

**DRAFT**  
**Summary of Uniform Voting System (UVS) Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**March 22, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Johnson who welcomed and introduced newly appointed member George Leing. Mr. Leing expressed his appreciation for being appointed to the UVS Advisory Committee as a public member.

**UVS Request for Information (RFI)**

The Chair inquired as to the status of the RFI. Staff reported that 14 vendors had responded to a survey indicating that they were “certain” or “very likely” to submit a response.

Staff will provide a summary at the April 5 meeting of what responses were received, and a general overview of the content of the submissions. Staff will share the RFI responses with the Committee Members.

**Report on Options for Providing Voting System Support Services**

The Chair asked staff for a verbal summary of the report Options for Providing Voting System Support Services, which was prepared by staff and distributed prior to the meeting.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the three options presented in the report (State provided, Third Party provided and Vendor provided) and concluded that more information is needed on the status of the existing equipment in the counties and the anticipated equipment replacement schedule.

The Committee requested staff to prepare a survey to be sent to all Clerks asking questions about current equipment and replacement plans as well as soliciting the Clerks’ views on support levels and options.

The survey is to address:

- Current operating system platform
- Equipment replacement plans
- What equipment is actually used in polling place and mail ballot elections respectively
- How many DREs with accessible devices the county has
- Whether the county has allocated any funds for replacement of voting equipment
- What are the feelings of the Clerks on centralized maintenance and support of voting equipment
- What types of support services do the Clerks feel could/should be provided centrally

The Committee requested the staff to prepare and issue the survey as quickly as possible.

The Committee agreed that a Request for Information should be sent to all colleges and universities and any other appropriate entities, to determine the interest in, and capacity for, providing centralized election system support in Colorado.

## **Secretary of State Scott Gessler**

Secretary Gessler discussed his vision for a Uniform Voting System and discussed the benefits he sees in developing such a system in Colorado. Among the issues that led him to support a UVS were:

- The current array of different systems and combination of systems creates an unnecessary level of complexity in elections
- Rules are necessarily complex under current system
- Costs of maintaining current systems continue to increase
- County to county assistance is difficult under current system
- UVS can increase purchasing power for counties for capital purchases as well as support services
- Voters will benefit from consistency from county to county

The Secretary emphasized that a UVS need not be a “single vendor” provided system.

On the question of timing for implementation the Secretary made the following points:

- Need adoption of a uniform set of standards for the purchase of equipment
- Standards should be set by the end of 2013 so counties who want to implement in 2014 can
- Some counties need or want to have an updated system for 2014 elections
- Counties will not be forced to change systems until ready

The Secretary reported on discussions with the State Treasurer’s Office on options to provide financing for UVS. A follow up on the financing options will be scheduled for the next Committee meeting.

The Committee asked if the Secretary requires legislation to be able to implement UVS. The Secretary responded that he does not, however he is interested in working with the Committee to support such legislation as may assist the effort, particularly in the financing area.

The Committee expressed concern over the 2014 implementation if the system selected is required to go through a full certification process. The Secretary said he is mindful of the certification issues but believes that the resources exist to accomplish certification in time for a 2014 rollout. The Secretary has asked staff to further investigate the certification issue and report back to him and the Committee.

The Secretary concluded the discussion by thanking the Committee Members for serving and said he views the Committee as having a “clean canvass” to develop recommendations about a UVS.