

DRAFT

Summary of Uniform Voting System Public Participation Panel Meeting, May 22, 2013

The meeting was held at the Secretary of State's Office, Blue Spruce Conference Room beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Members attending were: Carol Tone, Chris Murray, Evelyn Tileston, Harvie Branscomb, Lauren Kingsbery, LTC Mike McGregor, Martha Tierney, Micki Wadhams, Patrick Davis, and Rick Kron. Chair Clarissa Thomas participated via telephone.

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order and members of the Panel introduced themselves with brief background statements.

The Chair opened the floor to discuss future meetings. There was consensus that Wednesdays approximately once a month worked well for members. The next meeting was scheduled for June 26, 2013, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Secretary of State's Offices in Denver. The meeting will include an opportunity for public comment. Staff and the Chair will meet to determine how to best advertise the June 26 Denver meeting to the public.

Chair Thomas also asked for feedback on holding meetings outside the Denver area. Members supported the idea for the purpose of collecting public input. The Chair and staff will work on a draft schedule of meetings in various locations around the State.

Staff reported that a special email address was being created to accept public input.
publicparticipationpanel@sos.state.co.us.

Secretary of State Scott Gessler addressed the Panel via telephone and discussed his vision of a Uniform Voting System.

Mr. Branscomb stated his opinion that the State needs to be able to respond to innovation in the elections field and that the current process and calendar inhibit that ability.

Ms. Tileston asked that staff explore options for making meetings and meeting summaries accessible to persons with hearing disabilities.

Debra Johnson, Clerk and Recorder for the City and County of Denver and Chair of the Secretary of State's Uniform Voting System Advisory Committee addressed the Panel to discuss that Committee's work over the past five months and anticipate future items.. She introduced Advisory Committee Member George Leing who serves as liaison between the Advisory Committee and the Panel.

State Voting Systems Manager Christi McElveen and Uniform Voting System Project Lead Al Davidson presented an overview of the project to date including information about the need for a uniform system. Al Also discussed the results of a survey conducted by the Advisory Committee relating to current county voting equipment and viewpoints on various options for providing election and equipment support services.

The Panel discussed a follow up survey to ask the county election officials what their equipment needs might be based on the passage of HB 1303.

Mr. Branscomb offered to bring some draft questions for the survey to the next meeting. By consensus the Panel agreed.

Mr. Branscomb passed out suggested edits to the adopted definition of a Uniform Voting System and a document listing his concerns over the process. He asked members to be active in expressing thoughts and ideas to the Panel and the staff.

It was suggested that the Secretary of State budget for a public information campaign about the new voting system so voters will be aware of changes to the voting process.

The meeting concluded at 3:35 p.m.