

STATE OF COLORADO
Department of State

1700 Broadway
Suite 200
Denver, CO 80290



Scott Gessler
Secretary of State

Judd Choate
Director, Elections Division

MEMORANDUM

February 3, 2014

To: The Honorable Scott Gessler, Colorado Secretary of State

Re: Recommendations of the Uniform Voting System Public Participation Panel on Proceeding with the Uniform Voting System Process

After reviewing the UVS proposals submitted by each vendor, the Uniform Voting System Public Participation Panel offers the following recommendations:

The Public Participation Panel generally concurs with the UVS Advisory Committee that the Department of State should coordinate a Pilot Election in the November 2015 Coordinated Election. That Pilot should include each of the vendors proposing voting systems, and perhaps a combination of offered products from multiple vendors in one or more counties, and that the Pilot Election be open to all vendors who submitted proposals, whose voting systems, by June 30, 2015 meet the Federal and State standards referenced in Colorado law.

The Panel further recommends that special attention be paid to the systems piloted by Everyone Counts and Clear Ballot and solutions that work with existing and future equipment.

The Panel also recommends that the involvement of the public be maintained by the continuation of a Public Participation Panel through the piloting, evaluation and implementation phases of the Uniform Voting System.

We have attached additional comments that reflect some issues that we believe need to be considered as the Pilot Elections are planned and conducted.

We come to these recommendation based on our determination that no single vendor fully meets the needs of Colorado elections with the product packages proposed. But we feel the software oriented vendors may represent the flexibility needed in the future of voting in Colorado. The recommended Pilot Election will give us an opportunity to determine how well each vendor meets Colorado's needs, and what components or combination of components of each system may offer the best approach for Colorado.

We did not vote as a Panel on recommendations relating to envelope sorting and automated signature verification, nor on Ballot Tracking and Alternate Format Ballot proposals.

We have appreciated the opportunity to serve the citizens of Colorado in working through the process for selection of a UVS to this stage, and we thank you for creating the Panel. We feel the need for an ongoing means for public involvement in these important decisions is extremely important for Colorado's citizens, and we recommend continuation of a Public Participation Panel.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Clarissa Thomas'.

Clarissa Thomas, Chair, Uniform Voting System Public Participation Panel

**Additional Items Submitted by the UVS Public Participation Panel
for Consideration by the Secretary of State**

- 1) No single vendor's proposed system is ideal for Colorado's current elections environment.
- 2) Pilot Elections, in real elections, should proceed and be analyzed before a decision is made.
- 3) The Pilot Election Plan should be for vendor-focused pilots from among the 5 already identified who also have completed testing to federal standards and Colorado standards as of June 30, 2015. These vendors should conduct the Pilot Election using their proposed certified offerings to the extent available, supplemented by other components if necessary.
- 4) Separate integration-focused pilots should be conducted to test desirable combinations of vendors' components. The components should be chosen by public process in conjunction with vendors. Perhaps there could be 2 or 3 such pilots.
- 5) Pilots should test small county solutions in small counties, not depend on side by side testing with large scale solutions in large counties. Perhaps more than one pilot per vendor is needed but county cooperation is essential.
- 6) A public process should be used to help decide what data to collect from the Pilots, selecting methods to make sure voter privacy is protected.
- 7) A public process should continue to clarify recommended criteria for selection of the eventual components or system based on existing UVSAC and PPP work.