

From: Paul Stokes
To: [SoS Rulemaking](#)
Subject: Integrity of Colorado elections
Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018 10:48:20 AM

It is my understanding that Colorado, in its landmark efforts to develop an election system with integrity, is considering the use of the images of ballots for recounts, and possibly for post-election audits. This would be a mistake, since it would violate the principle of software independence because images can be altered to falsify election results.

I write as the originator of New Mexico's post-election audit, which assures, with at least 90% probability, that errors or manipulation of the vote that would result in the wrong candidate being elected would be detected, and if the number of errors or manipulated votes were significant would require a full hand recount.

Thank you,
Paul Stokes
Member of the Election Verification Network
Corrales, New Mexico