

Public Comment Received from Richard Wojciechowski 8-9-13

From: Richard at Log Hill [<mailto:LogHillPol@skybeam.com>]

Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 6:40 PM

To: Public Elections

Subject: Voting system

I understand you are having a meeting regarding voting system in Montrose on August 14th.

I doubt that I will be able to attend the meeting, but would like to pass an off-the-cuff comment to you.

While I do not know the name/manufacturer/model of the electronic voting machines used in Ouray county in the recent past elections, there was a very clear problem with them.

Certainly partially due to the complexity of the ballot, but I suspect also due in part to the type of machine, using the electronic voting machine took far too long and discouraged use.

In my case and that of my wife, (in the 2010 election I believe), we wanted to use the electronic machine, and had in the past in other jurisdictions used touch screen machines successfully and happily.

In the Ouray county election, at my polling place there was one electronic machine plus paper ballots that would be read by an optical scanner. Another elector got to the electronic machine before I did, and after waiting about 5 minutes, I requested and obtained a paper ballot, went to a table with privacy partitions, filled out my ballot, placed it in the optical scanner and was finished voting, said good bye to the election officials and left. The same person who had started on the electronic machine in front of me was still trying to register her votes on that machine, and I noted that other electors had similarly lined up for the electronic machine and then given up.

For whatever reason, voting on that particular type of machine was slow.

I also recall some frustration with the technique required, I think from the 2008 election, perhaps something to do with a paper tape on the lower left side of the machine.

These machines seemed much less user friendly than the ones I used in Fairfax County, Virginia.

As I recall, although I do not recall from which election, electors are asked to vote for an office even when there is no candidate. While the results may be of interest, when the ballots already include a large number of offices and issues, this only prolongs the voting process to the detriment of the entire process.

Richard Wojciechowski