

Summary of Public Participation Panel Meeting

June 26, 2013

REVISED 8-9-13

Panel Chair Clarissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. on June 26, 2013. The Chair welcomed the members and guests and announced that the meeting was being streamed live over the internet and that a recording of the meeting would be available on the Secretary of State's website following the meeting.

All members except Mr. Murray, Ms. Tierney and Ms. Tone attended all or part of the meeting.

The summary of the May 22, 2013 meeting was accepted as presented.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion of issues upon which public comment would be accepted by the Panel. The consensus was that discussion should not be limited by topic as long as it related generally to the solicitation, selection, purchase and implementation of a Uniform Voting System.

The Chair opened the public comment period and announced that each presenter will have five minutes to comment, potentially followed by an interactive discussion with Panel members. The Chair then called the first commenter on the sign in sheet.

NOTE: All written comments and documents presented for public testimony will be posted on the Secretary of State's website under Voting Systems/Public Participation Panel at <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/VotingSystems/VSHomePage1.html>

Jim August, Boulder County Citizen and Election Watcher

Mr. August's remarks focused on issues in Boulder County that he has observed and reported on particularly issues identified in automated signature verification processes.

Mr. August also stated that he objects to the schedule for issuing the Request for Proposal on August 1 as currently planned.

Mr. August submitted several pages of written testimony for the record.

Al Kolwicz, Colorado Voter Group, Elections Matter

Mr. Kolwicz shared a diagram that he described as representing the multiple dimension of an Elections System. The four elements of an election system were identified as Pre-Election, Voting, Vote Counting and Post-Election.

Mr. Kolwicz discussed the need for system requirements to be measurable by objective standards, and to provide for the anonymity of votes and transparency of all election processes. He indicated that present restrictions on poll watchers inhibit transparency.

Al Kolwicz (continued)

He recommended that draft system requirements be posted on the internet in a format that allows for a structured response so that the data may be organized and evaluated.

He recommended creating an organizational chart that shows the relationship of the Public Participation Panel with other elements of the UVS process. The Panel voted to have staff prepare this document.

He stated that all elections records should be accessible and non-proprietary and that record formats that include personal data such as Social Security numbers should reference a separate file with that information so that the base record can be exported as a public record absent the personal data.

He also objected to some counties' determination that pdf copies of voted ballots are confidential.

Mr. Kolwicz concluded with a statement that there needs to be accountability in the administrative processes of elections.

Mr. Kolwicz stated concerns about effective delivery of documents from the public to the Panel.

George Leing

Mr. Leing is the liaison to the Public Participation Panel from the Uniform Voting System Advisory Committee.

Mr. Leing discussed HB 1303 and stated that it had significantly reduced the oversight that is available to watchers of the elections processes by limiting the number of watchers to a single person within a building.

Mr. Leing suggested that requirements for a UVS need to provide for additional processes that will provide adequate oversight based on HB 1303.

Discussion

The Panel discussed the schedule of the Request for Proposal and voted to direct the Chair to send a letter to Secretary Gessler requesting an explanation for the Secretary's stated intention to deliver the RFP on August 1. The panel agreed to ask the Secretary for a meeting to discuss a delay in the RFP release schedule.

The Panel also agreed that the draft system requirements should be made available to the members of the Panel as well as to the general public for comment.

The Panel discussed member Branscomb's recommended questions to include in a survey of the County Clerks being sponsored by the UVS Advisory Committee. The Panel voted to include the "principles" portion of Mr. Branscomb's proposal, but to pursue the remainder of the questions in a survey to be conducted later, so as not to risk delaying responses to the UVSAC's survey.

The Panel asked staff to obtain contact information so that invitations to participate in public comment at the Panel's meetings or through the Panel's email are sent to specific groups of people who assist in the elections process. These include Logic and Accuracy Test Board Members, designated Poll Watchers, and Canvass Board Members. [The Elections Division subsequent to the meeting decided to request all County Clerks to invite members from their county's groups listed above, to participate. The Elections Division also sent notices to the state and county political parties who provide appointees many of the posts described above].

Concerning another question proposed by Branscomb the Panel concluded that Branscomb and Davidson should cooperate to draft suitable language for the purpose of asking Clerks to explain the top three design problems in existing equipment that could be avoided in the future.

Elections Division staff shared the definition of a Uniform Voting System as used in presentations.

The Panel asked the staff to post the "principles" drafted by Mr. Branscomb, on the Secretary of State's website.

The Panel discussed items for the next meeting, including:

- Public access to vendors and their voting systems during the RFP process;
- The effect of HB 1303 on the conduct of elections;
- Effectively capturing and reporting the testimony received at public meetings and what the Panel's final work product will include.

The next Public Participation Panel meeting is at the CSU Facility in Pueblo, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on July 31.

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.