

**Rule 50. Rules Concerning the Elections Best Practices and Vision Commission**

## 50.1 Purpose

50.1.1 The Secretary of State recognizes that nonpartisan and open discussion regarding the administration and conduct of elections in Colorado is necessary to ensure that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to participate in fair, accessible, and impartial elections, and has the assurance that his or her vote will count.

50.1.2 The Secretary of State shall establish a Best Practices and Vision Commission (the Commission) to provide guidance to the Secretary of State on issues concerning the vision of elections and voting in Colorado and best practices in the administration of elections.

50.1.3 The Commission shall make recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding the development and adoption of best practices, administrative rules and legislative changes.

50.1.4 The commission shall consider all aspects of voting and elections in Colorado relevant to the development of an elections and voting vision and best practices including, but not limited to:

## a. Vision

## 1. Voting technology

i. Investigation and analysis of new technologies and methodologies including consideration of:

A. Development and functionality;

B. Security, accuracy, and efficiency; and

C. Accessibility and usability.

## 2. The conduct and administration of elections

i. Alternative methods of conducting elections, including investigation and consideration of new technologies and methodologies;

ii. Evaluation and research of methods for measuring performance, quality, and success of elections;

iii. Sharing information, data and research; and

iv. Auditing and recount procedures.

3. Discussion of benefits to centralization versus local control regarding voter registration, vote systems, and administration of elections.

## b. Best practices

## 1. The conduct and administration of elections

- i. Election preparation including, but not limited to:
      - A. Election official training and certification;
      - B. Election judge assignment and training; and
      - C. Polling place setup and accessibility.
    - ii. Use of shared information, data and research.
  - 2. Simplicity, uniformity, and standardization
    - i. Development of election forms, notices and education materials;
    - ii. Ballot design and printing; and
    - iii. Post election activities, including canvass, audit and recount.
- c. Costs and funding of voter registration and elections
  - 1. Investigation and discussion of measures to decrease or streamline the costs associated with the administration of elections;
  - 2. The consideration of the appropriate allocation of costs between the state and counties; and
  - 3. Exploration of alternative sources of funding for elections in Colorado.
- d. Consideration of non-substantive legislative clarifications or corrections to address obsolete, conflicting, incomplete, or incorrect statutory provisions.
- e. Any other elections or voting related issue that the Secretary of State or the Commission deems appropriate.

## 50.2 Membership of the Commission

50.2.1 Appointment and terms of service. The Secretary of State shall appoint at least 11 members to the Commission annually as follows:

- a. Each member shall serve a one year term of service that will begin on June 1 and end on June 1 of the following year.
- b. If there is a vacancy during the term, the Secretary of State shall appoint an individual to fill the vacancy. The member filling the vacancy shall serve the remainder of the one year term.
- c. The Secretary of State may re-appoint any member following the conclusion of a term of service. Members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of State.

50.2.2 The membership shall include representation from the general public including, but not limited to:

- a. Non-profit organizations and groups who work to preserve constitutional rights and civil liberties;

- b. Academicians, scientists, technicians, and other individuals possessing the expertise, knowledge and experience to address issues concerning voting systems and elections administration;
- c. Current or former state or congressional legislators and other individuals with elections law and legislative expertise, knowledge and experience;
- d. County clerk and recorders or employees of county clerk and recorders' offices whose duties include elections administration,
- e. Other designated election officials or employees of designated election officials' offices whose duties include elections administration,
- f. Political parties; and
- g. Voting advocacy groups.

50.2.3 The Secretary of State, or his or her designee, shall be a member and shall chair the Commission.

50.2.4 The Secretary of State's office will provide staff support to the Commission to complete such tasks as may be directed by the Secretary of State.

### 50.3 Meetings

50.3.1 The Commission shall meet no fewer than six times annually.

50.3.2 The meetings will be held at the office of the Secretary of State or such regional locations throughout the state as the Commission deems appropriate.

50.3.3 Meetings shall be open to the public, audio recorded, and where feasible, will be broadcast over the internet via the official website of the Secretary of State; however, legislative or rulemaking formality need not be imposed.

50.3.4 Commission members may submit a request to attend a meeting(s) by telephone or web-based online meeting service when personal attendance is not feasible due to hardship.

50.3.5 Notices, records of meetings, written comments and documents submitted to the commission will be published on the official website of the Secretary of State. However, documents that are otherwise publicly available need not be posted. Any submission containing inflammatory or otherwise inappropriate content will not be posted, including any material that is defamatory, irrelevant, duplicative, or obscene.

50.3.6 The Secretary of State may reimburse Commission members for reasonable expenses that are submitted and approved in advance and are consistent with the state travel policy.

50.3.7 The Commission may request participation or information to be provided by county clerks and recorders or their elections staff, political parties, vendors, technical experts, or other members of the public, as may be appropriate.

