

Dwight Shellman

From: Wayne Williams
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2015 5:03 PM
To: Dwight Shellman
Subject: Fw: Jefferson County Elections - Severe Problems With Voting Machines & Appearance of Candidate's Names & Issues

Please include this as feedback for the ES&S system.

Wayne

From: Terri Lee Nielsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 6:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Jefferson County Elections - Severe Problems With Voting Machines & Appearance of Candidate's Names & Issues

Thank you for responding Faye,

I do not wish to feud... I am very sad about the Jefferson County Schools dilemma -- and definitely want it to settle down.

However it is tough for me to see that you characterized my message at both the beginning and the end of your response email as -- sorry about "your experience"... as in "one unhappy voter's experience"...

Yes -- many people will use their Absentee - Home Ballots...BUT, several people have and will use Jeffco's computerized voting forums. And -- Jeffco still combined too many candidates / issues in one big pot... yielding several splattered messes.

The key problems are not defensible:

Having 1 candidate have the distinct advantage of being listed on the screen with the original question or voting act... and then having another -- or other candidate(s) listed on a second or third frame screen for the same numerical vote....?

Having each of those screens be difficult to navigate to see the varied candidates, during one numerical voting topic ...?

Having an option for finishing - the Exit option, erase your entire ballot ?

Having the Recall Issue embedded within the potential election feature for certain candidates...?

You say that these computerized systems were "previewed".... well -- they were not previewed in the context of having the issues and candidates listed on several contiguous different screens-- OR SOME PEOPLE in the know would have been objecting. I'd say these are LARGE issues of breach of voting legalities and ethics -- to be of concern to the masses in Jefferson County, and to the masses of citizens in Colorado.

I now see the main Jefferson County Voting website says : The Secretary of State expressed "prior concern" about the Recall issue being poured into an already complicated process for the other voting issues.

Thank you for offering to meet with me. Please let me know when you accrue a larger panel to review the problems, and I am happy to meet with your team at that time.

Sincerely,

Terri Lee Nielsen



303 668 0102

Director, Satori Alliance for Strong Schools West Denver

Gifted Ed, 5th-12th STEM, & Early College

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." Chinese Proverb

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **County Clerk** [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, Oct 31, 2015 at 2:09 PM

Subject: RE: Jefferson County Elections - Severe Problems With Voting Machines & Appearance of Candidate's Names & Issues

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Nielsen,

Thank you for your feedback concerning your voting experience. The Jefferson County Elections Division strives for a positive experience for all voters, and all feedback we receive is reviewed by our staff. I would like to give clarification on some of the topics that you covered in your email.

In May of 2013, Colorado Legislators passed an Election Modernization Bill which reduced our dependency on voting equipment by mandating that all elections be conducted as mail ballot elections utilizing voter service and polling centers. This is a hybrid system of mail ballot delivery and vote centers. All voting services are available at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in Jefferson County including the following:

- Vote in Person
- Ballot drop off
- Request a new or replacement ballot
- Change voter registration information

- Register to vote
- Accessible voting equipment

The Colorado Secretary of State is in the process of reviewing new voting system technologies, and Jefferson County is participating in that process. As a pilot county, we are using and evaluating new ballot marking devices and vote center tabulators. All our equipment has received federal certification, as well as temporary state certification. The equipment that we are using in the VSPCs is a ballot marking device that allows voters to make their voting choice using the touch screen and then printing the choices on the ballot

but does not tabulate votes. The ballot is then inserted in the vote center tabulator equipment for counting. Any ballot inserted into the tabulator equipment that has not first been marked by the ballot marking device is ejected by the tabulator for review by the voter.

Due to the length of some of the questions on the ballot, multiple screens may be needed to review the entire text before seeing the question. Colorado State statute §1-12-112 requires the petitioners statement of grounds for recall followed by the incumbent's statement justifying their course of conduct to appear on the ballot as part of the recall question. We chose a medium size font so the text will be readable for most voters, which in turn creates more than one screen of text.

The election judges at each VSPC have been trained to explain how to navigate the screens for voters as an introduction to using the ballot marking device. We have provided this level of service to our voters for as long as we have had voting equipment in our service centers and polling places. In addition to the ballot marking device, voters do have the option to receive a traditional paper ballot in the VSPC or to receive a mail ballot to take with them. All surveys that voters complete after they use the equipment will be forwarded to the Colorado Secretary of State for consideration.

If you would like to discuss the functionality of the voting equipment or your experience further you can contact me by phone or email.

Regards,

Faye Griffin

County Clerk & Recorder

Jefferson County

100 Jefferson County Parkway

Golden, CO 80419

[303-271-8186](tel:303-271-8186)

From: Terri Lee Nielsen [REDACTED]
Date: October 28, 2015 at 1:53:38 PM MDT
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: Jefferson County Elections - Severe Problems With Voting Machines & Appearance of Candidate's Names & Issues

Dear Libby, Casey, and Don,

My charter school friend Dr. David Brazzell recommended that I forward these Jeffco Voting blunders to you.

If I were a candidate -- I'd ask for legal assistance, or a re-vote....

Even as an independent citizen -- I believe these problems are VERY UNFAIR to the candidates and the issues.

Terri

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Terri Lee Nielsen** [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Oct 27, 2015 at 2:07 PM
Subject: Jefferson County Elections - Severe Problems With Voting Machines & Appearance of Candidate's Names & Issues
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Education Advocates, Mr. Wayne Williams-Sec of State, Ms. Cynthia Coffman- Atty General, and Denver Post Execs,

I am sad that the Jefferson County Elections staff - (in the Lincoln Bldg - Jeffco) had to explain to me, that approximately five different computerized voting systems are on trial in various counties in the State of Colorado.

When I think of what a unique set of circumstances this particular voting period is for Jefferson County --- I am inclined to wonder why State & Jeffco officials did not look for the "Most Intuitive" "Most User-Friendly" system for citizens in Jefferson County to use, while numerous difficult issues lie on these ballots in Jeffco at this particular point in time.

Could State officials -- or even Jeffco officials perhaps have waited for this grand experiment of the trial of 5 computerized systems --- for another election....?

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If you are a resident in Jeffco, please take your Absentee Ballots - and ask to re-cast them on the main voting machines in Jefferson County ---- or get friends / family in Jefferson County to allow you to accompany them to vote in person, vs. using your Home Ballot--- to see how senselessly difficult and illiterate the process of voting with machines is.

I can not begin to name the numerous errors, difficulties and "over-sights" ... that will yield unfair outcomes for the candidates and issues.

I was in the Jeffco Election office for ~ the better part of an hour -- when I expected it would take either 5 or 10 minutes to re-cast my ballot... (at least 15 minutes of this long session, was to write comments about how bad the process was for me . There were no lines, and no one else voting there, until 1 other came while I was exiting).

I realize that 50 % to 75% of people will vote from home, or otherwise known as Absentee Ballots; however, I made a mistake on my home-ballot, and wanted full credit for each vote, ... so I went to the main election office to re-cast my ballot.

Boy was I in for a lesson on what it's like to vote with a machine in our local Jeffco Elections Office, versus voting with my Absentee - Home Ballot.

Just off the top of my head:

1. I was not aware that you could vote for back-up candidates -- (if you didn't want to support the Recall of 3 School Board Members in Jeffco).... should Witt, Newkirk, Williams be defeated... if they are defeated.. you can vote for their replacement candidate within the same numerical vote...? (is this good voting science..?)... In the Education Psychology world -- or the STEM world... combining several important components in one voting or research piece, would be considered Poor Technique -- hence, poor science.

2. The touch screens used in the Trial in Jefferson County are very difficult to use and maneuver.

3. The wording for the issues are not placed on 1 screen -- the same issue, wording explanation and candidates are split on to different screens, .. giving "the candidate who appears 1st or only on a given page" a distinct advantage.

4. The wording for the issues are poorly presented, repeatedly... and are continued on different frames. e-books like Kindle, etc... would never split important reading information up in these unreadable ways.

5. After I carefully voted on the machine ----from all of the answers already voted on, on my Absentee - Home Ballot --- I looked carefully for what I should do next. Naturally, since I'd voted on all the issues -- the option for EXIT made sense to me.

So, I selected EXIT, picked up my ballot - when it was ejected,and then proceeded to walk across the room to another box -- where you are then suppose to feed your paper ballot, when you are done voting. Luckily the woman working in the main elections office took the time to babysit me and my ballot. She noticed that nothing at all was printed on my ballot. I would not have known -- as we live in a world of "all data fits into a few incoherent dots or lines."

Unfortunately the word EXIT , was not the option I was suppose to pick -- even though I knew I was DONE... I was suppose to pick the option that said NEXT -- vs. EXIT how is this intuitive...? Do we need Apple employees to write Colorado voting code ? ... or even Rally Software employees of Boulder ... ?

6. Will there be 1 : 1 Jeffco Election personnel available to help each and every voter sort through "the Lack of Voting User Friendliness" in Jefferson County...?

(1:1 help like there was for me during Early Voting, on Friday, October 23, 2015 ?)

7. Why are we walking across a room to put our ballot in yet another machine -- after we use the first machine to cast our votes...? Can we add yet a third machine -- to make this process even more User - Unfriendly ...?

**

I am a well educated person with a Masters Degree, and "a small amount of recent computer-science coding experience." If I needed to be in the Jefferson County Elections Office for ~ 1 hour to cast my vote, and write some notes about the inefficiencies on a comment card -- during "the Early Voting window"..... what on Earth is going to happen when there are more than 1 or 2 people in the Jeffco Election offices in the upcoming days closer to Nov. 3rd...?

Will there be 1:1 assistance for each Jeffco voter who votes on a computerized machine ...?

Will there be an abundance of time and staff, to help people fix their numerous blunders....?

Will their ballot be blank, after they carefully make their selections... because they too, feel the best option is EXIT when they are done...?

Will their ballot be blank when they are finished voting with the machine, as mine was...?

What kind of chaos will result, when there are lines of 10 to 60 people... or 100 + in the last 2 days of the voting window ...?

Will the other voters care about the issues enough, to stay in the Voting Machine settings long enough to correct the numerous errors...?

Is this a fair and democratic and modern voting process ?

Or will citizens leave when they see how that the issues are written on different frames, and become confused when they vote for a candidate, but that candidates opponents are on a different page..? Or be turned away, when their vote is not cast before the polls close...?

Will voters leave in droves, ... because the lines ahead of them are long and arduous -- because of everything I've written about above...?

If I were a candidate -- I believe that I would notify the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the TV news channels, and The Denver Post -- to inquire about these inefficiencies, and "the timing of Testing 5 new voting systems".... at a point in Colorado history, that to my recollection, a potential School Board Recall has never been on the ballot before, in Jeffco. We've never put a potential Recall on the ballot of dedicated school board members.

The teachers union has "led this Recall Honorable School Board Members travesty." Now a bad voting process could cost our tax payers even more needless shame, and money. I can not imagine the undue stress and humiliation these School Board representatives have had to endure.

And at this unique, and tender point in time --- Colorado officials feel that Jefferson County ... and other counties should "Try Out" unworthy computerized voting systems...?

Surely these computerized systems that "the State is trying"received several layers of trial and practice, before they were selected as being stellar enough to use in a multi-million dollar, high stakes Jefferson County election.... (?)

Have you ever voted within a public election facility, for a large-stakes election -- when you had to ask repeated questions of the 2 person election staff, or had them hold up a lengthy addendum letter embossed in plastic that they prepared in advance...? (because large numbers of others had also been confused ... ?).

These candidates' platforms, and key county issues have been unduly and unfairly compromised.

My disappointment and mis-trust levels are huge, to say the least.

The process is so insulting to so many --- A recall effort, when there have been no egregious acts by Board Members, .. only earnest, and hard work. We have THE BEST Jeffco Schools Superintendent, in Mr. Dan McMinimee, that our school district has ever had. (thanks to these caring school board leaders). I've been a second generation educator for Jeffco Schools, and I've personally known and carried on several conversations with each of the great superintendents we've had since approximately 1968.

In the years after 1980, I hosted several of Jeffco's superintendents in my varied classroom settings. While Jeffco has had numerous strong and talented superintendents, Dan McMinimee is tops. Being only in his youthful 40's, he has the potential to make endless great contributions to PreK - 16 education in Colorado, and for Jeffco.

These fumbling mistakes and mis-guidance are costly to tax payers and the State. I have to ask.... who thinks Errors (or worse -- Foul Play... ?) with Voting Machines are okay ?

Terri Lee Nielsen  [303.668.0102](tel:3036680102)

Director, Satori Alliance for Strong Schools West Denver

Gifted Ed, 5th-12th STEM, & Early College

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