

Draft Summary Uniform Voting System Advisory Committee Meeting July 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Chair Debra Johnson at xx:xx

All members were present with Members Reiner and Williams participating by conference call.

Chair Johnson asked if there were additions or corrections to the Agenda. There were none.

Chair Johnson asked if there were additions or corrections to the Draft Summary of the May 31, 2013 Advisory Committee Meeting. There were none.

George Leing, Committee Liaison to the Public Participation Panel reported that the Panel will be meeting in Pueblo, at the Colorado University facilities there on July 31, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. He requested a substitute from the UVSAC to attend that meeting as he has a conflict. Member Faith Gross offered to attend and her offer was accepted by the Chair.

The Chair recognized that Public Participation Panel Chair Clarissa Thomas was in the room and invited her to address the Committee. Ms. Thomas updated the Committee on the public meeting schedule of the Panel with public input meetings in Pueblo in July, Grand Junction in August and Fort Collins in September.

Discussion with Secretary of State

Secretary of State Scott Gessler joined the Committee to discuss which elements of a Uniform Voting System that have been under discussion should be included in the Request for Proposal being issued on August 1, 2013.

- The Secretary agreed that Ballot Tracking should be added to the items already selected for inclusion and addressed other issues as follows:
- Ballot printing and mailing logically follow system selection and should be a “round two” selection.
- Offered to create a study group on Election Worker Management recognizing that the current processes in SCORE are not meeting all needs, but recognizing that there are a number of variations in the way Election Workers are hired and paid.
- Indicated that polling place surveys for voting location compliance with ADA and other requirements for voters with disabilities is being adequately handled by SOS staff in a close working relationship with advocate groups directly associated with assuring that needs for voters with disabilities are met.
- Offered that elections issue tracking processes could be included as an addition to the Customer Relations Management (CRM) processes that the Department of State has developed over the past few years.

- Offered that a uniform Pollworker training program would be possible after selection of a UVS system and that DOS resources could be brought to bear to assist in the development of a Pollworker training program for all counties.
- Discussed that the electronic pollbook should be a part of the current revisions of the SCORE system under the provisions of HB 1303, but offered to revisit that determination at the request of the Committee.

The discussion between the Committee Members and the Secretary covered the following topics:

Q. How does system certification enter into the process?

A. Certification requirements will need to be met, though the DOS will take an assertive approach to working with certification laboratories to fully understand the process and determine how the certification process can be most efficiently managed, if the selected vendor(s) are not fully certified at the time of selection. The lack of current certification should not deter the State from selecting the vendor(s) system that best meets the future needs of Colorado voters.

Q. What about pilot counties for 2014?

A. There are counties who need new equipment to be able to comply with federal laws in 2014. These are most likely the counties who could serve as pilot counties.

Q. What is the Secretary's vision for conversion of counties to a UVS?

A. Based on Hart counties, their equipment life will be reaching its productive end in about 2016-2017. Recognize that other counties may have shorter or longer equipment lifecycles on current equipment.

Q. Why were three vendors already selected as UVS providers?

A. Everyone Counts provides electronic management of military and overseas ballots, SOE Software provides election night reporting (ENR), and Runbeck provides Ballot on Demand (BOD) equipment. These were needs identified prior to the 2012 election and the state took action to provide uniformity in these areas with these vendors. The current process is an extension of continuing to provide uniformity in aspects of elections operations.

Q. Is the UVS system an "opt in" or a "mandatory" system.

A. The system is mandatory. There are conditions that will determine when counties need to comply. It is a mandated system with grandfather provisions related to the lifecycle of existing equipment.

Q. What is the authority for mandating a UVS?

A. Statutory requirements that equipment purchases must be approved by the SOS.

Q. Current standards and available equipment for meeting the needs of voters with disabilities are inadequate. Much work is being done and better equipment may be available in future years.

A. There is always the promise of improvements in the future, though if we always wait for the future we never do anything. There is a need to move now, and work to incorporate improvements as they become available.

Q. Pricing will be difficult without being able to identify the amount of the equipment needed and within what timeframe.

A. The RFP will ask for pricing based on a phase in over a period of years. We will use what information we have about the numbers of voting units needed based on data gathered about county approaches to providing equipment under the HB 1303 scenarios.

Q. Why can't we wait until the new generation of voting equipment goes through the certification process at the Federal level?

A. Colorado does not require Federal certification and any systems proposed that are not yet federally certified will need to go through Colorado's processes. The Federal certification process is broken with little chance for fixing it anytime soon.

Q. How are we going to finance the purchase of the UVS?

A. The Secretary and State Treasurer were unable to work out details during the Legislative session to provide for a revolving fund for equipment purchases. Currently, as in the past, equipment purchases are the responsibility of counties. The SOS can be supportive of Clerk efforts to secure funding from the legislature for voting system purchases.

Discussion on survey questions for the all county survey on voting equipment.

Concern was expressed by members over the question posed for the survey by the Public Participation Panel. The Committee determined not to include the question in the current survey.

The Chair asked staff to rewrite the survey questions and distribute to the Committee members on Friday morning and asked committee members to respond as soon as possible so the survey could go out on Friday.

Donetta Davidson suggested that a briefing on State and Federal requirements might be appropriate for the Public Participation Panel.

Staff indicated that there would need to be negotiations with Runbeck about providing additional Ballot on Demand equipment.

Ms. Davidson suggested that a memo be sent to counties explaining the Ballot on Demand decision and the fact that it doesn't mean counties need to immediately replace other BOD systems currently in use.

Discussion of RFP

After some discussion the Committee agreed that it should make recommendations based on the Committee's view of how the project should proceed, whether or not those views coincide with the views of the Secretary.

Ms. Davidson stated that the Committee should determine the needs of the counties based on the new model of elections, for counties who may need to purchase equipment for the 2014 election.

The Committee agreed:

UVS may be a positive approach, but the timing is questionable;

The UVS should be based on an "opt in" approach and should offer counties a catalog of services from which to choose.

That counties should go through the 2013 Coordinated Election on the new model of elections before decisions are made on a UVS.

Sheila Reiner reminded the Committee that the Modernized Elections Commission is preparing a report on equipment for a September 2, 2013 release.

Review of Draft System Requirements for RFP

The Chair suggested that there was not enough time in the meeting to adequately address the draft system requirements document and that since the next scheduled meeting of the Committee is after the release of the RFP, that an additional meeting should be scheduled specifically for the purpose of discussing the draft system requirements.

That meeting is scheduled for July 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the DOS offices at 1700 Broadway, Denver. The Aspen meeting room on the 3rd floor has been reserved.