



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Denver Elections to Pilot Smartphone Voting Application For Military and Overseas Voters**

**Military and overseas voters can opt-in to participate in the pilot**

(Denver) – The Denver Elections Division will solicit volunteers from our pool of military and overseas voters to pilot a secure and convenient smartphone application that will allow them to receive, vote and cast their ballots from their phone during the 2019 Municipal Election cycle.

The Voatz mobile app uses blockchain encryption to provide a more secure and convenient way to vote for our military and overseas voters. Blockchain technology provides a distributed ledger that is unchangeable and fully auditable to provide a higher degree of security and ballot anonymity than existing remote ballot delivery systems. By enabling voters to receive and cast their ballots from their mobile device, the mobile application provides a more convenient way to vote.

“This encryption allows ballot transmission that is end-to-end verifiable, provides redundancy and transparency while providing more security than simply returning a ballot via email,” Deputy Director of Elections Jocelyn Bucaro said. “Denver has always been on the leading edge of elections and technical innovation and participating in this pilot affirms our commitment to exploring

ways to make the voting experience as convenient as possible for our military and overseas voters.”

Voters who choose to participate in the pilot must undergo identity verification through the application, including uploading a 10-second selfie video along with a picture of their photo ID. They will then have to go through multifactor and biometric authentication to access the app and cast their ballot. Once voters submit their voted ballots, they will receive an email receipt with a PDF of their ballot image so they can confirm that the information was recorded correctly.

This same mobile app was successfully piloted by the state of West Virginia during the 2018 Primary and General Elections.

“Denver Elections has used technology to do everything from allowing voters to track the progress of their mail ballots to letting candidates and issue committees gather petition signatures on tablets, so being a part of this pilot project is a natural progression.” Bucaro added.

In addition to working with Voatz, Denver Elections is partnering with Tusk Philanthropies and the National Cyber Security Center on this pilot program. Through these partners, Denver Elections is engaging diverse perspectives and experts in the fields of cybersecurity and research and welcomes input from other innovators, academics, and researchers in the field of election administration and technology.

Denver Elections will utilize the Voatz mobile application for military and overseas voters in both the May 7<sup>th</sup> Municipal Election as well as the potential June 4<sup>th</sup> Run-Off Election.

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