

State of Colorado

Department of State



Request for Information: Uniform Voting System for the State of Colorado

February 15, 2013

**Colorado Department of State
Elections Division
1700 Broadway, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80290**

Introduction

Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler is soliciting information about what systems and products may be available for consideration in establishing a Uniform Voting System (UVS).

The Colorado Department of State (CDOS) seeks information as it works to create a formal Request for Proposal for a Uniform Voting System in Colorado. The UVS could be ready for implementation by July of 2014, but this date should not be considered a limiting factor when considering your submission.

The UVS will be a major component of Colorado's larger comprehensive elections structure. This includes, but is not limited to, elements related to voter registration, ballot creation and distribution, voter eligibility, voting, ballot acceptance, vote tabulation, vote reporting, and auditing.

Purpose of this Request for Information

The purpose of this request is to gather information to assist the Secretary of State in making a determination as to the specific elements that should be included in a UVS. Information is being gathered to help the Secretary better understand the systems and products available.

This Request for Information (RFI) is solely for informational and planning purposes and does not constitute a formal solicitation for a product or service and may not directly result in an award or contract. Respondents are responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this request. The State of Colorado is under no obligation to pay for any information or ideas submitted in response to this RFI or for any of the costs incurred by any party as a result of this RFI. Responses will not be returned. After evaluation of the information submitted and the Secretary's determination of the specific elements to be included and feasibility of a UVS, a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued.

Description of Information Requested

All vendors with a solution meeting any or all of the potential requirements outlined in this request are invited to submit a response that specifically addresses the potential requirements. Vendors are also invited to submit responses that identify system or component alternatives not identified in this document. Respondents are encouraged to provide any additional information or alternative considerations that may assist the Secretary of State in defining requirements and determining the specific elements to be included in the UVS. No confidential information should be submitted in a response to this request; all responses shall be considered public information in their entirety and will be handled as such.

Support

Responses should address available support and help desk services. In particular, responses should discuss technical service and help desk service available to the State and counties during the installation phase of the project as well as services available during the life of the system. The respondent's approach to training during implementation and operations should also be addressed.

Company Overview

Respondents to this RFI should include a brief company overview describing the company's relevant experience and qualifications with the systems and products described in the response. Responses should discuss relevant staffing considerations and unique qualifications. Responses should include a discussion of any election challenges, successful security attacks or breaches as well as any federal or state certification acceptances or denials. Responses should also discuss relevant timelines for a project that might be implemented for the 2014 General Election.

Potential Requirements

The overall system considered for implementation will not necessarily be provided by a single vendor, although that option is possible. Multiple vendors may be selected to provide specific components of the UVS. In some cases, multiple vendors may be authorized to provide the same functional component(s). Respondents to this RFI should provide any information regarding how their solution would address the potential requirements.

Responders to this RFI are encouraged to present alternative, yet complimentary, ideas for accomplishing the listed requirements. Innovation is encouraged. The Secretary of State will consider software as well as hardware based solutions. Our intent is to be forward looking as we consider the needs of Colorado voters over the next 5-10 years.

Our decision making process will include evaluation of several attributes. Among these are:

- Transparency in the total operation of the system within the necessary security parameters.
- Scalability to accommodate Colorado's large and small counties.
- Integrity against fraud with demonstrable security and audit protections.
- Options for voting that perform well for all members of the voting population.
- Cost-effective flexibility to meet new demands that may be imposed by legislation or rule.
- Consideration of the need to transport, setup, take down and store all associated equipment.
- Power and connectivity requirements that allow use in many different locations and settings.
- Cost effectiveness over time including maintenance, upgrades, etc.

For the purposes of this solicitation, "system(s)" shall mean all mechanical, electromechanical, manual and electronic components necessary to accomplish the described task. References to electronic voting units include DREs, Ballot Marking Devices and any other device that allows the secure capture and tabulation of votes or output to a paper ballot. Any proposed component of the UVS may be required to interface with components of other new or existing systems.

The Secretary of State will accept information concerning systems that include any or all of the following or any alternative approaches that may be submitted:

1. Provide for the design, creation, and testing, of ballots to be voted electronically or on paper, and for the importation of the ballots into an electronic voting unit upon or through which an individual voter may cast his or her ballot on all contests for which the voter is eligible.
2. Capture the voter's vote electronically and provide for output to a paper ballot for tabulation.
3. Provide a method for the voter to receive and visually verify that the correct ballot is displayed in the electronic voting unit.
4. Allow vote capture by electronic means and provide for a voter verifiable paper audit trail.
5. Allow vote capture by electronic means and meet accessibility standards, including providing the voter the opportunity to access an audio ballot or other accessible ballot form, and to cast a ballot privately and independently.
6. Allow the importation of audio ballot content that may have been created externally.

7. Allow the voter to review, change, and confirm choices made while casting votes on the electronic vote capture system.
8. Allow the casting of provisional ballots electronically and the segregation of these ballots from other ballots cast until verification of voter eligibility is complete.
9. Allow the reporting of accepted provisional ballots as an individual category along with other categories the State of Colorado may require, including but not limited to, ballots cast during Early Voting, on Election Day, and by mail.
10. Provide for accumulation, tabulation, and reporting of all votes cast by electronic means.
11. Allow accumulated election results to be audited in a risk limiting audit via a single vote cast record.
12. Allow printing of a removable paper copy of results at the polling site from each individual electronic voting unit used.
13. Provide for the design and development of paper ballots by ballot style and precinct, on two-sided ballot pages, and multiple page ballots.
14. Provide for the printing of paper ballots on demand for issue via mail, at polling sites, through County Elections Offices, and Service Centers.
15. Provide for the efficient processing of ballots that require resolution of voter intent.
16. Provide for a central count accumulation and reporting of votes cast on paper ballots.
17. Allow the centralized accumulation and reporting of all votes cast and the reporting of such votes by method cast including provisional ballots.
18. Allow the centralized accumulation and reporting of all votes cast and the reporting of such votes by candidate, "yes or no", and contest within each precinct in the election.
19. Allow production of a uniform precinct-level electronic results export.
20. Allow secure electronic delivery and return of ballots for voters qualifying under the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and other voters allowed by federal or Colorado law to receive or cast ballots by secure electronic delivery methods.
21. Allow automated verification of voter signatures via comparison with voter registration file signatures and the signatures provided on mail ballot return envelopes. These systems must provide a means to calibrate acceptance criteria.
22. Provide automated sorting of mail ballot envelopes to various jurisdictional or precinct level divisions.
23. Provide, possibly in conjunction with sorting or signature verification, the attachment of a date stamp to the mail ballot envelope.

24. Provide a solution for security of the entire system including physical security, data integrity measures, contingencies, and backup strategies.
25. Allow electronic tracking of voting equipment location.
26. Provide for a real time electronic pollbook.
27. Systems must be able to provide content and instructions in both English and Spanish with the potential for adding additional languages in the future.

How to Respond

Responses to this RFI will be accepted through **5:00 p.m. MT, on April 1, 2013.**

All Responses must be received by the deadline above and must be sent in both hard (12 copies) and electronic copy (email or portable data storage media) to:

Al Davidson, UVS Project Lead
Colorado Department of State
1700 Broadway Street, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80290
Email: al.davidson@sos.state.co.us
Phone: 303-869-4928

Note: Email receipt of any complete response by the specified deadline shall constitute timely submission if the hard copies of the submission are received by CDOS not later than the third business day following the specified deadline.

Questions concerning this RFI must be submitted by email to UVS Project Lead Al Davidson at al.davidson@sos.state.co.us. All questions will be answered by email.