



Larimer County Clerk and Recorder

VIA EMAIL TRANSMISSION
December 8, 2015

The Honorable Wayne Williams
Secretary of State
and
Pilot Election Review Committee
State of Colorado – Department of State
1700 Broadway, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80290

Honorable Secretary Williams and Members of the Pilot Election Review Committee:

First and foremost, as Larimer County Clerk and Recorder, and on behalf of all Larimer citizens; I wish to extend sincerest appreciation for the work of this Committee, participating vendors, pilot counties, the Secretary and his staff. These activities continue to demonstrate Colorado's commitment to high quality election administration, and operations across the state will directly benefit from this exercise.

The Committee's desire for input from County Clerks who understand the real world of election administration and have been elected by the citizenry to carry out these activities is appreciated.

Election operations in Larimer County have utilized the Premier (GEMS)/Dominion voting system for many many years. As is the case across the state, our system is well past its expected lifespan; but I am proud to say that, with consistent, quality maintenance and support from our vendor, it has continued to provide us with a stable system as we administer elections of integrity in our county.

I have had an opportunity to observe demonstrations by each of the vendors, both during the piloting activities and in other settings. It is clear that significant efficiencies are provided by each of the vendors involved. Our experience with Dominion, our opportunity see first hand the efficiencies that their new system provides, and their performance during use by the pilot counties, keep them (at this point) in the forefront for us in terms of the right choice for "next generation" election technology in Larimer.

Having said that, I am firm believer in free enterprise and healthy vendor competition. As well, I am uncomfortable with the unanticipated consequences that a single vendor decision could have for our state in the long term. Each of the vendors come with the support of healthy leadership within their organizations at this point in time; but we all know that leadership can change, leadership philosophies can change and successful corporate management is not always a given. A single vendor who controls all election systems statewide can also, under the worst of circumstances, result in the "tail wagging the dog." And, finally, healthy competition means that vendors continue to work on equipment improvements that will keep Colorado at the technological forefront.

It is for these reasons that I respectfully ask the Committee and the Secretary to consider moving in the direction of specific system requirements, rather than a single vendor requirement – allowing any vendor, now or in the future, who can meet these requirements to receive consideration and the opportunity to provide equipment within our state.

Again, thank you for the careful consideration that has been given to this process, and for taking care to consider the perspective of those who are charged with carrying out these activities.

Sincerest regards,

Angela Myers
Larimer County Clerk & Recorder

Vehicle Licensing Division
P.O. Box 1429
Ft. Collins, CO 80522
(970) 498-7878

Elections Division
P.O. Box 1547
Ft. Collins, CO 80522
(970) 498-7820

Recording Division
P.O. Box 1280
Ft. Collins, CO 80522
(970) 498-7860

Loveland Annex
205 E. 6th Street
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 619-4521

Estes Park Annex
1601 Brodie Avenue
Estes Park, CO 80517
(970) 577-2025