



El Paso County  
Election Education & Research Task Force  
February 22, 2006

# Types of Elections

- There are 3 different ways to conduct an election
  - **Poll Place**
  - Vote Center
  - Mail Ballot
    - Possible legislation this year to allow for mail ballot election for the Primary and General because the situation with no equipment having yet been certified by the state.

# Poll Place Elections

- General Information
  - Poll places are open 7am – 7pm Election Day
  - El Paso County has 189 poll places
  - Schools, churches and community centers are the most common poll places
  - When holding a poll place election, the county is also responsible for administering absentee and early voting

# Challenges

- Locating poll places
- Delivering/picking up equipment
- In 2006 there has to be 1 DRE in every poll place
- Election judges
- Staffing and training of staff for early voting locations

# Poll Places

- All poll places have to be handicap accessible
  - Money spent to make poll places accessible
    - 2004 = \$26,604.10
    - 2005 = \$2,239.40
    - Total = \$28,843.50
  - HAVA Grants Received
    - Total = \$26,860
  - Total county spending = \$1,983.50
  - Purchases included
    - Ramps (regular & threshold)
    - Doorbells
    - Cones (regular & channelizer)
    - Signs (handicap, cross walk, access route)
    - Mats

# Poll Places

- Cost
  - Currently El Paso County doesn't pay for the use of any poll places
  - We anticipate having to pay for some locations in the future
- Difficulty locating poll places
- Delivering/Picking up equipment
  - Distribution center spends two weeks on each task
  - Other counties pay moving companies to move their equipment

# Direct Record Electronic

- HAVA requires one DRE that will accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities in every poll place by 1/1/06.
- Currently there are no DRE's certified for this purpose.
- El Paso County currently has 80 DRE's, all of which will need replaced.
- With 189 polling locations 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.

# Election Judges (poll place only)

- 1,766 election judges are required to fully staff the polling places in 2006
  - 1 vote center supply judge per poll place = 189
  - 2 provisional judges per poll place = 378
  - 1 precinct supply judge per precinct = 385
  - 2 regular judges per precinct = 770
  - 1 greeter per poll place that has three or more precincts = 44
- Total Cost = \$203,780
- We use many student election judges and have just started a huge push to recruit many more this year
  - Our goal is to have 1 Student in each precinct
  - HB 06-1142 would allow us to pay the student judges as much as the regular judges.
- It is challenging to recruit and train 1,766 judges to work on election day
- Major initiative in 2006 to recruit student election judges



# Equipment Testing

- The DEO has to conduct at least three tests including:
  - A hardware test
  - A **public** logic and accuracy test
    - This test is open to the public
    - 7 days prior to the public test a notice must be posted
  - A post election test or audit
- Each type of ballot has to be tested including:
  - Absentee
  - Early voting
  - Provisional
  - Precinct
  - Audio ballots

# Absentee Ballots

While we are coordinating everything required to accommodate our poll places, we are also have these other statutory functions going on.

- Absentee Balloting
  - Colorado offers no-excuse absentee voting.
  - Voters are required to request an absentee ballot in writing for each new year of elections.
  - Prior to election day
    - Absentee ballot drop sites are available at the Clerk & Recorder's branch offices.
    - Absentee ballots are delivered daily to the downtown location.
  - On Election Day
    - We offer curb-side drop off at the Clerk & Recorder's branch offices.

# Absentee Ballots Continued

- What we do
  - Order the ballots
  - Secure the ballots
  - Process absentee ballot requests
  - Send out absentee ballots nightly beginning approximately 30 days before the election
  - Hire absentee ballot judges
  - Process ballots as they come in
    - Signature verification
    - Preprocessing
    - Counting
  - Balance everything at the end and present to canvass

# Early Voting

- Currently El Paso County offers 3 early voting locations
  - Centennial Hall
  - Chapel Hills DMV
  - Powers DMV
- In 2006 we are adding 3 more early voting locations
  - Falcon area
  - Monument area
  - Fountain/Security/Widefield area
- Early voting is available Monday – Friday one week prior to a Primary Election and two weeks prior to a General Election.
- It would take approximately 5-7 days to set up 6 early voting locations.

# Early Voting Continued

- What do we do
  - Hire election judges
  - Conduct an early voting judges training class
  - Hire and train temporary staff to work at the branches
  - Balance each of the locations daily
  - Balance everything at the end and present to canvass

# TABOR

- TABOR requires political subdivisions to accept pro and con comments concerning ballot issues.
- The political subdivisions submit the pro/con summaries to the Clerk & Recorder.
- The Clerk & Recorder is responsible for summarizing the county pro/Con statements.
- The Clerk & Recorder is responsible for preparing the TABOR notice.
- The TABOR notice must be mailed to all active registered voters at least 30 days before a ballot issue election.

# Ballot Order

- **The ballot is certified to us 60 days before a Primary and 57 days before a General.**
- **Ballots are ordered approximately 50 days before the election.**
- **Ballot Style Demonstration**
  - <http://www.car.elpasoco.com/ele-ballot.asp>

# Poll Place Budget

Vote Center 2005

## 2006 Election Budget Primary/General

	Primary	General
	260,670 active and 69,042 inactive as of 5/2/05	260,670 active and 69,042 inactive as of 5/2/05
Printing - Ballots & Absentee	\$ 133,114.00	\$ 254,075.00
Legal Notice Published	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
TABOR	\$ -	\$ 21,000.00
Educational Information	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Postage Costs	\$ 49,090.00	\$ 65,775.00
Miscellaneous - Office and Printing Supplies	\$ 56,700.00	\$ 71,750.00
Judges	\$ 229,400.00	\$ 277,705.00
Additional Personnel, Overtime, Mileage & Security	\$ 120,268.00	\$ 187,948.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 590,572.00</b>	<b>\$ 884,753.00</b>



# Mail Ballot Elections

- There has been discussion about mandating a mail ballot election for the 2006 Primary and General Elections in order to comply with HAVA requirements.
- This would require a bill from the state legislature.

# Next Meeting

- Wednesday, March 22, 2006
- 5:00 – 6:30 pm
- Centennial Hall Auditorium

# Questions & Answers

