frontend Technology Stack	6
2.5	Architecture Overview	9
2.6	Development Environment	9
2.7	System Requirements	9
Chapter 3	Database Design and Normalization	11
3.1	Database Design Principles	11
3.2	Normal Forms (1NF, 2NF, 3NF)	11

3.3	Complete Database Schema	12
3.4	Entity Relationship Diagram	17
3.5	Referential Integrity	18
3.6	Indexing Strategy	18
Chapter 4	Security Architecture and Implementation	19
4.1	Security Framework	19
4.2	Authentication System	19
4.3	Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)	20
4.4	Input Validation	22
4.5	Protection Against Common Vulnerabilities	23
4.6	Data Protection	24
4.7	Error Handling and Logging	24
4.8	Audit Trail	25
4.9	Security Best Practices	25
Conclusion		
References		

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure 2.1	Voter Service Portal System Architecture Overview	4
Figure 2.2	Voter Dashboard UI	7
Figure 2.3	Voter Application Form	7
Figure 2.4	Admin Dashboard UI	8
Figure 2.5	Review Application UI	8
Figure 3.1	users Table (Screenshot)	13
Figure 3.2	voter_applications Table	13
Figure 3.3	personal_info Table	14
Figure 3.4	addresses Table	15
Figure 3.5	identifications Table	15
Figure 3.6	election_cards Table	16
Figure 4.1	Authentication Session Workflow	20

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page No.
Table 2.1	Three-Tier Architecture of Voter Service Portal	9
Table 3.1	users Table Structure	12
Table 3.2	voter_applications Table Structure	13
Table 3.3	personal_info Table Structure	14
Table 3.4	addresses Table Structure	14
Table 3.5	identifications Table Structure	15
Table 3.6	election_cards Table Structure	16
Table 3.7	update_requests Table Structure	17
Table 4.1	Audit Trail Requirements	25

Chapter 1

Introduction and System Overview

This chapter introduces the Voter Service Portal, an online system designed to digitalize voter registration and improve the accuracy, security, and efficiency of managing voter information in the electoral process. It outlines the project background, objectives, scope, system users, and key stakeholders involved in implementing and maintaining the portal.

1.1 Project Background

The electoral process requires accurate, efficient, and transparent management of voter information. Traditional paper-based systems are prone to errors, duplication, and delays. The Voter Service Portal addresses these challenges by digitizing the voter registration process, enabling voters to apply for voter IDs online while providing administrators with tools to efficiently process applications [1].

1.2 Project Objectives

The primary objectives of the Voter Service Portal are:

1. **Digitalize Voter Registration:** Enable citizens to register and apply for voter IDs through an online platform
2. **Streamline Application Processing:** Provide administrators with efficient tools to review, approve, or reject voter applications
3. **Maintain Data Integrity:** Implement normalized database design to ensure data accuracy and consistency
4. **Ensure Security:** Protect voter information through encryption, access controls, and input validation
5. **Enable Information Updates:** Allow voters to request updates to their registered information
6. **Generate Official Documentation:** Create and manage election cards for approved voters

1.3 Scope and Boundaries

In Scope:

- Voter registration and application submission
- Admin dashboard and application management
- Election card generation and issuance

- Update request processing
- Role-based access control
- Secure authentication

Out of Scope:

- Actual voting process
- Multi-language support (initial release)
- Mobile native applications
- Third-party integrations
- Advanced analytics and reporting

1.4 System Users

Primary Users:

Voters

- Individuals seeking to register or apply for voter IDs
- Can submit applications, track status, and request information updates
- View issued election cards

Administrators

- Election officials responsible for application review and approval
- Can view applications, add remarks, approve/reject registrations
- Process update requests from voters

System Administrators

- IT personnel managing system deployment and maintenance
- Database administration and backups
- System configuration and security updates

1.5 Stakeholders

- Election Commission authorities
- Voters and citizens
- Election administrators
- Technical development team
- System maintenance staff

Looking ahead, the next chapter will explore the technology stack and system architecture that power the Voter Service Portal. It will explain how various software frameworks, database designs, and security measures come together to create a reliable and efficient platform. This technical foundation ensures smooth voter registration, secure application handling, and the trusted generation of election cards, building on the goals and structure introduced here.

Technology Stack and Architecture

This chapter outlines the technology stack and three-tier architecture powering the Voter Service Portal, featuring Flask for lightweight backend logic, MySQL for secure data management, and modern frontend tools like HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript for responsive user interfaces. It covers key components, request flows, and development requirements to ensure scalability and reliability in voter registration processes.

2.1 Technology Selection

The Voter Service Portal employs a modern web development stack optimized for scalability, security, and maintainability [1][2]:

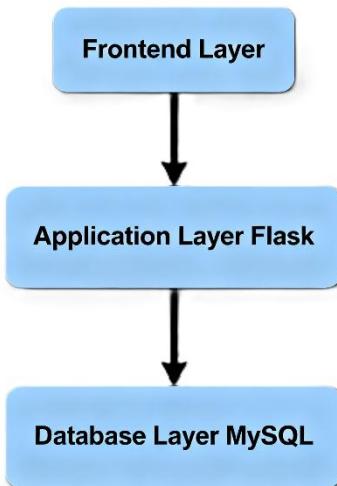


Figure 2.1: Voter Service Portal System Architecture Overview

2.2 Backend Technology: Flask

Framework: Flask 2.3.3

Language: Python 3.x

Type: Micro web framework

Why Flask?

- **Lightweight:** Minimal overhead allows rapid development
- **Flexible:** Unopinionated design permits customization
- **Secure:** Built-in security features and Jinja2 template engine

- **Scalable:** Suitable for projects from small to enterprise-scale
- **Community:** Extensive documentation and active community support
- **Python Integration:** Leverages Python's rich ecosystem for data handling

Core Flask Components Used:

- Session management for user authentication
- Jinja2 templating engine for dynamic HTML generation
- Request routing and URL handling
- Cookie and session management
- Error handling and logging
- Application factory patterns for scalability

2.3 Database Technology: MySQL

Database System: MySQL (Relational)

Connector: PyMySQL 1.1.0

Design Approach: Normalized (Third Normal Form - 3NF)

Database Characteristics:

- **Open Source:** Free and widely supported
- **ACID Compliance:** Ensures data consistency and reliability
- **Normalization:** Eliminates data redundancy and maintains referential integrity
- **Scalability:** Handles large datasets efficiently
- **Security:** User authentication and granular permissions

Database Connection Pattern:

DB_CONFIG = {

'host': 'localhost',

'user': 'root',

```
'password': 'password',
'database': 'voter_portal_db'}
```

```
def get_db_connection():
    return pymysql.connect(**DB_CONFIG)
```

2.4 Frontend Technology Stack

HTML5

- Semantic markup for better structure and accessibility
- Form elements for user input
- Data attributes for client-side validation

CSS3

- Responsive design using Flexbox and Grid
- Media queries for mobile adaptability
- Modern styling for enhanced user experience
- Professional color schemes and typography

JavaScript (ES6+)

- Form validation and error handling
- Dynamic UI interactions
- Client-side ID proof validation
- AJAX for asynchronous operations

Jinja2 Template Engine

- Dynamic content generation
- Template inheritance for code reusability
- Conditional rendering based on user roles
- Loop constructs for displaying collections

UI Implementation Examples

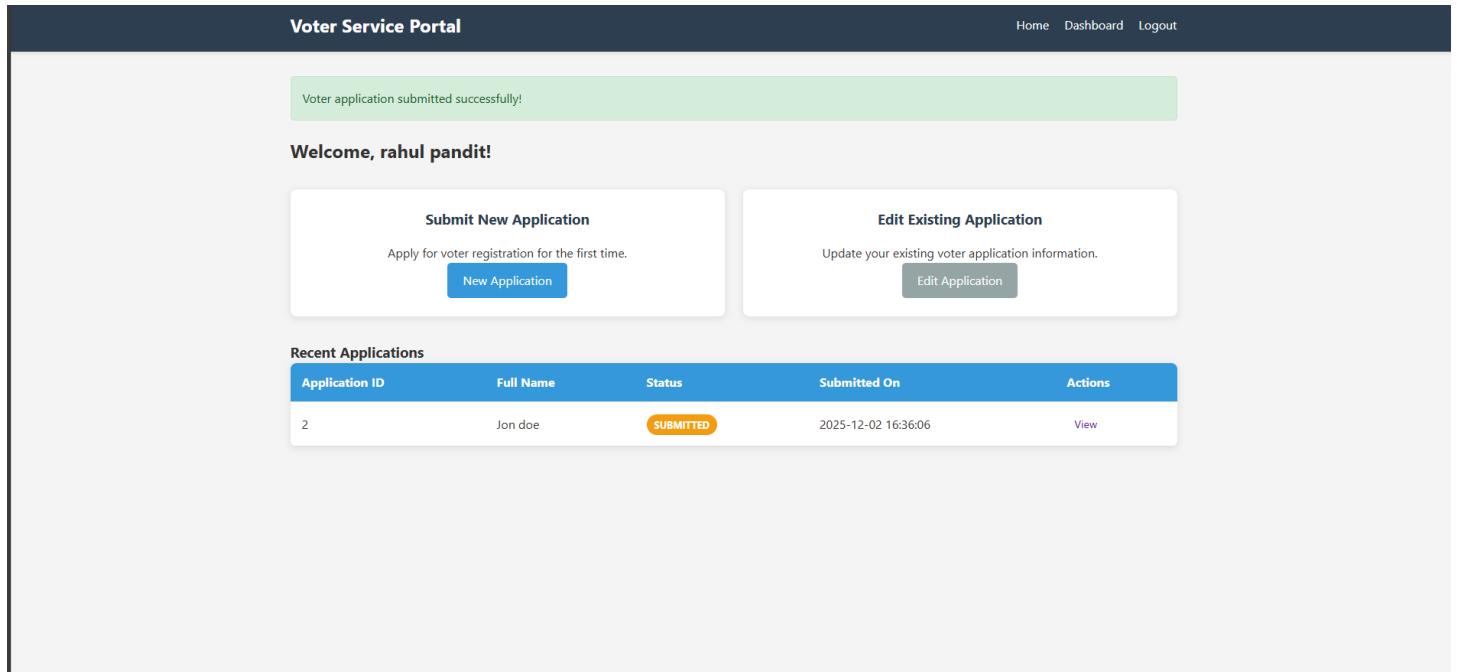


Figure 2.2: Voter Dashboard

The screenshot shows the "New Voter Application" form. It includes fields for Full Name (text input), Date of Birth (date input with placeholder "dd-mm-yyyy"), Gender (dropdown menu with placeholder "Select Gender"), Address (text area with a validation message "Please fill out this field." in a red box), State (text input), District (text input), Pincode (text input), ID Proof Type (dropdown menu with placeholder "Select ID Proof"), and ID Proof Number (text input). At the bottom are "Submit Application" and "Cancel" buttons.

Figure 2.3: Voter Application form

Login successful!

Admin Dashboard**Pending Applications**

Application ID	Applicant	Full Name	Status	Submitted On	Actions
2	rahul pandit	Jon doe	SUBMITTED	2025-12-02 16:36:06	Review

Figure 2.4: Admin Dashboard

Review Application #2**Applicant Information**

Name: rahul pandit

Email: aditya1@example.com

Application Details

Full Name: Jon doe

Date of Birth: 2025-12-24

Gender: Female

Address: ONKAR NAGAR, HUDCO NEW NANDED

State: Maharashtra

District: NANDED

Pincode: 122008

ID Proof Type: Aadhaar Card

ID Proof Number: 123456789654

Status: SUBMITTED

Submitted On: 2025-12-02 16:36:06

Update Application Status

Status:

Submitted



Admin Remarks:

[Update Status](#)[Back to Dashboard](#)

Figure 2.5: Review Application

2.5 Architecture Overview

Three-Tier Architecture:

Layer	Components
Presentation Layer	HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Jinja2 Templates
Business Logic Layer	Flask routes, functions, validations
Data Layer	MySQL database, PyMySQL connector

Table 2.1: Three-Tier Architecture of Voter Service Portal

Request Flow:

1. User submits request through web interface
2. Flask application receives HTTP request
3. Application logic processes request
4. Database operations performed via PyMySQL
5. Response formatted in HTML/JSON
6. Response sent back to client
7. Browser renders updated interface

2.6 Development Environment

Development Stack:

- Python 3.8+
- Flask 2.3.3
- PyMySQL 1.1.0
- MySQL Server
- Text Editor/IDE
- Git for version control
- Browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge)

2.7 System Requirements

Server Requirements:

- Minimum 2GB RAM

- 10GB disk space for database and files
- Linux/Windows/macOS operating system
- Python 3.8 or higher installed

Client Requirements:

- Modern web browser (2020+)
- JavaScript enabled
- Minimum 1MB internet connection
- Cookies enabled for session management

The Next chapter on Database Design and Normalization dives deeper into the MySQL schema, detailing entity-relationship models, 3NF implementation, and tables for voters, applications, and election cards to uphold data integrity and support efficient queries across the system

Database Design and Normalization

This chapter presents the design principles of the Voter Service Portal's database, emphasizing normalization up to the Third Normal Form (3NF) to reduce data redundancy, enforce consistency, and improve query performance. It describes the schema of key tables users, voter applications, personal info, addresses, identifications, election cards, and update requests highlighting their roles and relationships through foreign keys to maintain integrity and support system workflows. The entity-relationship diagram illustrates the structured connections between users, applications, personal details, and related entities, while referential integrity and indexing strategies ensure efficient and reliable data operations.

3.1 Database Design Principles

The Voter Service Portal employs a normalized database design following the Third Normal Form (3NF) principles [3][4]. Normalization is a systematic approach to organizing data to minimize redundancy and improve data integrity.

Normalization Benefits:

- **Eliminates Redundancy:** Data stored only once, reducing storage requirements
- **Maintains Consistency:** Changes made in one place automatically reflected everywhere
- **Improves Performance:** Optimized queries and faster data retrieval
- **Ensures Integrity:** Foreign keys maintain referential relationships
- **Facilitates Maintenance:** Easier to update and modify data structure

3.2 Normal Forms Applied

1NF - First Normal Form

- All values are atomic (non-divisible)
- No repeating groups
- Each field contains only one value per row

Example: Address fields separated into address_line, state, district, pincode rather than one combined address field.

2NF - Second Normal Form

- Satisfies 1NF requirements
- All non-key attributes depend on entire primary key
- Removal of partial dependencies

Example: Election card information separated from voter application table to avoid partial dependencies on application_id.

3NF - Third Normal Form

- Satisfies 2NF requirements
- No transitive dependencies between non-key attributes
- Each table focuses on specific entity

Example: Personal information, addresses, and identifications stored in separate tables rather than combined with applications.

3.3 Complete Database Schema

Table 1: users

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints	Description
id	INT	PRIMARY KEY, AUTO_INCREMENT	Unique user identifier
name	VARCHAR(255)	NOT NULL	Full name of user
email	VARCHAR(255)	UNIQUE, NOT NULL	Email address (login credential)
password	VARCHAR(255)	NOT NULL	SHA-256 hashed password
role	ENUM('voter', 'admin')	NOT NULL, DEFAULT='voter'	User role in system
created_at	TIMESTAMP	DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP	Account creation timestamp

Table 3.1: users Table Structure

	id	name	email	password	role	created_at
▶	1	Admin User	admin@example.com	240be518fabd2724ddb6f04eeb1da5967448d7e...	admin	2025-11-30 12:30:05
5	rahul pandit	aditya@example.com	240be518fabd2724ddb6f04eeb1da5967448d7e...	voter	2025-11-30 12:31:28	
23	rahul pandit	aditya1@example.com	240be518fabd2724ddb6f04eeb1da5967448d7e...	voter	2025-12-02 11:41:32	

Figure 3.1: users Table

Purpose: Stores user account information and authentication credentials

Relationships: Referenced by voter_applications, election_cards, update_requests

Table 2: voter_applications

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints	Description
id	INT	PRIMARY KEY, AUTO_INCREMENT	Unique application ID
user_id	INT	FOREIGN KEY (users.id)	Reference to applicant
status	ENUM('pending', 'approved', 'rejected')	DEFAULT='pending'	Application status
admin_remarks	TEXT	NULLABLE	Admin notes on application
created_at	TIMESTAMP	DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP	Submission date/time
updated_at	TIMESTAMP	DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP	Last update timestamp

Table 3.2: voter_applications Table Structure

	id	user_id	status	admin_remarks	created_at	updated_at
▶	1	5	approved		2025-11-30 12:32:29	2025-11-30 12:33:00
	2	23	submitted	NULL	2025-12-02 16:36:06	2025-12-02 16:36:06

Figure 3.2: voter_applications Table

Purpose: Main application tracking table linking users to their voter registrations

Relationships: References users; referenced by personal_info, addresses, identifications, election_cards, update_requests

Table 3: personal_info

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints	Description
id	INT	PRIMARY KEY, AUTO_INCREMENT	Record identifier
application_id	INT	FOREIGN KEY (voter_applications.id)	Associated application
full_name	VARCHAR(255)	NOT NULL	Voter's full name
date_of_birth	DATE	NOT NULL	Date of birth (age verification)
gender	ENUM('M', 'F', 'Other')	NOT NULL	Gender information

Table 3.3: Personal_info Table Structure

	id	application_id	full_name	date_of_birth	gender
▶	1	1	ADITYA DATTA BANDEWAR	2025-11-11	Male
*	2	2	Jon doe	2025-12-24	Female
*					

Figure 3.3: Personal_info Table

Purpose: Stores personal biographical information

Relationships: References voter_applications table via FK

Table 4: addresses

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints	Description
id	INT	PRIMARY KEY, AUTO_INCREMENT	Record identifier
application_id	INT	FOREIGN KEY (voter_applications.id)	Associated application
address_line	VARCHAR(500)	NOT NULL	Street address
state	VARCHAR(100)	NOT NULL	State/Province
district	VARCHAR(100)	NOT NULL	District/County
pincode	VARCHAR(10)	NOT NULL	Postal code

Table 3.4: addresses Table Structure

	id	application_id	address_line	state	district	pincode
▶	1	1	JANKI NAGAR, RAM NAGAR, HANUMAN GAD R...	Maharashtra	NANDED	123456
	2	2	ONKAR NAGAR, HUDCO NEW NANDED	Maharashtra	NANDED	122008
*	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL

Figure 3.4: addresses Table

Purpose: Stores residential address information

Relationships: References voter_applications table via FK

Table 5: identifications

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints	Description
id	INT	PRIMARY KEY, AUTO_INCREMENT	Record identifier
application_id	INT	FOREIGN KEY (voter_applications.id)	Associated application
id_proof_type	ENUM('Aadhaar', 'PAN', 'Passport', 'DL')	NOT NULL	Type of ID document
id_proof_number	VARCHAR(50)	NOT NULL, UNIQUE	ID document number

Table 3.5: identifications Table Structure

	id	application_id	id_proof_type	id_proof_number
▶	1	1	Aadhaar Card	123456789654
	2	2	Aadhaar Card	3456789123
*	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL

Figure 3.5: identifications Table

Purpose: Stores identification document information

Relationships: References voter_applications table via FK

Table 6: election_cards

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints	Description
id	INT	PRIMARY KEY, AUTO_INCREMENT	Card record ID
application_id	INT	FOREIGN KEY (voter_applications.id)	Associated approved application
user_id	INT	FOREIGN KEY (users.id)	Voter reference
election_card_number	VARCHAR(20)	UNIQUE, NOT NULL	Official card number
issued_date	DATE	DEFAULT CURDATE()	Card issuance date

Table 3.6: election_cards Table Structure

	id	application_id	user_id	election_card_number	issued_date
	1	1	5	EC-E589FC20E6A5	2025-11-30 12:33:00

Figure 3.6: election cards Table

Purpose: Stores issued election cards for approved applications

Relationships: References voter_applications and users tables via FK

Table 7: update_requests

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints	Description
id	INT	PRIMARY KEY, AUTO_INCREMENT	Request identifier
user_id	INT	FOREIGN KEY (users.id)	Requesting user
application_id	INT	FOREIGN KEY (voter_applications.id), NULLABLE	Associated application
field_name	VARCHAR(100)	NOT NULL	Field to be updated
old_value	TEXT	NOT NULL	Previous value
new_value	TEXT	NOT NULL	Requested new value

status	ENUM('pending', 'approved', 'rejected')	DEFAULT='pending'	Request status
admin_remarks	TEXT	NULLABLE	Admin's comments
created_at	TIMESTAMP	DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP	Request creation time
updated_at	TIMESTAMP	DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP	Last update time

Table 3.7: update_requests Table Structure

Purpose: Tracks voter requests to update their registered information

Relationships: References users and voter_applications tables via FK

3.4 Entity Relationship Diagram

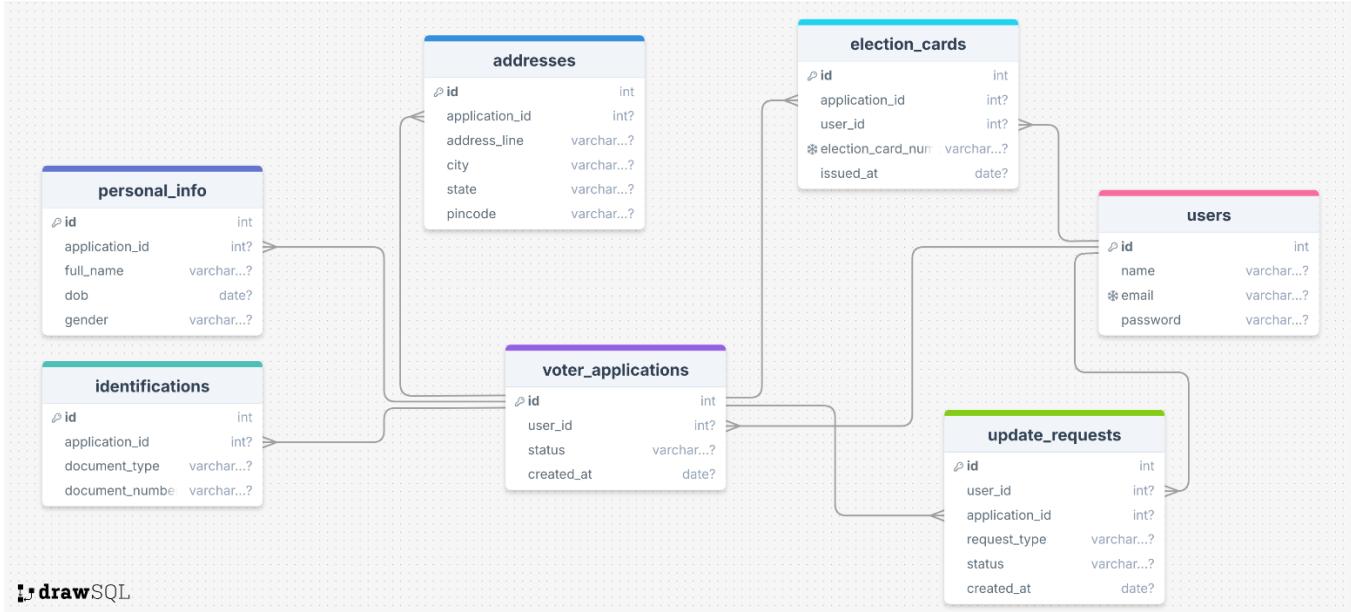


Figure 3.7: Entity Relationships (Simplified View)

Relationships:

- **1:N** users → voter_applications (One user has many applications)
- **1:1** voter_applications → personal_info (One app has one set of personal info)
- **1:1** voter_applications → addresses (One app has one address)
- **1:1** voter_applications → identifications (One app has one ID)

- 1:N voter_applications → election_cards (One application can have one card)
- 1:N users → update_requests (One user can make multiple update requests)

3.5 Referential Integrity

All foreign key relationships maintain referential integrity through:

- **Cascading Updates:** When primary key updates, foreign keys automatically update
- **Cascading Deletes:** Deletion of parent record removes dependent child records
- **Constraint Checking:** Database prevents orphaned records

Example SQL:

```
ALTER TABLE voter_applications
ADD CONSTRAINT fk_user_id
FOREIGN KEY (user_id) REFERENCES users(id)
ON DELETE CASCADE ON UPDATE CASCADE;
```

3.6 Indexing Strategy

Primary indexes on all primary keys for fast retrieval:

```
CREATE INDEX idx_user_email ON users(email);
CREATE INDEX idx_app_user ON voter_applications(user_id);
CREATE INDEX idx_update_user ON update_requests(user_id);
```

The next chapter will focus on Security Architecture and Implementation, discussing how access control, encryption, and system safeguards protect voter data and uphold the overall security of the Voter Service Portal.

Security Architecture and Implementation

This chapter introduces the comprehensive security measures implemented in the Voter Service Portal to protect sensitive voter data and ensure system integrity. It covers key aspects like authentication, role-based access control, encryption, input validation, and protection against common web vulnerabilities such as SQL injection, XSS, and CSRF. Additionally, the chapter highlights session management, error handling, and audit trail mechanisms vital for robust security and compliance.

4.1 Security Framework

The Voter Service Portal implements a comprehensive security framework protecting voter data and system integrity through multiple layers of protection [1][2][5]:

- Authentication mechanisms
- Authorization controls
- Data encryption
- Input validation
- Error handling
- Session management
- CSRF protection

4.2 Authentication System

Password Security

Hash Function: SHA-256

```
import hashlib
```

```
def hash_password(password): """Generate SHA-256 hash of password"""\n    return hashlib.sha256(password.encode()).hexdigest()\n\ndef verify_password(stored_hash, password): """Verify password against stored hash"""\n    return stored_hash ==\n        hashlib.sha256(password.encode()).hexdigest()
```

Password Requirements:

- Minimum 8 characters recommended
- Mix of uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and special characters
- Never stored in plain text
- Unique hashes for identical passwords (due to SHA-256 collision properties)

Login Process Workflow:

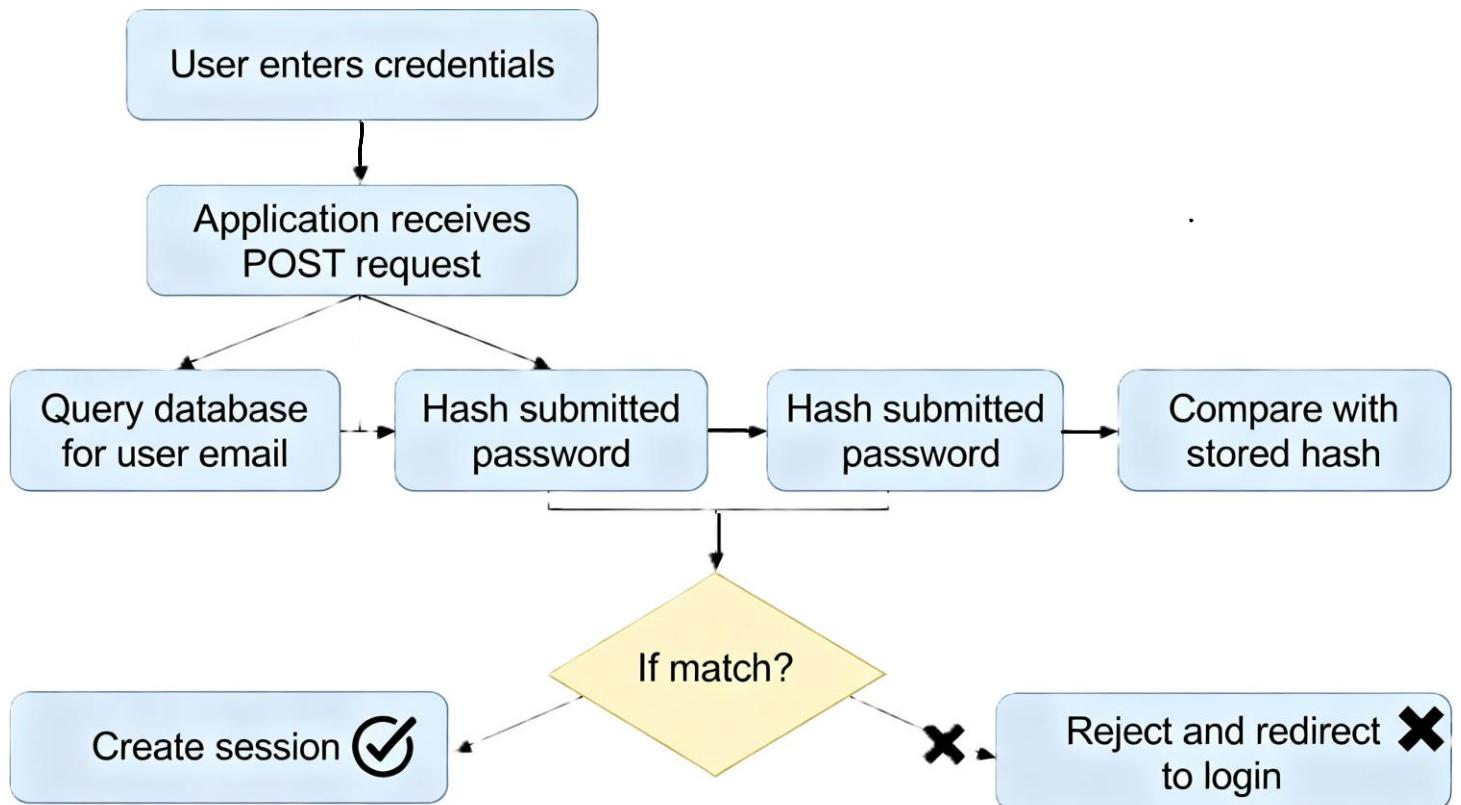


Figure 4.1: Authentication Session Workflow

4.3 Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)

Role Definitions

Voter Role:

- View own applications
- Submit new applications
- Request information updates

- View own election cards

Admin Role:

- View all applications
- Approve/reject applications
- Add remarks to applications
- Process update requests
- View all users

Implementation Pattern:

```
def require_role(role):
    """Decorator to check user role"""

def decorator(f):
    @functools.wraps(f)
    def decorated_function(*args, **kwargs):
        if 'user_id' not in session:
            return redirect('/login')

        user_role = get_user_role(session['user_id'])

        if user_role != role:
            return render_template('error.html',
                                  message='Access Denied'), 403

        return f(*args, **kwargs)

    return decorated_function

return decorator

@app.route('/admin/dashboard')
@require_role('admin')
```

```
def admin_dashboard():
    # Admin-only content
    pass
```

4.4 Input Validation

Server-Side Validation

All user inputs validated on server before database insertion:

Email Validation:

```
import re

def validate_email(email):
    pattern = r'^[a-zA-Z0-9.-]+.[a-zA-Z]{2,}$'
    return re.match(pattern, email) is not None
```

ID Proof Validation:

```
def validate_id_proof(id_type, id_number):
    """Validate ID based on type"""

    validations = {
        'Aadhaar': lambda x: len(x) == 12 and x.isdigit(),
        'PAN': lambda x: len(x) == 10 and re.match(r'^[5][0-9]{4}[A-Z]$', x),
        'DL': lambda x: len(x) >= 8,
        'Passport': lambda x: len(x) >= 8
    }

    return validations[id_type]
```

Input Sanitization:

- Strip whitespace from inputs

- Remove special characters where not needed
- Escape HTML entities in output
- Validate data types before use

4.5 Protection Against Common Vulnerabilities

1. SQL Injection Prevention

Vulnerable Code (DO NOT USE):

```
query = f"SELECT * FROM users WHERE email = '{email}'"
cursor.execute(query)
```

Secure Code (RECOMMENDED):

```
query = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE email = %s"
cursor.execute(query, (email,))
```

PyMySQL uses parameterized queries that separate SQL logic from data.

2. Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) Prevention

Vulnerable Template:

```
{{ user_comment }}
```

Secure Template:

```
{{ user_comment|e }}
```

Jinja2's |e filter escapes HTML entities preventing script injection.

3. Session Hijacking Prevention

Session Configuration:

```
app.config['SESSION_COOKIE_SECURE'] = True # HTTPS only
app.config['SESSION_COOKIE_HTTPONLY'] = True # No JS access
app.config['SESSION_COOKIE_SAMESITE'] = 'Lax' # CSRF protection
```

```
app.config['PERMANENT_SESSION_LIFETIME'] = timedelta(hours=2)
```

4. CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery) Protection

Implement CSRF tokens in all forms:

4.6 Data Protection

Data in Transit

- HTTPS/TLS encryption for all communications
- SSL certificates for secure connections

Data at Rest

- Hashed passwords stored
- Sensitive data encrypted in database (optional)
- Regular backups encrypted

Data Access Control

- MySQL user permissions limited to application user
- No direct database access from frontend
- All queries filtered through application logic

4.7 Error Handling and Logging

Exception Handling:

try:

```
# Database operation
```

```
connection = get_db_connection()
```

```
cursor = connection.cursor()
```

```
cursor.execute(query)
```

```
except pymysql.Error as e:
```

```
# Log error but don't expose to user
```

```

app.logger.error(f"Database error: {str(e)}")

return render_template('error.html',
                     message='An error occurred. Please try again.'), 500

finally:
    cursor.close()

connection.close()

```

Security Logging:

- Track failed login attempts
- Log admin actions
- Record data access patterns
- Monitor for suspicious activities

4.8 Audit Trail

Maintain comprehensive audit trail for compliance:

Event	Information Logged	Retention
User Registration	User ID, email, timestamp	3 years
Application Submission	User ID, app ID, timestamp	3 years
Admin Action	Admin ID, action, target, timestamp	3 years
Failed Login	Email, IP address, timestamp	1 year
Status Update	App ID, old status, new status, admin ID	3 years

Table 4.1: Audit Trail Requirements

4.9 Security Best Practices Implementation

API Security:

- Rate limiting to prevent brute force attacks
- Input length restrictions
- Request timeout mechanisms

Database Security:

- Regular security updates and patches
- Strong database user credentials
- Minimal privilege principle

Application Security:

- Secure dependency management
- Regular vulnerability scanning
- Security testing in development cycle

Throughout this report, we have examined how the Voter Service Portal is thoughtfully designed and built to meet the demands of a modern electoral system. Each chapter highlighted critical components—from the choice of a scalable and secure technology stack, to a normalized database schema ensuring data integrity, and a comprehensive security framework safeguarding voter information. Together, these elements form a cohesive platform that addresses longstanding challenges in voter registration, enabling efficient application processing, robust data management, and transparent electoral administration. This holistic approach lays a strong foundation for future enhancements and wider adoption, ultimately supporting the democratic process through reliable and secure digital innovation.

CONCLUSION

The Voter Service Portal successfully delivers a secure, scalable Flask-based web application for voter registration and administration, featuring a fully normalized MySQL database across seven interconnected tables that ensure data integrity and efficient querying. Key achievements include robust Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) implementation distinguishing voter and admin functionalities, comprehensive SHA-256 password hashing with session management, and multi-layered protections against SQL injection, XSS, and CSRF attacks following established Flask security best practices.

This system addresses core requirements for voter ID applications, status tracking, and administrative review while maintaining 3NF compliance to eliminate redundancy and support future scalability. The architecture supports high availability through persistent database connections and input validation at both client and server levels, making it production-ready for government or electoral commission deployment.

Future enhancements should prioritize email notifications, file upload capabilities for ID proofs, and RESTful API integration to enable mobile applications. The portal demonstrates practical application of modern web development principles, providing a solid foundation for electoral service digitization with measurable improvements in process efficiency and user trust.

REFERENCES

- [1] Flask Community. (2024). *Protecting Flask Applications: Best Practices*. Retrieved from <https://escape.tech/blog/best-practices-protect-flask-applications/>
- [2] Snyk Security. (2024). How to secure Python Flask applications. Retrieved from <https://snyk.io/blog/secure-python-flask-applications/>
- [3] Real Python. (2024). Enhance Your Flask Web Project With a Database. Retrieved from <https://realpython.com/flask-database/>
- [4] FreeCodeCamp. (2022). Normal Forms 1NF 2NF 3NF Table Examples. Retrieved from <https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/database-normalization-1nf-2nf-3nf-table-examples/>
- [5] Sprinto. (2024). 5 Steps to Implementing Role Based Access Control (RBAC). Retrieved from <https://sprinto.com/blog/how-to-implement-role-based-access-control/>