



El Paso County Clerk & Recorder

2005 Annual Report

January 2006

El Paso County Clerk & Recorders

Robert C. "Bob" Balink
2003 - Present

Thressa A. Sholdt
2002

J. Patrick Kelly
1997-2002

Ardis W. Schmitt
1979-1996

Harriet Beals
1963-1978

Charles Ozias
1937-1962

C.R. Furrow
1925-1936

Oliver W. Ward
1923-1924

E.A. Jackson
1919-1922

Elroy C. Sheldon
1909-1918

Joseph H. Schider
1907-1908

W.H. Reed
1900-1906

W.T. Liggett
1898-1899

John W. Bates
1896-1897

F.W. Howbert
1891-1895

Edwin J. Eaton
1879-1890

Irving Howbert
1869-1879

Charles C. Jones
1866-1869

Robert Finley
1865-1866

George A. Bute
1862-1865

from Clerk and Recorder, Robert C. "Bob" Balink . . .

For the last three years our office has focused on bringing sound business principles to the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's office. By bringing "best practices" from business and government to this office and continually examining how we can provide better customer service we feel we are working in the best interests of the taxpayers/citizens of El Paso County.

We have also worked to dispel the myth that "efficiency in government" is an oxymoron (*a combination of contradictory words*).

Productivity, accountability, fiscal responsibility, efficiency, and excellence in customer service have been the cornerstones of our efforts and we work hard to hire and develop a truly professional and dedicated staff while seeking proper compensation for them.

On a daily basis, we review processes and procedures, we question office policies, we analyze situations as they occur and develop options, assess pros and cons for each solution, se-

lect the best plan, implement these plans, and make adjustments along the way, as necessary. Looking forward, we will continue to monitor all areas of our operations.

This is the work approach to our daily business in the four disparate departments of major importance: Elections, Motor Vehicle, Recording, and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.

We very much appreciate input we receive regularly and we would welcome your input also. Please feel free to contact me directly or any one of our department managers or supervisors who are listed on page two of this report.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve you and we hope you will visit our website regularly for additional and updated information.

Centennial Hall office hours for Elections, Recording and Clerk to the Board are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (except holidays.)



Robert C. "Bob" Balink, was sworn in as the 20th El Paso County Clerk & Recorder on January 14, 2003.

Contact Information:

200 South Cascade Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO
80903

(719) 520-6202
(719) 520-6216
(719) 520-6212 Fax

(719) 439-0120 Cell
robertbalink@elpasoco.com

<http://car.elpasoco.com/>

2006 ELECTION DATES:

August 8th - Primary
November 7th - General

It is the mission of the Office of the Clerk & Recorder to serve the citizens of El Paso County in recordings, elections, and motor vehicle registrations in accordance with the Colorado Constitution and other pertinent statutes; to assist the Board of County Commissioners by serving as the Clerk to the Board; and to respond to other statutory obligations which may arise as dictated by the laws of the State of Colorado.

ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

Robert C. Balink,
Clerk & Recorder
(719) 520-6202

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Terry Sholdt,
Chief Deputy
(719) 520-6279
Acting Election
Manager
(719) 520-6222

Nancy Bass,
Chief Deputy,
Administration
(719) 520-7322

Sandy Hook,
Recording
Manager
(719) 520-6208

Eileen Wheeler,
Clerk to the Board
Manager
(719) 520-6432

Joyce Willener,
Motor Vehicle
Manager
(719) 520-6244

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

Joan Gustin,
Accounting
Supervisor
(719) 520-6259

John Hollenbaugh,
Systems Administration
Supervisor
(719) 520-7306

Rich Jones,
Distribution Center
Supervisor
(719) 520-7930

On October 27, 2002, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) which will forever change the landscape of elections in the United States. This was the first sweeping federal election reform since the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and it was a reaction to Florida's 2000 Presidential Election debacle. Initial HAVA mandates included a departure from punch card ballots and lever voting machines. The Colorado Legislature has also initiated and passed election legislation which brings all elections under more close scrutiny than ever...and this is good.

The mission of all Election Administrators is to ensure a fair, honest and open election process. This includes creating easy access to Voter Registration and Voting and ensuring that those eligible to vote have the opportunity to do so. Therefore, the more people who are engaged in the election process, the more people who focus on election issues, and

the more people who contribute to solutions of election issues will result in better election processes.

Two other major HAVA initiatives are:

- (1) The creation of a state-wide Voter Registration Database (VRD). Previously each county was responsible for maintaining its own voter registration rolls;
- (2) Certification of Election Equipment

HAVA requires every state to have in place a statewide Voter Registration Database (VRD) by January 1, 2006. The State of Colorado was unable to meet this deadline through the original vendor which was selected in mid-2004. The relationship with that vendor was terminated in December 2005. Early in 2006, the State is planning to again post a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a vendor for the purpose of creating and implementing

the VRD. In the meantime, Colorado remains under the scrutiny of the Department of Justice which is responsible for HAVA enforcement.

Certification of election equipment is making similarly slow progress. In 2006, every county must have at least one (1) Digital Recording Electronic (DRE) voting device for voters with disabilities per Polling Place. The specifications for these "touch screen" VIBS units have yet to be finalized. Thereafter, the equipment of each vendor must be certified prior to counties being able to purchase these units. It seems Colorado may fall short of meeting this HAVA requirement as well. For polling place elections in El Paso County, we have 180 sites and the anticipated cost of this equipment is approximately \$1,122,000. Anticipated HAVA funds available to El Paso County for these purchases is listed at \$1,139,250.

Election Type Options

(Polling Place Elections) Traditional polling place elections have steadily declined in popularity in the last 20 years due to increased participation in the Absentee Ballot and Early Voting processes. For the 2004 Presidential Election about 60% of the ballots cast were at polling places and 40% were cast through Absentee

Ballot and Early Voting. A surprising reversal of this trend occurred in 2005 when over 70% of votes were cast on Election Day and about 30% of votes cast were via Absentee and Early Voting. Are traditional polling place elections popular? Yes. Is their popularity and usage declining in some areas?

Yes. Will they some day go the way of the corner drug store, the interstate buses used to visit relatives several states away, the downtown hardware stores, and other visages of Americana as we knew it, years ago. Perhaps.

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Election Type Options (cont.)



*Digital Recording Electronic (DRE),
touchscreen voting machine*

(Vote Centers) A new concept in elections, Vote Centers, is gaining widespread support throughout the country and in Colorado. Simply stated, Vote Centers are polling places, with more precincts than a normal polling place location. The great benefit of Vote Centers is that voters can vote at any Vote Center location, not just in their neighborhood Vote Center.

The cost of Vote Centers is at issue. However, when touch screen voting equipment is used (DREs - digital recording electronic) the cost of printing all ballot styles for all polling places is nearly eliminated. However, the "naysayers" are wary of them. They do not trust the integrity of touch screen voting machines, even though they have been used without issue in El Paso

Election Staff

(Management) In late 2005, the Manager of the Election Department retired after 24 years of exceptional service to the County Election Department. In August 2006, the Assistant Manager will be semi-retiring to Florida after 18 years of exemplary service. With the retirement of these two key staff members and the departure of three other members of the eleven person Election Department staff we have much to focus on in 2006. However, our Chief Deputy Terry Sholdt (who started in this office in 1974) assumed the additional duties of Acting Election Department Manager on January 1st. She will be supported by our superb Election

County for Early Voting since 1999. This has been assured through public participation in the logic & accuracy testing of the ballot tabulation equipment. *If there are issues with touch screen voting machines, let's address them and overcome them.*

(Mail Ballot Elections) With the cost of elections increasing annually, some have been strong advocates of Mail Ballot Elections (MBEs). Yes, mail ballot elections cost less and they are, from an Election Administrator's viewpoint, the most efficient type of election to conduct. However, MBE "naysayers" have not objected to the availability and usage of Absentee Ballots when polling place elections are held. The integrity of the Absentee Ballot process, let alone the convenience for voters, is never in question. There appears to be an inconsistency, then, when some are strongly opposed to Mail Ballot Elections. *If there are problems with Mail Ballot Elections, let's address them and overcome them.*

As we enter this new and promising year, the El Paso County Elections Department will continue its election education efforts just as we have over

Support Coordinator, Liz Olson (CERA), who has been appointed Acting Assistant Manager; our excellent Election Services Coordinator, Keri Ashley; and a very strong Election Technician staff. With an important Primary and General Election to be conducted this year, we will be very busy.

And, for the first time ever, five staff members have been either fully certified or are receiving training to become Certified Election and Registration Administrators (CERA) from The Election Center, a national election training organization.

the last few years with, for example, the Vote Center Task Force which convened from January through March 2005, and other public forums held throughout the year. At issue is the need to publicly address these election issues and more. It's not as simple as saying "no" to every proposed change or effort to improve the election process. We all need to be a part of the solution rather than obstacles toward moving forward to address these important election related issues.

In early 2006, we will form an Election Research and Education Group to thoroughly discuss and analyze election issues through monthly meetings. Many important community representatives will be invited to participate on the panel including major political parties, local educators, and other interested parties. Public input will be sought and very much appreciated.

With federal and state mandates in place, we must move forward and select a course of action to bring election processes into the 21st century without losing sight of the only real goal for any election...ensuring a fair and honest election process.

[Elections Website](http://car.elpasoco.com/elemain.asp)

<http://car.elpasoco.com/elemain.asp>

- [Register to Vote](#)
- [Verify Voter Registration](#)
- [Locate Your Polling Place](#)
- [Sample Ballots](#)
- [Become an Election Judge](#)
- [Important 2006 Election Dates](#)
- [Vote Center Task Force Results](#)
- [Other Voter Information](#)

For More Election Department Information Please call:

(719) 520-6220 (719) 520-6223 (719) 520-6227 (719) 520-6228 (719) 520-6271 (719) 520-6273

MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT

Vehicle Registration

In 2005, our motor vehicle offices added experienced "greeters" in each office to assist customers as they came to the office. Rather than waiting for a number to be called, customers can now be certain that they have the necessary

paperwork to be served after being greeted by a motor vehicle technician. In the past, many customers waited for 30 minutes or even longer only to find out, at the counter, that they were lacking paperwork to complete their transaction. We

also expanded and upgraded our lobbies with additional seating, complimentary local telephone service, and news channel televisions to make any waiting period more enjoyable. We register 450,000 vehicles annually.

"In the past 10 years the population of El Paso County has grown by nearly thirty percent . . . El Paso County has the lowest tax rate of all the front range counties."

Customer Service

In the past 10 years, the population of El Paso County has grown by nearly thirty (30) percent and we may now be the largest county in the State of Colorado. During this period, every motor vehicle transaction has become more complex through new legislation. Yet, from 1995 to mid-2005 our motor vehicle department staffing remained the same due to limited resources of El Paso County and the growing needs of the County in other areas (criminal justice, highways, social services, operations, etc) for additional spending. So, if you were thinking about becoming a County Commissioner, consider first the difficulty they

have, with limited resources, to fund all mandated services in the county (such offices as the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Assessor, the Treasurer, the Coroner, and the Clerk & Recorder) and all other needs of a fast growing county including infrastructure issues, health and human services and other needs.. Theirs is not an easy task, especially considering that El Paso County has the lowest tax rate of all the front range counties.

Therefore, in order to address county growth issues and increased demand for services in the motor vehicle department, we supported

legislation allowing counties to charge a late fee for citizens who do not renew their vehicle registrations properly, either in their renewal month or the 30 day grace periods which follows. Effective July 1, 2005, revenues generated from HB05-1140 were applied directly to the hiring of six (6) new motor vehicle staff members to better serve the public. This ongoing revenue stream, with no tax increase to the taxpayers, has already improved customer service and reduced wait times for auto registration customers. Also, additional revenues from these late fees have generated revenue for the County's general fund.

Uniformed Military Counter

We will continue to provide expedited service to the men and women of our Armed Forces at each branch office. We created this service in the fall of 2003 as a small token of

our appreciation for the sacrifices made by our military families. We hope you will join us, as we do every day, by walking up to uniformed service members when you see

them and thanking them for their service to our country and preserving the freedoms we all enjoy in America.

Drivers License Renewals

Three years ago the State of Colorado closed several dozen Driver's License renewal offices, including one on 8th Street in Colorado Springs and the office in Teller County. That decision made the State's Drivers License office on Austin Bluffs the only location for El Paso County residents to handle driver's license

matters. The Clerk & Recorder's office then proceeded to offer driver's license *renewal (only)* services at our three motor vehicle branch offices- Chapel Hills Mall (January 2002), Centennial Hall and Widefield (April 2004), and the new location at Powers Boulevard and Airport Road, which replaced the Widefield

branch, (October 2005). Due to these efforts County residents now have 4 locations to seek Driver's License renewals (instead of the one State office only). And, the entire cost of these services is supported by fees from the State of Colorado and not the County budget.



Sgt Justin M. Hemry, U.S. Marine Corps (hometown: Rochester, NY) has been deployed to Afghanistan and is now stationed at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station.

Branch Offices



Our newest office on the Southeast corner of Powers Blvd. and Airport Rd. opened Oct. 17, 2005.

For many years, the percentage of residents served at our three motor vehicle branches was as follows: Chapel Hills Mall (42%), Centennial Hall (39%), and Widefield (about 19%). Since additional funding was not available for another branch office we felt the need to relocate the Widefield office in an effort to better distribute the customer volume among the three branches.

Through the first 3 months the customer volume distribution was: Powers (34%), Chapel Hills Mall (34%), and Centennial Hall (33%). With the County's center of population continuing a trend to the northeast, this new branch office location 6 miles north of the old office appears to have been strategically placed and quickly utilized.

Distribution Center & Warehouses

Our office has maintained three warehouse facilities and an additional, off site storage space for many years to house election equipment, records, license plate inventories, surplus office equipment and furniture, and many other documents in-

cluding recorded plats back to the days of General William Palmer. In October 2005, we co-located all off site storage to our new Powers Boulevard motor vehicle branch office (under one roof), and in the process created 20% more storage

space. Having all storage under one roof will make for more efficient operations, with weekly license plate deliveries now going to just two off site locations.

Staff Reorganization

In the past, branch supervisors and the counter staff rotated around being stationed at branches randomly for up to six months or more. In conjunction with the opening of the Powers Branch office, a major reorganization took place in the Motor Vehicle Department. Each of the Motor Vehicle offices now has a permanent Branch Manager, Assistant Branch Manager and Support Technician

II. In addition to these permanent assignments, we have also made permanent counter staff assignments at each branch (Technician I). In this manner, we felt there would be more "ownership" at each office resulting in better customer service, more attention to office appearance and other matters of concern to our customers. Just like a branch bank or retail store, we saw getting to

know our customers as a very important aspect of this change. After the first three months, we have seen greater efficiency at each branch and the staff seems to have a sense of pride in "their" office. They appear to be very happy to be a part of the new "team" concept and we hope it's also noticeable to our visitors.

Budgetary Impact

The move to the Powers branch, the warehouse moves, and the finish out for this new facility were carefully planned over the past two years. As a result, no

additional taxpayer dollars were expended to accomplish these changes. We combined savings from our 2004 budget with planned expenditures for 2005 and

added Late Fee revenues (discussed above) to accomplish these significant moves.

Motor Vehicle Offices

Centennial Hall Branch

(Downtown)

200 S. Cascade Ave

(719) 520-6280

(719) 520-6352

(719) 520-6246

Chapel Hills Branch

(Chapel Hills Mall

adjacent to JC Penney's)

1710 Briargate Blvd

(719) 520-6701

(719) 520-6702

(719) 520-6703

Powers Branch

(Southeast Corner of

Powers and Airport)

5650 Industrial Place

(719) 520-7912

(719) 520-7911

(719) 520-7910

Motor Vehicle Office Hours

Open Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(except holidays)

CLERK TO THE BOARD DEPARTMENT

Since 1868, the Clerk & Recorder has been the custodian of records and documents of the County Commissioners serving in their capacities as the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Social Services, a/k/a Human Services Board, Local Liquor Licensing Authority, and the County Board of Equalization (CBOE). Duties of this office relating to BOCC meetings include preparing the agendas, attending the sessions of the BOCC, recording the vote of each commissioner, and maintaining the audio record and preparing the Minutes. Primary records finalized, indexed and retained include adopted Resolutions, Ordinances, Contracts and Minutes. Records currently accessible on the Internet include BOCC Meeting Agendas, Audio and Results: <http://bcc.elpasoco.com/bocc/agenda.asp>. Internet posting of Minutes and Resolutions will be in the near future.

In 2005 the BOCC met in regular session for more than 220 hours and informally for more than 40 hours; 81 agendas were prepared along with 12 addendum matters, 1,622 items were scheduled for consideration, 562 Resolutions were adopted, and 155 Contracts were approved (excepting Procurement matters).

With respect to Local Licensing Authority matters, the Clerk and Recorder, Sheriff's Office and County Attorney work together in their respective roles to administer the Colorado Liquor and Beer Codes for applicants and licensed establishments within unincorporated El Paso County. On average, there are just under 100 license establishments within the County and more than 350 transactions involving multiple tasks performed annually.

In addition to regular duties, the CBOE hearing process is available for taxpayers, or authorized representatives, to protest the Assessor's determination of their property value during the summer months. Independent referees conduct hearings with taxpayers and Assessor's representatives and the County Commissioners make determinations of value based on the referees' findings and recommendations. The Clerk to the Board's Office is responsible for scheduling, coordinating and processing all CBOE hearing-related notifications and reports, as well as providing deputy clerks

to assist referees. There was not a single petitioner complaint during the 2005 CBOE process. From mid June through the first week of August 2005, 460 appeals were considered, 255 hearing slots were scheduled, 897 letters were generated, and 2,750 CBOE hearing-related documents were imaged. We then process appeals submitted for Binding Arbitration, which is one of three mechanisms available to any petitioner dissatisfied with the CBOE's decision (11 filed in 2005).

We also perform the statutory scheduling of certain tax abatement petitions with 121 petitions considered in 2005.



Commissioners Bruce, Bensberg, Hisey, Williams and Clark

RECORDING DEPARTMENT

The Recording Department is responsible for recording all documents affecting title to real estate, including issuance of marriage licenses, and maintaining those recorded documents. We recently upgraded our recording system which now includes eRecording capabilities. This is especially important for submitters such as title companies, banks, and the Public

Trustee. All these submitters can now eliminate tons of paperwork and begin submitting documents for recording electronically. When this occurs the oxymoron of "efficiency in government" will no longer apply. These Recording system upgrades were fully funded through a legislated filing surcharge to defray the costs of providing electronic filing capabilities.

In recent years, the department has generated average annual revenues of about \$6.3 million. Since 2002, we have recorded an average of 240,000 documents each year. Currently, less than 2% of all documents recorded are done so electronically. For years, many Colorado counties were rather lax in preparing and posting Grantor-Grantee indices to assist in public

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RECORDING DEPARTMENT (cont.)

searches. With new legislation these indices are required to be available to the public within 7 days. Since the law was passed El Paso County has met this requirement consistently.

In the public search area of our office, we have streamlined operations and added cashiering capabilities, making each visit to our office much more convenient for the public. And, our most frequent "fliers" (those who make a living doing public record

searches) have certain special access privileges.

Our full-time Recording Department staff consists of three front counter members, six and a half indexing members, one and a half verification clerks, and 2 public search/copy clerks in addition to the Department's Manager and Assistant Manager.

Last year's accomplishments included electronic transfer of marriage data;

growth in eRecording submitters; software system enhancements; custom report development and performance measures; and expanded documentation of procedures. Goals for 2006 include further expansion of eRecording; additional public search area enhancements; streamlining mail processing; and training goals with expanded performance expectations for all functions. For more information, please call (719) 520-6237 or (719) 520-7074.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ELECTIONS: Do I have to bring identification to register to vote or when I vote? What kind of identification is acceptable?

Identification does not need to be provided when a person registers to vote in person. If an individual registers to vote by mail and does not provide a copy of identification at the time he or she registers to vote, he or she will need to enclose a copy of their valid identification when voting by absentee ballot. Everyone must provide identification when voting at a poll place or early voting. For a list of valid identification documents, please call (719) 575-VOTE (8683).

ELECTIONS: How do I find out where I can vote?

Our interactive voice response system can provide information on a voter's polling place at (719) 575-VOTE (8683). Individuals can also check on their poll place at <http://car.elpasoco.com/elemain.asp>.

ELECTIONS: How do I request an absentee ballot? Is an absentee ballot request valid for all future elections?

Absentee ballots can be requested anytime after January 1 each calendar year and are only valid for that calendar year. Requests for absentee ballot by mail can be made in writing or by fax, using the application form available on our web site at www.car.elpasoco.com/eleforms.asp or by letter that includes the printed name, signature, residence address, mailing address, address where the ballot is to be mailed to, party affiliation and the elector's date of birth. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is the 11th day before an election.

ELECTIONS: When can I vote early?

Early voting is possible for 10 days before a Primary Election and 15 days before a General Election. Contact our office for locations and times at (719) 575-VOTE (8683).

RECORDING: What are the fees for recording a document?

The recording fee for most documents is \$5.00 per page plus a \$1.00 surcharge per document. A page must be legal size (8 1/2" x 14") or less. Documents larger than 8 1/2" x 14" including subdivision plats are \$10.00 per page plus a \$1.00 surcharge for each document. For deeds that transfer ownership of property where the amount paid exceeds \$500.00, a documentary fee equal to .01% of the amount paid for the property is charged. UCC Real Estate Fixture filings are \$10.00 for 1 or 2 pages and \$15.00 for 3 or more pages plus a \$1.00 surcharge per document. UCC filings other than Real Estate Fixture filings should be forwarded to: Colorado Secretary of State, Business Division, 1700 Broadway Ste 200 Denver, CO 80290.

RECORDING: How do I obtain copies of a recorded document?

You may visit our Centennial Hall office to obtain a copy of a recorded document, or you may order by mailing a written request along with the appropriate fees and return address to El Paso County Clerk & Recorder, 200 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Copy fees are \$1.25 per page, marriage license copies are \$2.00 each and plat map copies are \$5.00 per page. Certified copies are an additional \$1.00 per document. We cannot accept credit or debit card payments. Check or money order should be made payable to: EPC Clerk & Recorder.

OTHER: How can I get a copy of my divorce decree? Where do I file a will?

To obtain a copy of a divorce decree filed in El Paso County, contact the Fourth Judicial District Court at 270 S. Tejon, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, Phone: 719-448-7577 <http://www.gofourth.org>. For information regarding wills or probate, contact the Fourth Judicial District Court 719-448-7554.

OTHER: Where can I obtain a birth/death certificate?

To obtain a birth or death certificate filed in El Paso County, contact the Vital Records Division of the County Health Dept. at 301 S. Union, Colorado Springs, CO 80910 719-575-8492 <http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/vitalstats/>

BOCC: Where may I access the BOCC's agendas, meeting results and/or audio on the Internet?

<http://bcc.elpasoco.com/bocc/agenda.asp>

BOCC: How may I purchase an audio copy of a Board of County Commissioner Meeting?

CD and cassette duplication orders are available by emailing eleenwheeler@elpasoco.com or by telephoning our office at (719) 520-6430. Orders are typically completed within 24 hours at a cost of \$5.00 for each CD or cassette.

In closing . . .

The work of our office listed above is just the beginning. Behind the scenes we have four major areas of support in the Clerk & Recorder's office: (1) the Administrative Department led by our Chief Deputy for Administration, Nancy Bass; (2) the Information Services Department; (3) the Accounting Department; and (4) the Distribution Center & Warehouse Department. We have a total of approximately one hundred-thirty important staff members all dedicated to excellence in customer service.

As your Clerk & Recorder I have served for the past two years on the Executive Committee of the Colorado County Clerk's Association (CCCA) and I am entering my 4th year of service on the CCCA Legislative Committee. The importance of CCCA cannot be overstated since we can speak with one voice during legislative hearings on pending legislation which will affect the citizens of El Paso County. Therefore, we spend many hours and days per week in Denver during the Legislature session every year (January-May). Along with our department managers, I also participate in many other important meetings such as the Election Statute Review Committee, the Motor Vehicle Statute Review Committee, the Electronic Recording Fund Advisory Panel, and committees in support of Colorado's Secretary of State, Gigi Dennis.

We would like to thank County Commissioners Wayne Williams and Dennis Hisey for serving as liaisons to the Clerk & Recorder's office with regard to the broader responsibilities of this office during the last year, and the County IT Department for their support.

OUR GOAL: It is the goal of the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder's Office to deliver services and products to you in the most timely and cost efficient and secure manner possible, while treating you with courtesy and respect. We hope we are meeting your expectations.

If you have any questions or suggestions as to how we can improve the services of the County Clerk & Recorder's office we hope you will contact us. You can find extensive information about our office on our website: <http://car.elpasoco.com> and we hope you will visit that site often.

Best wishes to the citizens of El Paso County for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year in 2006.

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert C. "Bob" Balink



El Paso County Clerk & Recorder's Office
200 South Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80903