



Faye Griffin
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DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

Teri Schmaedecke
CLERK TO THE BOARD

Susie Swain
DIRECTOR OF RECORDING

Sharon Carnefix
DIRECTOR OF MOTOR VEHICLE

December 14, 2015

Honorable Wayne Williams and Valued Committee Members,

I would like to thank Secretary Williams and the PERC committee for the opportunity to pilot the ES&S system in this election and would like to respond to some recent statements and questions that have been brought to the committee. We feel that ES&S is the best suited candidate to become the vendor for the state of Colorado for multiple reasons. They have been an excellent partner to Jefferson County over the past 20+ years. We, in Jefferson County, had one of the most difficult November elections and tabulated one of the highest numbers of ballots within the state while piloting their new system. I am not sure that any other system could have handled the issue of running the Coordinated and Recall elections given the mailing and certification deadlines for each. The ES&S system not only allowed us to do this, but we were able to design, program and tabulate the ballots with little assistance from them.

I would like to restate what was said in our presentation to the committee about how fast and intuitive the layout of the ballot and programming of the equipment was for us. We had no issues with set up, and we now have the knowledge to program any type of election that we may have in the future. There were significant time savings for programming, allowing our data specialist to move on to other projects ahead of schedule. The Electionware software allows us to save the layout as a template which will be an additional time and cost savings for future elections. The few times that we did have to call the support desk for assistance, we were always helped by knowledgeable staff who answered questions quickly and accurately.

On Election Day alone, we received over 47,000 ballots which we processed and counted the same day with just two scanner operators. Other systems that use a network of scanners for central count require many more operators, which would significantly increase our election costs. The efficiencies and ease of use can also be seen in the VSPC's, where our election judges were able to set up all of the equipment on their own in a matter of minutes. This cannot be said for other systems, some of which require network cables and servers to be used. Again, another system would add significant staff costs to every election.

The ES&S tabulators are unparalleled in the industry and we could have easily used only one central count scanner instead of the two that they provided. Their tabulators make short work of ballots and have reduced staffing costs by reducing the amount of time the resolution board judges are needed, compared to past elections. The fact that we can determine how we want ballots sorted on the machine has greatly reduced the number of ballots that need to go to resolution. Any ballots that cannot be counted, either due to over/undervote or damage to the ballot, are sorted into a bin and the scanner continues to scan. Very rarely did we even encounter ballots so damaged that they would not scan through and be sorted into a bin. While touring Denver's election in May, we observed a central count scanner operator encounter a ballot jam. It was not immediately clear to the operator whether or not the ballots in question had already been scanned or needed to be rescanned. The DS850 is very clear on what has been counted in the very rare event of a ballot jam. The DS850 is the only central count scanner that is compliant with the Risk Limiting Audit procedure because of its unique ability to imprint a number on the ballot after they have been scanned. This allowed us to conduct the "mock" RLA using all of our ballots in under an hour.

We were also impressed with the Balotar ballot on demand system. The printers have a smaller footprint and less registration issues than the larger printers. Because the Balotar system is a part of Electionware, after the ballot layout is complete we are able to create the files needed for the ballot on demand ourselves, without sending them out and waiting on the vendor to convert them. If we want a truly uniform system, an integrated ballot on demand system would also be of benefit. It is also worth noting that ES&S offers an electronic ballot delivery system that could be used for UOCAVA ballots, which is similarly easy to set up ourselves because the integration with Electionware programming already exists. We have not used this system, but it is another feature that shows the commitment ES&S has to the advancement of the conduct of elections.

The issue of not having electronic adjudication immediately ready has been discussed. There seems to be a misconception that not having electronic adjudication requires a large number of duplication board members or that this will increase the overall amount of time it requires to tabulate ballots, and we want to say that this is simply not true. We were able to tabulate ballots faster than we ever have before in less time thus saving our taxpayers money. Nonetheless, ES&S has made a commitment to us to have electronic adjudication available by the end of 2016, which will surely provide even more efficiency in our processes.

ES&S was the only vendor certified in this pilot without any conditions. The system that we tested is proven and is successfully being used throughout the U.S. This should give everyone in Colorado the confidence to know that it works and we can attest that it works well. ES&S has also stated that they will have the mid-range central count scanner (DS450) available for use in 2016. The DS450 utilizes the same software as the DS850, so federal and state certification in 2016 should happen very quickly. ES&S has a long history of success with many states across the country and we believe that ES&S systems are functional, proven and that no re-certification events need to take place to "fix" problems going into a Presidential Election year, is significant. I have complete confidence that ES&S will have the DS450 and the electronic adjudication module ready for deployment next year as they have stated, and that they will be the best in the industry like the rest of their system. Again, this shows ES&S' commitment to moving forward in order to support future election needs. We don't believe there is enough time for the other vendors to complete their needed system development and re-certification process in time for the 2016 election cycle.

The ES&S system will work for large and small counties alike, which is why they successfully piloted in Teller County as well. Not only is their system the best, but they have the largest infrastructure of support in the industry to stand behind their systems. It is important to note that they have the largest, most experienced, solely dedicated network of hardware and software support specialists in the industry. In addition to their specialists, they have a Colorado team that is dedicated, trained and ready to implement their new system, as they did with us. ES&S is by far the most proven, established and forward thinking election vendor in the country and I strongly recommend that they be chosen as the Universal Voting System for the State of Colorado and if not the sole vendor, then one of the vendors.

If the ES&S system is not chosen to be part of the Uniform Voting System, Jefferson County will need to reassess a move to a new voting system in 2016. The additional time as well as cost associated with implementing an entirely new voting system in a county our size would be too great of a task for us to be able to commit to in a presidential election year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Faye Griffin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Faye Griffin
Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder