SCORE Advisory Board Overview

A small group of counties throughout the state began work with CDOS and a new vendor in 2006 gathering requirements for design of the statewide voter registration system (JAD sessions). In 2007, the group began user acceptance testing (UAT), training, data conversion and deployment for the coordinated election that year.

In addition to the pilot counties direct involvement in design and testing, there were two committees consisting of both county and CDOS personnel, responsible for oversight of the system, development, and "go/no go" decisions. These committees were created for the implementation of the project and ended after the 2008 election cycle.

- The Change Control Board reviewed system development and approved release changes.
- The Steering Committee reviewed key issues with the deployment and approved payments to the vendor upon completion of deliverables.

The SCORE Advisory Board was created by Secretary of State Rule 49.4 in 2009 and has served a vital role in improving and troubleshooting elections technology in Colorado. Pursuant to rule, the Board was to provide guidance to the operation and maintenance of SCORE. The formal user group was necessary to ensure county representation in decisions affecting the usability and functionality of the system.

In addition, the Board's duties were to provide guidance regarding the operation and maintenance of the SCORE system, including but not limited to user training, help desk requirements, service level agreements, vendor evaluation, and the identification, development, and prioritization of future enhancements to the functionality of the system.

SCORE has been a powerful and essential component in Colorado’s elections and voter registration database since its introduction in 2008. It will continue to play a central part as election officials across the state roll out the changes mandated by House Bill 1303. The SCORE board has helped and can continue to help make sure Colorado’s elections technology meets the needs of Colorado voters.

SCORE board members require substantial experience in technology, software and legal issues. They examine critical and often technical issues relating to software, voting equipment and voter registration databases.

While the Secretary of State’s office manages and oversees improvements to SCORE, county clerks and their employees use and understand the technology and how it affects voters on a personal level. The collaboration with the Secretary of State’s office and county clerks on SCORE has made a world of difference in previous elections. Board members have helped Secretary of State staff members prioritize and develop numerous SCORE features.

At other times, the Advisory Board has reviewed, discussed, and approved technological enhancements to the SCORE system which would benefit users of the system. An example would be compatibility between mail ballot sorters and the SCORE system. This boosted efficiency in counties using sorters while ensuring SCORE was compatible with all ballot sorting systems, allowing multiple purchasing options for future adopters of this technology.

Additionally, the board helped manage statewide redistricting through SCORE, lobbied the Office of Information Technology for greater support of the system and helped develop functionality to extract more useful reports and data from SCORE. None of these advancements would have been possible without the input and support of the SCORE Advisory Board working in concert with Secretary of State’s staff in a well-established environment of mutual respect and common purpose.