

UVS Pilot Program

What exactly is the UVS Pilot Program? limited implementation of an election system(s) on a controlled scale to allow for its full impact, benefits and weaknesses to be evaluated before implementation on a statewide basis. This pilot will consist in the setting-up of the desired environment (hardware, software, content, training, support material, etc) in a “controlled” setting (county and/or region) where its performance can be measured. It will allow a select group of intended users to interact with the environment and find potential problems.

Purpose: to gain firsthand experience of new election technology, implemented through a pilot program and to evaluate a voting system and its benefits to all Colorado electors; and to determine the viability, accuracy, security, integrity, efficacy, accessibility, and public acceptance of a voting system(s) for all elections in the state of Colorado.

This legislation would fund and permit the use of new voting system(s) on a trial basis in certain counties in the 2015 coordinated election. This Pilot would permit the Secretary of State and the State Legislature to evaluate and agree on the broader application of the tested voting systems to all elections in Colorado.

Why this Pilot is important?

- Before investing in a large-scale project, testing its assumptions on a smaller scale can leave us better equipped to plan and execute for the larger scale deployment.
- We can reduce the risk of mistakes by detecting errors at the pilot stage.
- Used to assess the impact of the voter system(s) on the county, the electorate, the community, etc.
- It is easier to secure funding for a pilot than a large-scale deployment. The pilot can provide the evidence needed to secure more funding or to justify greater expenditure on specific areas such as personnel or baseline studies.
- The SOS staff (or governance) can gain more experience before engaging in a more demanding project.
- Can use the pilot to compare two or more systems in order to find out which one works best for Colorado.

What this Pilot is not?

- **A pilot must be carefully planned for:** doing a pilot does not mean that you don't plan at all and do the pilot in order to see how the real project should be planned.
- **A pilot is NOT necessarily the first phase of a large scale deployment:** It is not, as we are testing for the **feasibility** of the implementation. Make sure there

are expectations that the pilot might show the proposed solution to be inadequate for local conditions.

- **A pilot must not be used for any specific technology company or companies to support the sales pitch for their products.** Do not allow the company providing the hardware, software or solution to interfere with the pilot, or the results can be biased.

Considerations/Discussion:

- Number of vendors selected from the RFP process
- Look at a county implementation as an additional method of voting, but does not completely replace the original voting system within the county . There will be two systems running parallel so there isn't a change of a complete shut down. Look at a regional tabulation facility, counties participating would create ballot, send ballot and return ballots to a regional facility
- An agreement between SOS & county authorizing the county to conduct the pilot
- The "certification" of the system used in the pilot
- Measures of success
- Final report & follow up