

**DRAFT MEETING NOTES**  
**2008 Elections Model Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, October 9, 2007**  
**2:00 p.m.**

Clerk & Recorder O'Malley called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Attendees: Stephanie O'Malley, Clerk & Recorder  
Michael Scarpello, Director of Elections  
Carolyn Metzler, Republican Party  
Charles Williamson, Election Judge  
Rosemary Marshall, State Legislator  
Tamra Ward, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Faye Diamond, representing Denis Berckefeldt  
Penny May, Mayor's Office  
Jenny Flanagan, Common Cause  
Rich Pelletier, America Votes  
Sara Harmer, Technology Services  
Heather Riti, Budget Management Office  
Faith Gross, The Legal Center  
Manolo Gonzalez, Spanish Language Advisory  
Steve Welchert, Democrat  
LaCharles Keese, Finance  
Dusti Gurule, Latina Initiative  
Carol Boigon, City Council  
Jessie Danielson, America Votes  
Ed Neuberg, Commission for People with Disabilities  
Susan Shepherd, DALF  
Walt Beckert, AFSCME  
Vicky Ortega, City Attorney's Office  
Vivian Stovall, Seniors

Guests: Billy Compton, Colorado Democrats  
Lauren Martens, SEIU 105  
Daniel Chacon, Rocky Mountain News  
David Larson, Coloradoans for Voting Integrity  
Dan Willis, Denver Democrats  
Scott Meiklejohn, Meiklejohn Consulting

**Today's agenda & Introductory comments:**

O'Malley reminds everyone that from she and Michael Scarpello's perspective, some things to take into consideration include being mindful of fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers and citizens of Denver and, also to understand that not a single division of the City & County of Denver has a blank check to spend whatever they want. She goes on to say that she and Scarpello, in considering the thought processes, will be focused on the voting community and in providing an experience to enfranchise electors. She reiterates

as she said on the campaign trail that no one should be denied the right to vote. O'Malley and Scarpello will continue to keep these things in mind.

Presentation as to various costs and calendaring a 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, next week, October 16 at 2 p.m. and asks that everyone schedule at least a couple of hours. The group will focus on objectives, make recommendations, consider financial and personnel, be brief and concise and keep in mind that there is only one vote per organization, in the case where there are 2 representatives present.

Scarpello begins with the handout of advantages, disadvantages and financial costs of each model. (reference PowerPoint of 10.9.07)

**Precinct polling includes 5 options:**

All costs listed are estimates and based on certain assumptions; we have done best we can in a short period of time to put costs together; once we implement plans, costs could change; 2008 projection is for the August Primary and the November General Election and statistics base is 112,000 voters at the polls; 292 precinct polling place, 75 vote center; or 175 combined polling places.

Scarpello reminds all that these numbers are a moving target.

He goes on to review further assumptions of basic operating costs; staff, supplies, technology stating that costs may fluctuate; not included are ADA accessibility improvements, e-pollbook, existing and additional t1 line costs are not clear and are estimated at \$5,000 to \$300,000; there are 55 existing T1 lines but we may need more.

Precinct Polling Place Models with paper are reviewed and costs outlined.

Scarpello notes that 4.9 million dollars are budgeted for the Elections Division and anything over 3.1 million would require a supplemental request. He verifies that additional Edge machine costs are based on \$5,000 for 52 machines.

**Walt Beckert** asks if the current machines are usable. Scarpello explains that machines could be sold but it is not probable that they would be bought. He explains that there's not much of a market for machines without the auditable paper trail. He goes on to say that we could end up with many variable options. Crane explains that the Advantages are not fit for disability voting. **Faith Gross** asks if support costs for training are included in the operating costs. Heather Riti affirms with a headshake that they are.

**Ron Williamson** asks about paper ballots at all precincts and points out that although everyone might be required to vote on paper, you can't prevent someone from voting on the machine. Scarpello points out that paper ballots would be specific to the precinct. **Flanagan** asks if there will be one electronic machine at each polling place. Scarpello answers that a certain number of machines would be staged and ready to go, if a machine failed, however, he doesn't anticipate heavy usage. **Ed Neuberg** says not estimating improvement costs for ADA is risky because sites are notorious for not being ADA accessible. O'Malley suggests that Neuberg may want to come up with an estimated

ADA cost based on the particular mode. **Faith and Ed** affirm that half a million to a million might be projected costs. **Faith** goes on to explain that the doors in DPS schools are incredibly heavy and that a solution to doors might be to prop them open, hire staff or place automatic door openers at \$1500 per door at each site; there also needs to be consideration of a one day site usage. **Carol Boigon** comments that parental requirement is an issue and questions managing the door with a staff member and in terms of acceptability. **Neuberg** said this could be a possibility, but questions whether they will be there the whole time. The human factor enters into this and this could be a problem. **Boigon suggests that we ask the schools.** **Vivian Stovall** points out that the doors are not the only problem and that most of the time there are steps and the handicap door is not in an accessible location; this can pose a big problem with people in walker, chairs, and canes and asks that other disabilities be taken into consideration.

Late results are the biggest challenge for this paper ballot model with Central Count.

Option 2 – paper ballots/precinct counted; Scarpello outlines  
292 polling precincts with one insight scanner to count  
One edge machine  
Operating costs of \$2,469,700  
Additional Edge at \$260,000  
Central count & precinct scanners cost of 1.9 million  
Total election cost of 4.7 million  
\$1.6 million additional required  
Training issues – 2 pieces of equipment to train all your pollworkers on.

**Jenny Flanagan** asks for explanation of the base budget of 4.9 million. Scarpello explains that 3.1 million is basic operating for elections and 1.8 million overhead is a given under any scenario.

Option 3 - DREs Edge & Advantages  
5 Edge & Advantage DREs per polling precinct at 1.9 million basic operating costs  
Total election cost 3.5 million  
Additional funds needed at \$447,100  
At a minimum we would buy 2 central count scanners due to increased count of mail; biggest concern is with Advantage. Precinct results could be counted

Option 4 DREs - Edge machines only  
5 edge per polling precinct  
Basic operating costs 1.9 million dollars  
Additional Edge 6.1 million dollars  
Central count scanners cost \$170,000  
Total election costs 8.2 million dollars  
Additional funds - 5 million dollars  
Concern is with capacity issues and you can't expand with DREs; voters have to wait until machines free up.

**Rich Pelletier** makes reference to the issues mentioned by Scarpello around the DREs and he wants to know if there is a chance that the DREs might not be acceptable forms of voting. Scarpello responds that the EAC has published their 2007 standards and even the Edge II Pluses might not be viable. We don't know the future and the Advantage machines may be obsolete.

**Faith** asks whether with the 2005 Voluntary System Voting Guidelines, do the Edge II Plus have dual ports and whether simultaneous audio and video provided for? Information will be obtained by Director Scarpello.

**David Larson**, Coloradoans for Voting Integrity, asks whether projected costs reflect full replacement. Response is that best guess is made.

Option 5 - Paper ballots & Edge DREs  
Additional 2.7 million in funds required

Issue with this option is the complexity of election administration, training issues, logistical issues; very risky for Denver because there are lots of points of failure. **Carol Boigon** wants to know where the ballots would be counted and Scarpello responds that these would be centrally counted. **Dan Willis** said paper and provisional would be confused amongst each other and that there would be further confusion on the part of the judges and confusion on the part of the voters;

**David Larson** asks why the central count is different under option 1; it is explained that there are more ballots under Option 1 and more people voting by machine under Option 5; so there would be less costs with the mixed model.

Count time per Director Scarpello would be longer than DREs but shorter than all paper.

Option 6 – Vote Center Model with 75 Vote Centers

Paper ballots at all Vote Centers  
3 Edge Machines per Vote Center for voters with disabilities  
Not a viable option  
It would be impossible with number of ballot faces/it's not practical  
3 million total cost

**Jenny Flanagan** references Larimer County using paper. Crane explains that for Denver to report by precinct we would have 520 ballot styles plus 420 X 3 for the Primary Election. **Flanagan** would challenge that in some of the Larimer County Elections that they might have more styles of ballots.

Option 7 – Vote Center with paper ballots; in 75 Vote Centers you would put your ballot in a precinct counter and that's how your vote would be counted.

1 Insight Scanner per Vote Center at a total cost of 3.3 million dollars  
It is stated that we could not fit an entire jurisdiction in one Insight Scanner.

Option 8 – DREs – Edge & Advantage machines in 75 Vote Centers

Total Election Costs at 4.5 million dollars

Additional 1.4 million required

Issue compiling precinct results on the Advantage Machines and, in addition, there are certification issues. We don't know where people are going to vote. There is no historical data that is reliable per Scarpello.

Option 9 – DREs - Edge Machines only; 75 Vote Centers, 20 Edge DREs per Vote

Center and basic cost would be 2.8 million dollars

Additional cost for Edge would be 6.3 million dollars

Total cost would be 9.2 million dollars

Additional funds request would be 6.1 million dollars

Issues – capacity issues and T1 costs

**Rich Pelletier** asks if we have to report by precinct and Director Scarpello responds that we have to report by precinct. Scarpello goes on to explain that there is a scenario that is not good for us because the Secretary of State could say that he is not going to certify and the burden is then on the counties. **Carolyn Metzler** states that 6.3 million would be spread out over “x” number of years and Scarpello mentions that we are stating raw costs on these models.

**Bill Compton**, Colorado Democrats, states that the Secretary of State doesn't have the authority, under state law, to not certify the equipment and asks whether the Secretary has given an indication of certification. O'Malley responds that the Secretary has given the vendor until November 16 to respond to highlighted failures and whatever happens after the 16<sup>th</sup> she is not aware of next steps. She goes on to say that we are waiting for the vendor to respond to the failures.

**LaCharles Keese** states that we should not drag the term of payment out too far. He indicates that while the answer may not be to be able to pay over one year, it may also not be able to spread over twenty years.

Option 10 – Paper ballots & Edge DREs

70 Vote Centers at a total cost of 5.1 million and additional costs of 2 million

Issue is with complexity of administration, T1 costs are unknown and capacity issues would not be as great; but you might have a backup at your DRE and, your paper might be backed up. There is also a problem with numbers and styles of ballots.

**Flanagan** indicates that you also have to provide provisional styles; the sheer number of ballots goes up exponentially including, provisional ballots per Crane.

Option 11 – Combined polling with 175 combined polling places

One Edge machine per polling place for voters

With 240 Edge machines in our existing fleet, some places would have 2 machines

Basic Costs - 2.5 million dollars

Central count scanners at a cost of \$340,000

Total election costs would be 2.8 million dollars

Additional funds required would be \$0  
Biggest problem with this model is delayed results

Director Scarpello explains that we guessed at these numbers and the question is how many ADA compatible places we can come up with. We just don't know. O'Malley explains that we knew it was more than 55 Vote Centers and less than 292 polling places and we had to come up with something for this meeting, in order to give you an idea of what we would be spending.

**Jessie Danielson** wants to know how many precincts are generally combined and response was 2 to 3.

**Bonnie Clarke**, League of Women Voters, points out that this assumes more at some combined polling places based on 520 precincts.

**Vivian Stovall** poses question about how the decision to place one Edge at each polling place was arrived at. Scarpello responds that we would have backups staged; a minimum of one Edge at each polling place and, if we had 10 precincts in one we would have 2 machines staged for backup.

**Stovall** clarifies that the Supervisor would be responsible for calling for a replacement and that this is problematic when you can't get through on the phone lines. She expects that this problem will be resolved.

Option 12 – Paper Ballots on Insight Scanners  
One Edge and 1 insight scanner at a 2.5 million basic cost  
Central count & precinct scanners will cost 1.4 million  
Total elections costs would be 4 million  
Additional funds required would be \$909,000  
Issues include potential delay at the ballot box; may have to buy more Insight Scanners because ballots have to be placed into the scanners.  
**Carol Boigon** requests unit cost per machine and Director Scarpello states amount of \$6,250 per machine.

**Flanagan** wants to know how many counties are doing precinct scanning and what the pros and cons are. Response is that the biggest issue with central count is that it is more likely to have overvoting and undervoting. If a person overvoted or undervoted at a precinct that would be an advantage in eliminating those errors responds Scarpello.

Option 13 - Combined Polling – DREs, Edge and Advantage  
8 Edge & Advantage DREs per Combined Polling Place  
Basic costs would be 2.2 million  
Additional cost for Edge would be 1.1 million  
Total cost would be 3.5 million  
Additional funds required would be \$425,000

Biggest problem would be with precinct results on the Advantage machine; you might have 8 machines in one place; an Advantage might have to be designated for one precinct; potentially uneven usage of machines exists. Scott Hogenson said we may have same issue of certification. **Steve Welchert** comments around consumer unfriendliness of that approach and people see 6 machines not being used would create furor from the voters.

Option 14 – DREs and Edge

175 combined polling precincts and 8 Edge DREs

Basic costs are 2.2 million

Additional Edge would cost 5.8 million

Total election costs would be 8.2 million

Issues include capacity and not knowing if we bought enough machines.

**Walt Beckert** comments that we might be using a paper pollbook. Scarpello said we would have combined pollbooks or we would have tables for each precinct.

Option 15 - paper & Edge DREs

175 combined polling precincts

4 Edge DREs

Paper ballots at all polling precincts to serve all voters

Basic operating costs of 2.6 million

Additional Edge costs of 2.3 million

24 ballot faces versus 100's of ballot faces

Central count scanners at \$170,000

Total costs at 5 million

Additional funds required of 1.9 million

**Dusti Gurule** points out that some of the combined polling places would not have T1's and the money that went into the T1 installs would be lost. **Sara Harmer, Technology Services** speaks to the \$600 per install and \$600 per month fee at an \$1800 basic cost per site stating that the places we had wired, we install and then we cancel because it's a huge security risk to keep the lines live. Harmer explains that this is why we deinstall and then install.

**Rich Pelletier** comments that the assumption was that 15 Vote Centers were not city sites and Harmer responds that it was more like 21. **Harmer** goes on to say that if we were using 75 sites, we would have to pay to wire 41 more sites. Scarpello asks Heather Riti regarding T1 costs. **Harmer** states that what we don't have are additional costs for new sites or new T1's and goes on to say that in order to support that we would have to up the bandwidth and expand the network. She states that we are not sure of the bandwidth capacity and approximately \$1800 basic cost. She goes on to say that the thing is to ensure that someone doesn't double vote. **Carol Boigon** asks if these costs reflect upgrading the city's core. **Harmer** says she is not sure how to respond and that it depends on non-city facilities; there are too many variables; costs could be \$45,000 to \$100,000 because as you increase size of Vote Centers, you have to increase the

equipment capacity. Costs could be between \$250,000 to a half million dollars states Carol Boigon.

**Dan Willis**, Denver Democrats, wants to throw out Option 16 stating, what if we reprecinct the city. He states that we have the capacity to reprecinct; numbers are at 633 active voters per precinct and we can take up to 1500 per precinct and, we just went to 1000 bringing us to 668 precincts. If we could find 90 locations that are ADA compatible; we won't have overcrowding which is something the Democrats object to. These 90 locations would handle a number of voters in traditional precinct voting and it would allow us the next several years to get ourselves into the technology mode and work towards Vote Centers. This would allow us to accommodate voters without the overcrowding and people would be back to precinct voting in their neighborhoods. Scarpello said it's close to one of the combined precinct models, that we are going to look at consolidating for efficiency's sake and that under Options 11-15 we will be doing some combining.

**Carolyn Metzler**, as former GOP Chairman, comments that if we did citywide reprecincting, it's not a fast process; it took a long time for 3 precinct changes and she is opposed to doing this. O'Malley says time is of the essence; the quicker we can get to a decision that helps our planning relative to the primary and general elections. Every day we prolong the decision is a day lost and we need to get to where we need to be in order to have a smooth election. Crane responds that it also depends on what system we are going to use because we may be limited to 633 voters per precinct.

(Spreadsheet detailing all the options is passed out and Director Scarpello says this is done in order for all to view the proposed models. He suggests picking the low-hanging fruit first and eliminating the non-viable options).

**Metzler and Flanagan** voice agreement.

**Flanagan** says we need to factor the ADA component and we need more discussion. These numbers are missing ADA accessibility costs and Ta costs. O'Malley suggests that this is a worthwhile cause and agrees that adding ADA compliance requires adding a factor based on number of polling places; factor estimated costs with HAVA and ADA and technology, if this is a vote center model.

**Bonnie Clarke** suggests, as she says, a radical proposal to eliminate Vote Center options because it assumes that we can make an e-pollbook work successfully. She goes on to say that you can't do a Vote Center model unless the Secretary of State makes a statewide pollbook. **Manolo Gonzalez-Estay** doesn't think it's smart to take away any of these options; thinning down but unilaterally eliminating we put ourselves in a corner and it's a smarter move to consider thinning down.

**Tamra Ward** asks for clarification as to when paper ballot voting was last used. Paul Casper indicates that this was in the late 1940's. Tamra states that technology and perception and moving these off the list should be done; we need something to get us off

this cycle. She believes that we need to make a step at making electronic machinery work, in order to help us to move back to vote centers and that maybe we need to look at an interim solution.

**Bill Compton** brings the discussion back to ADA as a critical consideration and asks if there are there funds available from the Secretary of State and can Denver tap in. There are funds in HAVA accessibility improvements program and Denver is not going to have a lot more available. He would encourage Denver to apply and anticipate additional funds from the feds for 2008. Scarpello states that we wouldn't rule it out but it won't be enough. He goes on to say that the city would be spending a lot of its own money.

Crane said in analyzing the November election, 24 Vote Centers were made accessible at a cost of \$36,000; 43% of the Vote Centers averaged cost of \$1500 so we would be looking at \$187,000. Combined polling precincts to 75 would be at \$112,000 for ADA compliance and this is probably a low number.

**Faith Gross** mentions that \$40,000 was used to make one courthouse compliant, as mentioned at a previous meeting. She goes on to state that many schools do not have ramps and temporary ramps are not ideal. Ed Neuberg and she have talked about accessibility but also staff time; people within days do all the temporary fixes. **Neuberg** reports that the 2006 election was overwhelming for 24 Vote Centers because they lacked parking and doesn't know what would happen if they had to outfit 292 sites. Crane indicates that cones and signs were stolen and work on sites wasn't completed until 4 a.m. for just 24 sites. **Faith** points out that it can be done as in the case of Baltimore City that is 100% accessible for voting.

**Walt Beckert** references reporting results by precinct; we must have by law and Bill Compton says the parties like it. **Jenny Flanagan** states that we didn't have this type of reporting in our Vote Centers in the past.

**Vivian Stovall** references that there were always problems at precincts with long lines and ADA accessibility; the e-pollbook was a problem with Vote Centers; she cannot agree with throwing out Vote Centers because it gave disabled people a chance to vote privately.

**Rich Pelletier** recommends removing paper ballots around the Vote Centers because it's too challenging; recommends eliminating 6,7, and 10 and eliminating any option of 5 million dollars additional costs to the city.

**Clerk & Recorder O'Malley** recommends moving to 2 motions.

**Rich** moves to eliminate Options 6, 7, 10 paper ballots. **Walt Beckert** moves to second. **Clerk & Recorder O'Malley** moves for the question and the vote carries with 15 votes.

**Dan Willis** said if we use paper we have to go to 633 voters per precinct and up to 700 per precinct unless we get a ruling from the Secretary of State that statutorily removes paper ballots. Vicki Ortega is asked for her opinion. Question is can we do paper balloting if we have more than 600 minimum voters. Scarpello recommends tabling this question until Vicki can do some research. His gut reaction is that this isn't going to be an issue.

Clerk & Recorder O'Malley asks for the group's comfort level with one Edge per polling place. **Stovall** comments that getting through phone lines has been a problem for the Election Judges. **Stovall** goes on to say that when she worked precincts, half the voters that showed up were disabled or with chronic health problems and says that there's not a complete sense of what it is when you use one machine. **Stovall** believes 2 machines were necessary in the precincts she worked.

**Faith Gross** would advocate for a minimum of 2 DREs because they are accessible and the Advantage are not. She questions regarding whether the Advantage can be retrofitted with printers by 2010. Paul Casper and Michael Scarpello answer that machines can be retrofitted at \$2,000 per machine, but there are still issues with accessibility. Paul doesn't know of any jurisdiction testing and Crane comments that Pittsburgh is testing. It doesn't make sense to spend \$2,000 per machine per **Jenny Flanagan** and, she goes on to question whether it makes sense for investment in the Edge machines, if we invest another 5 or 8 million dollars on machines that could be obsolete in 2010. **Flanagan** believes that paper ballots with Insight Scan might provide more flexibility. **Gross** said Denver voters are accustomed to voting on machines and she believes, personally, that if we do not have machines voters will not like this.

**Rich Pelletier makes motion that the Clerk & Recorder O'Malley and Director of Elections Scarpello be present for the following week's discussion All are in favor.**

**Heather Riti, Budget Management Office**, states that as you look at buying new machines or retrofitting machines; we are paying until 2012 and there is still 1 million dollars left to be paid. Maintenance costs are much greater than purchase costs.

**David Larson** stated that "maintenance costs for machines were actually greater than their purchase price" as a followup in support of Heather's comments.

Kudos for the estimated costs with all the models go to Heather Riti. **Bill Compton** comments that he appreciates the putting together of all the written information for the group and **Jenny Flanagan** follows with appreciation for the staff support and the overall process.

The meeting is adjourned at 3:40 p.m.