

DRAFT
Summary of Uniform Voting Systems Public Participation Panel Meeting
August 14, 2013
Mesa County Board of Commissioners Hearing Room
Grand Junction, Colorado

Chair Clarissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Members in attendance in person or by phone included: Carole Tone, Chris Murray, Clarissa Thomas, Evelyn Tileston, Harvie Branscomb, Lauren Kingsbery, Patrick Davis and UVSAC Liaison George Leing. Al Davidson, UVS Project Lead staffed the meeting for the Secretary of State.

The Chair recognized and thanked the Mesa County staff for assistance in setting up the meeting in Grand Junction. Those recognized included Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Sheila Reiner, Elections Director Catherine Lenhart and Administrative Assistant Gina Schlagel. Also recognized were the technical staff from Mesa County who assisted in the recording of the meeting and the setup of the telephone access for members and the public.

Public Testimony

Grand Junction resident Bill Hugenberg presented testimony to the Panel (see attached written copy). Following delivery of his prepared remarks, Mr. Hugenberg joined the members of the panel in an informal discussion of the points made in his presentation. Mr. Hugenberg emphasized four main points which included: Certainty of a secret ballot, impartial election officials, transparency in elections processes and deterrence of voter fraud and intimidation while assuring appropriate access to voting processes. (The complete discussion is on an audio recording of the meeting at: http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/info_center/audioArchives.html)

Member Branscomb initiated a discussion about involving election experts from outside of Colorado in the discussion of the development of requirements for a Uniform Voting System. The Panel charged Branscomb to work with Secretary of State Staff and the Chair to establish an opportunity for the experts identified by Branscomb to communicate with the Panel in a telephone meeting. The target for such a meeting would be before the next regularly scheduled Panel meeting in September.

The Panel discussed accepting public testimony via telephone and determined that such testimony would be encouraged and allowed at future meetings.

The Panel cancelled its scheduled meeting in Fort Collins in September as a result of less than expected turnout of public members at previous meeting scheduled outside of the Denver area and in light of the decision to accept testimony by phone.

The Panel scheduled the next meeting for Denver, at the Department of State, for 9:00 a.m. on September 11, 2013.

Member Tileston expressed concern over previous implementations of uniform systems in Colorado and said she hoped that the implementation of the UVS would be guided by evaluation of issues raised in previous implementations.

The Panel members indicated that they would be interested in attending the product demonstrations when vendors responding to the RFP are invited to demonstrate their products.

Member Branscomb raised the issue of the survey of counties that he has previously proposed. Branscomb indicated that some of his survey questions appear to have been asked of counties by the survey contracted for by the Colorado Voter Access and Modernized Elections Commission; however he continues to believe that the Public Participation Panel should distribute a survey as well with additional questions. There was discussion of the number of surveys that had already been sent to the counties in the past several months and the potential lack of response as counties move into “election mode” in early September for the November 5, 2013 Coordinated Election.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

An audio recording of this meeting is available at:

http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/info_center/audioArchives.html