

OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER  
ELECTIONS DIVISION

Michael J. Scarpello, Director



Stephanie Y. O'Malley  
Clerk and Recorder  
Public Trustee

**RECEIVED**

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October 13, 2008

**ELECTIONS  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

The Honorable Michael Coffman  
Secretary of State  
State of Colorado  
1700 Broadway, Suite 250  
Denver, Colorado 80290

Dear Secretary Coffman:

On March 12, 2007, the Secretary of State's office placed the City and County of Denver on the State's Election Watch List. At that time, it cited deficiencies by the Denver Election Commission in conducting the November 2006 General Election and suggested several steps to remediate those deficiencies. I am writing to you to inform you that Denver has addressed these deficiencies and to request that the City and County of Denver be removed from the Colorado Secretary of State Election Watch List.

The City and County of Denver has gone to great lengths to improve elections in Denver. First, it eliminated the Denver Election Commission and gave responsibilities to conduct elections to a newly elected Clerk and Recorder. Under the guidance of Clerk and Recorder Stephanie O'Malley, the Denver Elections Division has undergone a complete organizational restructuring. We have implemented new processes and procedures for the conduct of elections, including all aspects of ballot handling, management of polling places, selection of election judges, voter education and technology management. We have also built a number of important backup systems and procedures in order to significantly increase our flexibility and options in the event of a problem in any area.

The changes made by the Elections Division have gone far beyond the remediation steps required by the Secretary of State when it placed Denver on the Election Watch List. Nonetheless, I would like to address the steps taken to comply with the remediation section of your March 12, 2007 notification.

1. The Secretary of State required Denver to examine the technical infrastructure of the ePollBook used in 2006.
  - o Denver has adopted a new election model based on paper ballots and precinct polling places. This voting model was adopted through the deliberations and recommendations of a citizen advisory committee. As a result, there will be no electronic poll books in use on Election Day in Denver. However, Denver will use the statewide SCORE II voter registration database to conduct early voting. With the move to SCORE, there is no need to fix the ePollBook or to explore using another product as the State of Colorado has mandated the use of SCORE for early voting.

But, in an abundance of caution, Denver has taken steps to assure that SCORE will work properly by asking Denver's Technology Services Department to conduct extensive load testing on SCORE as well as the T-1 lines connecting its Early Voting sites to SCORE.

2. The Secretary of State required Denver to develop a contingency plan to be used in the case of a technical failure and to make plans to assure that voters will not be subjected to unreasonable wait times.
  - o Denver has developed a plan to use paper poll books as a back-up to SCORE in case it does not perform satisfactorily during early voting.
  - o Denver will have wireless connections available to its network in the case of a T-1 line failure.
  - o Denver has ordered an ample supply of paper ballots for the 2008 election cycle. As a backup, we have the capability of printing ballots on demand at the Elections Division in the very unlikely event of a shortage. In addition, we have developed innovative plans to process voters at 185 locations and have purchased 2,700 voting booths for voters to cast their votes. With these plans, we do not anticipate any unreasonable wait time for voters.
3. The Secretary of State required Denver to improve its training.
  - o Denver has created and implemented a new poll worker training program. The basic training consists of a PowerPoint presentation containing video vignettes and an audio track. This is followed by hands-on simulation in a mock polling place that covers everything from set up before the polls open to tear down at the close of polls. Our supervisor poll workers receive additional hours of training on how to effectively manage their polling places. In addition, machine judges, who are assigned to operate the touch-screen DRE voting machines, are required to attend additional training sessions to operate the equipment. Since implementing this training program, we have received very positive feedback from our election judges.

4. The Secretary of State required Denver to provide periodic updates to the Secretary of State's office regarding the status of preparations for the next election.
  - o The Elections Division is in regular contact with the Secretary of State's office regarding our election preparations and has been considerably more open and transparent about our election preparations than was the former Election Commission.
  
5. The Secretary of State required Denver to participate in the Secretary of State's certification program.
  - o The Elections Division's staff has participated to the extent possible and will continue to participate in the Secretary of State's certification and continuing education programs.

In conclusion, the Denver Elections Division is a new organization that has: built contingency plans into every segment of our elections operations; built transparency and openness into our operations; consulted with citizens about our voting model; complied with all state rules and directives; and is working very hard to regain and maintain the trust of the voting public. Since the division has been created, it has conducted three successful mail ballot elections and has developed and implemented a new election model that was successful in the 2008 Primary Election.

We want to thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Michael Scarpello  
Director of Elections  
City and County of Denver

cc: S. O'Malley (Clerk and Recorder)