

DRAFT
Summary of Uniform Voting System Advisory Committee Meeting
October 30, 2013
1:00 p.m.

The meeting was held in a conference room at the Denver County Clerk and Recorder's Office.

Attendees in person:

Debra Johnson, Denver County Clerk and Recorder
Deborah Gardner, Boulder County Commissioner
Wayne Williams, El Paso County Clerk and Recorder
Donetta Davidson, Executive Director, Colorado County Clerks' Association

Attendees by phone:

Jennifer, Levin, Legal Center for People with Disabilities.
Sheila Reiner, Mesa County Clerk and Recorder

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Review of Agenda: Johnson stated that she hoped an outcome of the meeting would be an agreed to direction for the Committee to proceed in pursuing legislation to fund and set up a process for oversight of funds for voting equipment and systems in the future.

The summary of the September 19, 2013 UVS AC meeting were accepted without comment.

Williams reported that the Subcommittee on Governance and Legislation had met in Jefferson County on September 27, 2013. The Subcommittee agreed to present to the full Committee recommendations in three areas:

1. Legislation for governing the purchase of voting systems;
2. Creation of an oversight Committee for management and disbursement of state funds for voting systems.
3. Description of a Pilot Election process.

Johnson presented the Pilot Program document;

Comments included:

- Need to define success
- Need to detect and evaluate any issues or problems that may occur in a pilot election
- Need to demonstrate compatibility of various components of a voting system in the pilot
- County should implement pilot election in parallel with existing election system
- Jurisdictions conducting pilot need to have plan for what may go wrong
- Consider the possibility of testing regional ballot processing/counting centers in a pilot

- Agreed that any pilot should be approved by the county governing body
- Questioned whether a “special” system certification could be applied for a pilot election.
- Need to identify what elements of a voting system need certification
- Pilot should evaluate ease of usability for election officials, Judges and voters

Williams presented the document on fund allocation

Comments included:

- Should funds be distributed to non-county entities?
- Do not want to preclude such distribution in legislation as there may be opportunity to save money if Districts conduct their own elections.

Question: To whom should this committee report?

Discussion:

- The Committee may need to report to the Legislature the factors considered when allocating funds.

Question: Is distribution of funds the Committee’s only function?

Discussion:

- Should the Committee be involved in system selections?
- Counties should own the equipment;
- Need a state contract for pricing including maintenance and upgrades. Secretary of State should be contract party for pricing.
- The Secretary of State should maintain the necessary records, etc. for the Committee.
- Counties are fearful of this project. Need to find a way to bring them along.

Reiner presented the document on the overall proposed legislation and statutory changes.

Question: Should legislation only address “Pilot Election”?

Discussion:

- Need to establish a committee that is more than advisory to oversee funding/implementation
- Legislation should address pilot election and committee creation with the committee having a role on equipment selection and funding.
- Consensus that State funding is unlikely in 2014 Legislature
- Need to identify a revenue stream for pilot election to present to 2014 Legislature
- Since we may not be able to get long term funding immediately we should ask for Pilot Election funding only.
- Need to define “voting system”
- Committee agreed to define “voting system,” “voting equipment,” and “Election System”.
- Legislation should include identification of what equipment needs to be certified.
- New SOS rules may alleviate some previous difficulties with certification
- Need to establish a program that will continue regardless of who is Secretary of State.

Reiner will re-draft legislative document narrowing the issues to:

- Pilot Election
- Voting system, election system and voting equipment;
- What gets certified, and
- Secretary of State duties versus Committee duties.

Discussion on future actions:

- Need to find out timing for drafting legislation
- Should present ideas to COVAMEC for potential support or to at least let them know of the direction
- Will try to get on COVAMEC agenda for 12/2/13 meeting
- As advisory body need to discuss potential direction with Secretary Gessler*
- Need to line up potential bi-partisan legislative sponsors
- As many UVS AC members as possible should meet with legislators

*Secretary Gessler phoned into the Committee meeting and the Committee presented a brief overview of the direction they had been discussing. The Secretary indicated he would like to be briefed in detail on the Committee's direction before having a substantive discussion with the Committee. Secretary Gessler indicated that he would contact the Committee after being briefed.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled on December 12, 2013 at the Offices of the Secretary of State. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. with adjournment expected by 3:00 p.m.

Agenda items will be:

1. Review of revised documents and approach as discussed at this October 30 meeting
2. Evaluation of Uniform Voting System RFP responses.

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.