

Risk-Limiting Audit Participation Group
Summary of Written Comments for 2/17/2017 Informal Conference

Summary

The outline below is a summary of the written comments submitted for the RLA Participation Group's informal conference on February 17, 2017, by Gilpin County, Larimer County, Arapahoe County, Harvie Branscomb, and Neal McBurnett. The outline is separated into two parts: RLA Concepts and RLA Procedures. The RLA Concepts section summarizes written comments regarding general propositions that the commentators believe should be defined or established in the Secretary of State's contemplated RLA rule. The RLA Procedures section summarizes comments identifying specific steps in conducting a risk-limiting audit.

RLA Concepts

1. Define risk-limiting audit
2. Determine contests to audit
3. Determine risk limit
4. Determine how to handle various ballot issues
 - a. Rare ballot styles
 - b. Ballots with voter-identifiable marks
5. Determine when to conduct the audit
 - a. Proposed time frame: begin nine days after; conclude 13 days after
6. Audit oversight
 - a. County role
 - i. Appoint a bi-partisan audit board
 - ii. Provide RLA training to audit board
 - b. SOS role
 - i. Create and manage a statewide audit center (proposed by Harvie and Neal)
 - ii. Public website that provides data and info to counties
 - iii. Aggregates data sent from counties
 - iv. Software required

RLA Procedures

1. Pre-Election
 - a. Download ballot manifest form or upload the ballot manifest onto a central website
 - b. LAT: compare manually tabulated results to CVRs and ballot images
 - c. Define batch size
 - d. Use current processes or refine processes to create batches
2. Ballot Scanning
 - a. Keep ballots in order or imprint unique number
 - b. Store ballots

- i. Label each ballot container
 - ii. Establish and maintain chain-of-custody for each container
- 3. Post-Election
 - a. Determine sequential order of steps for counties and SOS
 - i. What info (ballot manifest, CVR) is dispensed by counties and when?
 - ii. Randomly draw ballots
 - iii. Look up selected ballots
 - iv. Compare selected ballots to CVR and ballot image
 - v. Fill out RLA report
 - vi. Submit RLA report to SOS
 - b. Conclude audit
 - i. Secure and store ballots and audit material