



Election Education & Research Task Force
January 31, 2006

Introductions (Team/Resources)

- Representatives of both major political parties; political science professors; El Paso County Commissioners and Colorado Springs Councilmember's among others.
- Clerk & Recorder- Robert C. "Bob" Balink
- Chief Deputy/Acting Election Manager- Terry Sholdt
- Election Department Acting Asst. Manager- Liz Olson
- Election Department Services Coordinator- Keri Ashley
- Election Consultant – Susan Russo

Overview

- This group was initiated to engage the citizens of El Paso County in the election process. We want to explore the election processes and specifically share our procedures at the county level.
- We will enlist the creative thinking of the group as we research the different ways of conducting elections (poll place, mail ballot, vote centers), ideas for election judges recruitment and training and other topics the group feels deserve attention.
- The group is composed of many community leaders and citizens who are personally involved in the election process. We hope that all of you will be a part of the solution to address the important issues related to the election process.

Goals

- 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.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

- Passed by Congress October 27, 2002
 - First sweeping federal election reform since the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Handicap Accessible
 - All polling places must be handicap accessible by 1/1/06
 - El Paso County fully compliant as of 2004
- Provisional Ballots
 - El Paso County fully compliant as of 2003
- ID Requirements
 - New ID requirements for first time voters who register by mail
 - ID required prior to voting in person
 - El Paso County fully compliant as of 2003
- Replacement of punchcard and lever voting systems
 - Replaced our punchcard system in 1999 – DRE's for early voting and optical scan units for absentee and poll place
- Enhanced voter outreach
 - SOS formed many HAVA subcommittees to help with the implementation
 - SOS is primary facilitator of public information
 - El Paso County has a very comprehensive web site for our voters

Critical Issues

- Statewide Voter Registration Database
 - Colorado is in non-compliance as of 01/01/06
 - Department of Justice involvement
- Direct Recording Electronic (DRE)
 - HAVA requires that we have a voting system that is accessible for individuals with disabilities
 - El Paso County currently uses Visually Impaired Ballot Stations (VIBS) at each of our early voting locations
 - HAVA requires one DRE that will accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities in every poll place by 1/1/06
 - Cost
 - With 180 polling locations (soon to increase) the anticipated cost of this equipment is approximately \$1,122,000 - \$1,300,000
 - Anticipated HAVA funds available for El Paso County for these purchases is \$1,139,250
 - Vendor certification (none as of 01/01/06)

HAVA Resources

- Colorado Revised Statutes
 - Title 1, Article 1.5
- Federal Election Commission
 - <http://www.fec.gov/hava/hava.htm>
- United States Department of Justice
 - <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting/hava/hava.html>
- Colorado Secretary of State
 - <http://www.elections.colorado.gov/DDefault.aspx?tid=80>

Topics for Future Meetings

- Poll Place Elections
- Vote Centers
- Mail Ballot Elections
- Direct Recording Electronic (DRE's)
- Election Judges (recruitment & training)
- Equipment Testing
- Voter Registration
- Voter Education
- Cost of Elections

Meeting Dates

- Fourth Tuesday or Wednesday of each month
- 5:00 pm
- Centennial Hall Auditorium

Contact Information

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Questions & Answers

