

## Dwight Shellman

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**From:** Wayne W. Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2015 8:40 AM  
**To:** Dwight Shellman  
**Cc:** Wayne Williams  
**Subject:** Fwd: UVS pilots

Wayne W. Williams

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Corinne Lengel [REDACTED]  
**Date:** November 12, 2015 at 9:28:12 AM CST  
**To:** 'Wayne Williams' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** UVS pilots

Dear Secretary Williams:

Last week, Yuma County Clerk Beverly Wenger, Prowers County Clerk Jana Coen, and I made the tour of UVS pilot counties in the metro area. We started with Douglas County, worked our way up to Jeffco, stopped in at Denver, and finally ended up in Adams County toward the end of the day. While we all felt extremely uncomfortable leaving our small offices the day before the election, we also felt the journey important enough to make the sacrifice. We are glad we did.

I would like to give you our input according to our preferences. There were things we liked and disliked about each system, but it seems that we all agreed that Clear Ballot and Hart were our top choices.

We felt that the ES&S system, while impressive in its ability to specialize one race for a recount, did not meet our needs in many other ways. We felt the equipment was large and cumbersome (way too big for our small offices) and we did not like the fact that CVRs are stored on the DS850. The fact that there are different sizes of ballots (skinny when voted on the equipment but legal size mail or paper ballots) was a concern as well, but perhaps our largest apprehension came with the ballot numbering on the side of each ballot as it enters the scanner. The potential for issues with this part of the system made each of us extremely uneasy. We did feel that the separation of ballots into different trays was a great feature, as well as the capability for recounts. Unfortunately, our anxiety about the system (particularly the ballot numbering) far outweighed the positive factors.

The Dominion system was extremely overwhelming—only because we saw it on such a large scale in Denver County. We did like the off-the-shelf components and ease of use of the tablet, as well as the fact that scanning, adjudicating and tallying can all be done on the same network. However, I personally have had a terrible time having someone commit to pricing. Yuma County did receive a quote for well over \$300,000, which seemed exorbitant, quite frankly. This was a system that we would have to see more of on a smaller scale in order to understand it more completely. And hopefully the pricing would be lower.

As for Hart, well, we are all Hart lovers. We are completely sold on Hart's customer service and Ballot Production Services team and would really like to be able to continue using them to create our paper ballots. When we asked each of the vendors if we could use our own vendor for ballot design, most of them told us we could design the ballots ourselves. This is not an option that any of us would choose, as our small offices are way too busy with Motor Vehicle, Recording, Accounts Payable, and other duties for us to feel comfortable designing our own ballots. Of course, I only speak for the three of us, but imagine there are many other counties out there that feel the same. We did not like the fact that no one could tell us that we would still be able to use Hart for ballot design. The Hart Verity system is friendly, familiar, and extremely easy to use. We were all impressed with the smaller equipment and appreciate that there are

now minimal pieces, as well as the fact that off-the-shelf scanners can be used. I personally like the price. Hart has quoted me what is well within my budget: under \$70,000. I cannot say the same for the others, except for ES&S, which I didn't particularly care for.

The three of us did like the Clear Ballot system quite a lot—the adjudication and other features seem straightforward and easy to use. The scanning portion also seems uncomplicated. The group that gave us the presentation were friendly and did not talk over our heads, giving us the feeling that a partnership with Clear Ballot would be relaxed and informal. However, when I received the quote from them, I was actually quite shocked. It is close to \$150,000 for a county that only has 3,000 registered voters, so I can't imagine the price for larger counties. How is this much different than it was in 2006 when all counties were required to start using electronic voting equipment? At that time, Hart was basically forced on us as the cheapest system—still a hefty \$76,000 in Lincoln County's case. It seems that the UVS winner should not cause counties the heartache of such a costly system once again. Was it not the intent of the UVS to be more affordable for counties? I would hope that it is one of your main considerations.

The last thing I would like to mention is that many small or even medium-sized counties do not have IT departments. We rely on part-time IT people, customer support, or ourselves to make these systems work. We believe that the Secretary of State's office needs to provide some type of IT service or help desk once the UVS is determined, much like SCORE customer support. I imagine that once there is a uniform system, the task of supplying support to counties would be very feasible and hope you will consider this as a top priority.

I thank you for your time. We had hoped to make it to Denver on tomorrow for the presentations to PERC, but other obligations prevent us from doing so. We will try to listen to as much as we can online, and also hope to make it up on December 4.

If you have any questions, please feel free to let me know.

Corinne

*Corinne M. Lengel*

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