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# Voices From Change.US

**Software Requirements Specification Document**

**For**

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## REVISION HISTORY

[illegible]

## Table of Content

## **Introduction**

### **Application Overview, Scope & Objectives**

VOICES has been created to provide tools that allow people that are frustrated at the lack of response from elected officials, to be heard in a manner never before available.

VOICES provides a method for you to inform your state and federal officials on how you would like them to vote on legislation, and then holds that official responsible if he continually ignores the majority of the people that state their opinion.

VOICES provides a method for individuals with a similar position on an issue to inform an elected official of their position on a collective basis, so your voice is no longer singular.

### **Purpose of the Document**

The purpose of this document is to layout in detail the functional and other requirements. This document contains the necessary information to meet the requirements set forth for the completion of this project. The target audience of this document is Project Sponsor, Project Managers, Developers, Designers, and QA Engineers. Now onwards, this document will act as a portal of information during the whole development cycle and any change in the functional or other requirements will be communicated through this document.

### **Vision / Views of the Technology Head / Project Sponsor**

VOICES has been created to provide tools that allow people that are frustrated at the lack of response from elected officials, to be heard in a manner never before available.

VOICES provides a method for you to inform your state and federal officials on how you would like them to vote on legislation, and then holds that official responsible if he continually ignores the majority of the people that state their opinion.

VOICES provides a method for individuals with a similar position on an issue to inform an elected official of their position on a collective basis, so your voice is no longer singular.

### **Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations**

NA

### **References**

NA

## **Application Environment**

### **Technology Environment**

#### **Hardware**

Hardware Environment (Deployment Server)	
PC	Linux Server
Processor	Intel Pentium Processor 4, 2.4GHz or above.
RAM	1 GB RAM
HDD	120 GB

Hardware Environment (End user's PC)	
PC	PC (Windows), Apple, Linux
Processor	Intel Pentium Processor, 233 MHz or equivalent.
RAM	512 MB RAM
HDD	500 MB of free HDD space for Internet Cache
Internet Connection	512K

#### **Software**

Software Environment (Deployment Server)	
Operating System	Linux
Other software	PHP 5.0 or above, MySQL 5.0 or above
Web Server	Apache 2.X

### **Security System**

- Restricted access to admin area.
- Restricted access to Affiliates Section.
- Restricted access to Electoral District Section
- Restricted access to User Section

### **External Interfaces**

Hardware Interface

N/A

Software Interface

- Cicero API/Geocoding.
- Statenet XML/RSS Feed.

#### Communication Interface

- The user should be connected to internet to access this website.

#### User Interface

Mockups based on the SRS and Design Questionnaire.

#### **Portability Requirements**

N/A

## **Functional Description**

### **Process/Function Description-**

The website shall have three major sections. These sections are:

1. HOME PAGE
2. Affiliates Section
3. User Section
4. Electoral District Section
5. Administrator section
6. Other functionalities

The detailed description of each section is given as under:

#### **HOME PAGE -**

The first time someone goes to the site they will view 'HOME PAGE'. HOME PAGE will contain:

1. “From the founder” Section, which have static content provided by client, also this contains links to “About” & “FAQ”.
2. Statement re-referral fees.
3. Links for ABOUT US and FAQ.

#### **Affiliates Section -**

The Affiliates section has following features:

##### **1) Affiliate Join -**

When a group expresses interest we provide User agreement, Affiliate CONTRACT + Rules of Ethical Conduct, but this will done manually, when the agreement has been signed with Affiliate an affiliate account on the web site will be create by admin with blank Affiliate Page. Affiliates can't register from frontend.

##### **2) Affiliate Page –**

This page will password protected page and Affiliate can access this page after successful login. This page will have following features:

- a. The most important page and the content driver for the site is the AFFILIATE PAGE. Data/content entered by affiliate on this page is automatically routed to both the BILL RESOURCES PAGE and the MEMBER PAGE and drive the VOTE ALERT.
- b. First, we need to able to make the page look like the affiliate's website so that a visit to the affiliate's page on our site looks like a visit to the affiliate's own website. For accomplishing this we will provide the affiliate ability to change this page logo, banner, static content of the page, but affiliate cannot change dynamic content (Content come from other sites/API).
- c. Next, there should be a grouping of fields where an affiliate can enter a bill number, a corresponding summary of their take/position on the bill, a place where they indicate whether they are for or against the bill and a final place to indicate whether they are a sponsor or cosponsor of a petition with respect to the

particular bill. These four pieces of content should be grouped as a unit in as spatially efficient a way as possible so that affiliates can enter many, many bill numbers with corresponding comments. This form will have following fields:

- i. Bill number, summary comments, indication of position, and indication of a petition

- d. Once an affiliate enters this group of information on their affiliate page, there is an automatic transfer of this information to the Bill Resources Page. (Each time any Affiliate does this a Bill Resources page is created using Bill # and all comments/positions taken on THAT Bill are posted on THAT Bill Resources page and attributed to the Affiliate that posted the comment/position).

### **3) Change Password-**

The system shall allow the Affiliate to change his/her password. The administrator shall enter Old Password, New Password and Confirm Password to change the existing password.

### **4) Logout-**

The system shall allow the Affiliate to logout from the system. On Logout click, the Administrator shall be taken to Login page with a message “You are logged out successfully.”

On session expire; the Administrator shall be taken to Login page with the message “Your session has been expired. Please login again.”

### **5) Remember me on this computer-**

Selecting “Remember me on this computer” on the Sign in page shall save the email address of the Affiliate in a cookie on system. This will display the email address by default next time user goes to Sign in page. This is applicable for all the site users.

Note: The password will not be stored.

## **User Section -**

The user section has following features:

### **1) Sign Up/Join -**

Sign-up form contains

- a. Name
- b. Username.
- c. Home & billing addresses (home address harvests Cicero info).
- d. List of Affiliates to select, REQUIRES “Prime Affiliate ID”.

When sign-up completed, system generates return email containing “Welcome to VOICES including “these are your federal and state representatives (from Cicero), and “TOUR” of site.

### **2) MEMBERS HOME PAGE -**

This page will password protected page and Affiliate can access this page after successful login. This page will have following features:



- a. The Member's Home Page will ultimately have much more functionality so keep in mind that this description is for the first generation build-out of the tool.
- b. What we need for members to be able to do initially on this page is log-in from their vote alert vote for, against or register no opinion on each bill that make its way onto that member's vote alert. Each bill that a member votes on should have an indication of the affiliate's position relative to that bill directly on the member page so that the member can vote in accordance with their affiliate without linking to any other pages to do further research.
- c. However, each bill that a member votes on should also link back to both the Affiliate Page, where they can read their affiliate's summary comments to learn more.
- d. And finally, each bill in a member's vote alert should indicate whether one of their affiliates or co-sponsor a petition on the bill and link to the Bill Resources Page, where they read "for" and "against" comments, and also sign any offered petition.
- e. So again, the vote alert links to the member's home page, where they can vote on that day's or on bill's that showed up in prior vote alerts but were not acted upon. From that page can link to the Affiliate Pages of their various affiliates according to whether they posted comments on a particular bill or link to the bill resources page, where they can learn by reading other for and against comments, the bill's text or perhaps sign a petition if. (As to Vote Alert, once member expresses yea/nay/no-opinion, we archive to BILLS INVOTED ON (tab create) by bill # & Caption and removed from member home page) NO MEMBER CAN BE ALLOWED TO CAST MORE THAN ONE VOTE PER BILL.
- f. The last thing we need to have initially on the Members Home Page is the running scorecard of their elected representatives for all bills they voted on. Most likely we will these results on ELECTORAL DISTRICT PAGE

### **1) Change Password-**

The system shall allow the user to change his/her password. The administrator shall enter Old Password, New Password and Confirm Password to change the existing password.

### **2) Logout-**

The system shall allow the user to logout from the system. On Logout click, the Administrator shall be taken to Login page with a message "You are logged out successfully."

On session expire; the Administrator shall be taken to Login page with the message "Your session has been expired. Please login again."

### **3) Remember me on this computer-**

Selecting "Remember me on this computer" on the Sign in page shall save the email

address of the user in a cookie on system. This will display the email address by default next time user goes to Sign in page. This is applicable for all the site users.

Note: The password will not be stored.

#### **ELECTORAL DISTRICT PAGE -**

- 1) Initially it should contain the framework for the following. (A page for each elected representative of a member. Initially federal level ONLY, so one member of House of Representatives, and two Senators, harvested from Cicero data on each VOICES member. A list of the congressmen and senators from the district linked to their legislative directory information. Report card for the representative A place for congressmen and senators to post comments on bills to explain their vote. Bulletin board where members can post comments, district relevant political news, events, etc. (ER page must be secure, pass word protected so ONLY the ER can post their comments, but members can view, and post questions/comments, but statements attributed to ER can ONLY come from that ER.)
- 2) Ultimately this page will be a place where we can introduce members and affiliates to each other through the use of member/affiliate profiles, but such networking can wait for the next

#### **Administrator section-**

The Administration section shall have a Super Admin user who will login to the system and do the following tasks:

##### **1) Manage Users -**

The system shall allow the administrator to List, Add, Edit or Delete Users. User deletion will be final after that no data will be in the system related to that user.

##### **2) Manage Affiliates -**

The system shall allow the administrator to List, Add, Edit or Delete Affiliates. Affiliates deletion will be final after that no data will be in the system related to that Affiliates.

##### **3) Manage ER(Electoral Representative)-**

Create Elected Reps pages for each member based on Cicero data. The system shall allow the administrator to List, Add, Edit or Delete ER pages.

##### **4) Must have ability to identify whom we are paying referral fees to? -**

##### **4) Change Password-**

The system shall allow the administrator to change his/her password. The administrator shall enter Old Password, New Password and Confirm Password to change the existing password.

##### **5) Logout-**

The system shall allow the administrator to logout from the system. On Logout click, the administrator shall be taken to Login page with a message “You are logged out successfully.”

On session expire; the Administrator shall be taken to Login page with the message

“Your session has been expired. Please login again.”

#### **Other functionalities -**

##### **1. VOTE ALERTS -**

- a) VOTE ALERTS are generated when a Bill passes out of committee and is sent to the Majority Leader's Office to be scheduled for a floor vote. We must create a filter to identify that event based on status changes from Statenet.
- b) We provide these Vote Alerts via one email containing all V.A. (s) per day.
- c) I believe that in the beginning the Vote Alerts should just indicate that the member has bills to vote on and contain a link to the Member Page where they can cast their votes. Ultimately, we want the members to be able to execute from the Vote Alerts.
- d) As votes are cast by Members on each Bill, we send ONE email to the appropriate ER expressing by percentage (not actual count) the %for or against, each day with all bills being updated. So, we avoid spam issues by sending one email per day listing all bills that members voted on and update daily. ALSO, WE SHOULD POST THESE TO ELECTED REPS PAGE BY BILL #.
- e) THINK WE NEED TO PROVIDE VA EACH TIME A BILL LEAVES COMMITTEE TO BE SCHEDULED FOR A FLOOR VOTE. The Affiliate Pages and Bill Resources Pages will still be great resources for politically active members, and we want as much good content as possible regardless of if or when any particular grassroots activity takes place. It will be in our interest and our affiliate's interest to keep their pages full of information from the time of introduction onward.
- f) Finally, we will use State Net data to not only post links to bill information on the Bill Resources Pages, but to also trigger the alerts to members. When a bill passes out of the primary committee, we will need to send a Vote Alert to all members who have an affiliate who has posted that bill on their Affiliate Page. I think that's all we do. *One alert.* I say this because until a member has voted on a particular bill through VOICES, the ability to vote remains until the congressional vote has taken place. They can ignore their alerts, log in once a week and vote on all the bills at once if they choose. The same holds true for signing petitions. We can let them know that they risk missing a vote if they delay, but nonetheless, every time they log in they will see the bills they have yet to vote on. Multiple alerts on the same bills will be counterproductive.

##### **2. Referral fees Calculation –**

- a) Individual (Referrer) that sent us to affiliates (\$1)
- b) Affiliates (\$6)
- c) Affiliate that refers us to NEW Affiliate (\$3 to original Aff for each new member recruited by new Affiliate for 1st 6 months) + (\$6 to new Affiliate) + (\$1 Referrer for 1st 6 months)

##### **3. BILL RESOURCES PAGE –**

- a) The bill resources page is simple. As soon as a single affiliate enters a bill number to their affiliate page that has not been entered on the VOICES website before, it automatically triggers the creation of a corresponding Bill Resources Page.

- b) At the top of the page acting as a header will be the bill number, which will be linked to State Net's XML data; that is, the title, sponsor, summary and bill-text. Initially this is the place where people should go if they want to actually read the bill's text.
- c) Underneath the header will be two columns. The first column will be the "in favor of" column and will contain the affiliate names and summary comments of those in favor of the bill. The second column will contain the affiliate names and summary comments of those who oppose the bill. We need to ask the Affiliate to identify we "support" or "oppose" the bill and that places the comment in the "in favor of" or "we oppose" column. (The affiliate names should link back to the respective affiliate pages.)
- d) That's it; the bill number at the top, a "for" column, an "against" column and the affiliate names and summary comments segmented according to their position. As you can guess, this information must automatically populate itself on the Bill Resources Page when entered on an Affiliate Page.
- e) The final part of the Bill Resources Page in the initial build-out will be a place to post petitions. A petition title should link to the petition text and to a place where a member can "sign" the petition. Under the petition title should be the names of the sponsors and co-sponsors of the petition, each name linked back to the respective Affiliates Pages. (Once posted the petition language **cannot** change, IF THE PETITION IS NOT ABOUT A BILL ALREADY INTRODUCED, IT WILL BE PLACED ON THE AFFILIATE'S PAGE, AND ALL ALLIES AFFILIATE'S PAGES)
- f) Once a Bill passes one branch, it is sent to the other branch of government (passes House is sent to Senate). Statenet updates us to that event. It often is assigned a new bill # (HR4528, might become S322). We must maintain all information/comments/opinions related to that piece of legislation, and update it, provide to the member's E.R. (s) then acting on that piece of legislation. We might wish to provide the older designation in parenthesis underneath the new designation.

#### **The context diagram and Business Data Flow Diagrams**

N/A

#### **Other Requirements**

##### **Performance Requirements**

As the number of simultaneous users increase, beyond a certain point server response time could start increasing. This could be resolved by increasing the resources of the server. Initially a dedicated server with the specified configuration as in Requirement section above will be optimum.

#### **Data Archival and Retrieval Requirements**

N/A

## **Issues & Concerns**

### **Assumptions and dependencies-**

N/A

### **Transaction Volumes (Current and Anticipated)-**

N/A

## **Standards**

N/A

## **Appendix**

{If applicable, then they need to be attached or referred to}

### **Database Layouts**

N/A

### **Input Forms Formats**

N/A

### **Query Screen Formats**

N/A

### **Report Formats**

N/A

### **7.4 Any other formats**

N/A

**Annexure**

N/A

**Reference**

N/A