



2008 ELECTIONS MODEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



City and County of Denver
Clerk and Recorder
Elections Division





Clerk and Recorder Stephanie O'Malley

Opening Comments



Committee Objectives

- Make recommendations on voting locations
 - Precincts
 - Vote Centers
 - Other
- Make recommendations on voting system
 - Direct Electronic Recording (DRE) voting
 - Paper Ballots
 - Other

Today's Agenda

- Introduction - Stephanie O'Malley
 - Ground Rules
 - Committee Schedule
 - Introduce Committee Members
- Denver Elections History - Alton Dillard
- Strategic Plan - Mike Scarpello

Ground Rules

- Focus on objectives only
- Committee will make recommendations, not decisions
- Focus on future
- Keep an open mind
- Consider all factors (financial, personnel, etc.)
- Be brief & concise
- Only one vote per organization

Committee Schedule

- September 11 – Introductory Material
- September 18 – Educational & background information regarding voting systems and voting locations
- September 25 – Discussion of Voting Locations
- October 2 – Discussion of Voting Systems
- October 9 – Discussion and Final Recommendations

2008 Elections Model Advisory Committee Members

- Stephanie O'Malley Chair
- Michael Scarpello Co-Chair
- Penny May Mayors Office
- Honorable Carol Boigon City Council Member
- Denis Berckefeldt Auditor's Office
- Honorable Rosemary Marshall State Legislator
- Carolyn Metzler Republican Party Member
- Steve Welchert Democratic Party Member
- Sara Harmer Technology Services
- Heather Riti Budget Office
- Lacharles Keesee Finance Office
- Victoria Ortega City Attorney's Office
- Ed Neuberg Disability Community

2008 Elections Model Advisory Committee Members

- Faith Gross Center for the Disabled
- Bonnie Clark League of Women Voters
- Carol Tone League of Women Voters
- Jesse Danielson America Votes
- Rich Pelletier America Votes
- Jenny Flanagan Common Cause
- Walt Beckert Labor
- Susan Shepherd Labor
- Charles Williamson Election Judge Volunteer
- Dusti Gurule Latina Initiative
- Vivian Stovall Seniors
- Tamra Ward Denver Chamber
- Manolo Gonzalez-Estay Spanish Lang. Adv. Board

RECENT HISTORY

2004

- 79% voter turnout in November led to long lines.
- Miscommunication with vendor led to 13,000 Absentee Ballots being delivered late.
 - The ballots got delivered and returned by voters at the normal rate and lines of communication were improved.
- Long lines during early voting caused major grocery store chain to stop allowing early voting in their stores.
 - Future early voting was moved to city owned locations, Recreation Centers, etc.

RECENT HISTORY

2005/2006 ISSUES

- Pro/con statement misplaced and doesn't make final TABOR notice.
 - Separate "mini-TABOR" had to be printed and mailed.
- Filing cabinet containing thousands of microfilmed voter records disappears during move back to 303 W. Colfax Ave.
 - Authorities and credit reporting agencies are notified. Affected voters notified by mail to put fraud alerts on accounts. No spike in illegal activity reported.
- Yes/No transposed on one ballot question due to printing error.
 - Elections Division established audit procedures for ballot printing.
- 5 precincts in RTD District N, left off ballot due to SOS ballot certification error.
 - More than 4000 single question ballots were sent to voters in the affected precincts.

RECENT HISTORY

2006

- Commissioners vote to move to Vote Centers for the first time. Voter convenience, HAVA/ADA and trying to contain skyrocketing elections costs cited among reasons for the switch. 240 Electronic Voting Machines acquired through federal grant.
- In July, Councilwoman Marcia Johnson convenes Elections Governance Task Force. Recommendations include operational instead of structural changes and amending City Charter to move when Commissioners would run for election and strengthening Executive Director job description.
- August Primary Election had 16% turnout. Vote Centers used for the first time.

RECENT HISTORY

2006

- November General Election had 59% turnout.
- On Election Day, failure of the E-Pollbook and other technical issues caused long lines and a delayed vote count. Initial estimates are that 18 to 20 thousand voters left without casting a ballot.

RECENT HISTORY

2006

- Appointed Clerk and Recorder resigns.
- On November 15, Mayor Hickenlooper and City Council President Hancock convene Investigative Panel. Fujitsu Consulting was retained to do a macro level audit.
- Due to Election Day issues, decision is made not to inactivate anyone for not voting in November. Investigative Panel suggests asking voters via mandated mailing if they did not vote due to lines. A little over 7,000 voters respond on return card that they did not vote due to long lines.



RECENT HISTORY

2006

- Fujitsu cites E-Pollbook failure, substandard technology management, testing and quality assurance as main causes of November election problems.
- Investigative Panel suggests enhanced planning, judge training, telecomm, supply chain, testing, voter outreach, increased numbers of ballot counting staff and modeling number of Vote Centers based on a 30 minute maximum wait time among recommendations.

RECENT HISTORY

2006

- Executive Director resigns.
- On December 26, Council passes ordinance for January Special Election to have voters decide whether to change from Election Commission to an elected Clerk and Recorder with oversight of elections.

WHAT'S HAPPENED IN 2007?

- Stephanie O'Malley appointed Clerk and Recorder.
- January 2007, voters approve Charter change to make Clerk and Recorder an elected position.
- Denver conducts successful all mail ballot elections in May and June.
- Stephanie O'Malley elected as Clerk and Recorder.
- After national search, Michael Scarpello, Elections Manager, Douglas County, Nebraska hired as Director of Elections.

Strategic Plan

Implement "Denver Votes" Initiative

- Hire Communications/Outreach Supervisor – Starts October 29, 2007

- Voter Outreach and Education
 - Education about new election model
 - Education about voting process
 - Education about voter registration

Strategic Plan

Implement "Denver Votes" Initiative

- Increase community outreach efforts
 - Work with political, neighborhood, special-interest, and business organizations
 - Improve communications with the public
 - Website information and functionality
 - Printed forms and informational documents
 - Use city resources to disseminate voting information
 - Support Voter Registration Efforts
 - Work with identified partners
 - Make forms available to all city offices including: recreation centers, libraries, schools, etc.

Strategic Plan

New Registration/Election Management Database

- Convert the Election Division's Integrity voter registration database to the new statewide voter registration database "SCORE II."
 - Uniform registration lists coordinated with other Colorado counties
 - Reduced paperwork
 - Improved Election Management capabilities

Strategic Plan

Increase Mail-In Voting Turnout

- Permanent Mail-In Law
 - C.R.S. § 1-8-104.5
 - Effective June 1, 2007
 - Allows any eligible voter to apply for permanent mail-in voting status.
- Build marketing plans around mail-in voting
- Advantages of Mail-In Voting
 - Relieve strain on Election Day
 - Convenience
 - Database management

Strategic Plan

Increase Early Voting Turnout

- Build marketing plans around early voting
- Advantages of Early Voting
 - Relieve strain on Election Day
 - Convenience
 - Drop-off mail-in ballot at any location

Strategic Plan

- Address issues with the warehouse to ensure that it provides the best possible environment for staff, voting machines, and citizens.
- Work with Technology Services to implement new strategies to ensure that records are secure and redundant.
- Reorganize Elections Division Structure
 - Review, revise, and document the organizational structure and staff responsibilities to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

Strategic Plan

- Revise all internal processes and procedures to ensure that all tasks are performed accurately and efficiently.
- Improve Customer Service
 - Increase staff training
 - Improve phone messaging
 - Improve Election Day phone bank operations
- Continued Transparency
 - Monthly televised Clerk Public Forums
 - Quarterly Newsletter
 - Availability of staff to answer customer questions & complaints
- Revise the recruitment and training of election judges

Public Comments

- Questions from Committee Members
- Questions from Visiting Public