

OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER
ELECTIONS DIVISION

Michael Scarpello, Director



Stephanie Y. O'Malley
Clerk and Recorder

Denver Clerk and Recorder's Office
Public Forum
Law Library, City & County Building
1437 Bannock Street, Room 389
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Stephanie Y. O'Malley, Clerk & Recorder
Michael Scarpello, Director of Elections
Helen Gonzales, Deputy Clerk & Recorder
Sandra Shreve, League of Women Voters, Denver
Marcia Verba, League of Women Voters
Carol Tone, Citizen
Walt Beckert, Safe City
Paula VanDusen, Denver Democrats
Ed Neuberg, Denver Office of Disability Rights
Tillie Fong, Rocky Mountain News

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber McReynolds, Deputy Director of Elections
Nancy Reubert, Communications Director
Alton Dillard, Communications
Lisa Stubbs, Administrative Services Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Stephanie O'Malley called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and reminded everyone that the Public Forum is about communication efforts in regards to the Office of the Clerk & Recorder ("The CR") in its entirety and not just specifically the Elections Division. The CR enjoys reporting on its monthly activities and hearing public comments and concerns. O'Malley also introduced the new Director of Communications, Nancy Reubert. The CR was very deliberative about searching for someone to guide us in new directions in regards to outreach and communication efforts.

A. Approval of Minutes – With no need for modifications, O'Malley affixed her signature to the Public Forum Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2008.

B. Elections Division Revenue Report – Reviewed by Mike Scarpello, Director of Elections.

C. Clerk's Office, Public Trustee, Recording Reports - O'Malley overviewed an initiative for a conversion process from microfilm to a digital platform. The conversion would allow for ease of use in-house & for the public. There are over 1 million records (e.g. marriage licenses and military records) on microfilm and microfiche. The budget needed to complete the conversion that would add both internal and external efficiencies is \$500K. There are already existing funds to get the project started.

D. Elections Division Reports - Reviewed by Mike Scarpello. See below. (Item II, A)

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Elections Division Facility Move – The decision for a paper ballot election increased the need for a new facility. The city council has approved a new location for the Elections Division which is 3888 E. Mexico Street. Public benefits of the new facility include: large lobby space, viewing space, and free parking. The new facility will also save money in rent for the Elections Division because it will combine the main office with the warehouse. Very little construction is required for the new facility. A HAVA grant will be pursued to cover the costs of building an ADA bathroom and ramps. Sharing the facility with another Denver agency as well as using existing security and card/key systems will save money for the Elections Division. O'Malley thanked Facilities Planning and Management for all their efforts in finding the new facility.

- Sandra Shreve, League of Women Voters (LoWV), asked when Elections will move.
- Mike Scarpello answered: in May.

B. Status of Elections Legislation – Reviewed by Alton Dillard. Introduced a few hours ago: Leadership Omnibus Elections Bill. One high point of this proposed bill is that the Secretary of State would have to create a mechanism for “transparency,” – this would allow not just poll-watchers but any eligible elector to observe the process. Other provisions proposed include: requirement to post polling places on the website, confirmation card to go out to “inactive” voters, mail ballots to be mailed from local post offices, and early voting factors. Mike Scarpello noted that this proposed bill will not affect Denver because this legislation is focused on counties using the electronic voting machines, and Denver has already planned to do a paper-ballot election. O'Malley summarized by reminding everyone that the bill is a “proposed” piece of legislation. O'Malley also touched on the bill proposed by Representative Rosemary Marshall. This legislation would require Clerks to send the notification cards to inactive as well as active voters. Inactive voters who did not return the card would be put into a state called “conditionally active,” and in an all-mail ballot election County Clerks would be required to send a mail ballot to the conditionally active voters. Voters would be put on an inactive status if they did not vote in two general elections instead of one. The bill would “sunset” after the 2008 cycle.

- Paula VanDusen, Denver Democrats, asked for the numbers of the bills.
- Rep. Marshall's bill # is 13-29. The omnibus bill number was provided by Amber McReynolds, off-camera.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Polling Place Search and Site Identification - Reviewed by Mike Scarpello. For 426 precincts Elections is looking at 175 ADA-compliant combined polling places. 179 suitable sites found so far. 343 precincts assigned. Elections still needs to find a home for the remaining 83 precincts. O'Malley urged the public to contact The CR with any suggestions for polling places. A plea will be made to Denver Public Schools for use of some of their facilities.

- Walt Beckert, Safe City, asked if information on the 83 remaining precincts is available to the public.
- Scarpello answered: Elections has been passing the information out to interested parties. There is also a current discussion within The CR to include the information on the Elections website.
- Ed Neuberg, Denver Office of Disability Rights, asked about ADA suitability of the 179 sites found so far based off of past problems finding ADA suitable voting sites.
- Scarpello answered: 179 sites look good but nothing has been finalized yet.
- O' Malley thanked Mr. Neuberg for his continued work with the Elections Office in finding suitable sites.

Certification/Recertification of Voting Equipment – O'Malley announced Denver's EDGE/DRE's were recertified for use with conditions. They must be compliant with HAVA. The machines are needed for Denver's disabled voters.

Communications Efforts – Nancy Reubert reviewed 3 high priority projects: 1.) cleanup and reorganization of the Clerk and Recorder and Elections Division websites; 2.) "Denver Votes" – an election public education campaign; and 3.) collaborating with the Public Trustee to provide informational materials to homeowners facing foreclosure. O'Malley thanked the Communications team for conveying the wonderful Valentine's Day experience in The CR for those couples seeking marriage licenses. O'Malley announces that the CR went above and beyond in creating a romantic, joyful nuptial setting which included refreshments and even an old movie playing in the background. This was done in efforts to increase the service delivery of The CR. A special "thank you" went out to Frontier Airlines for their surprise of showing up announced and handing out round-trip tickets for two couples.

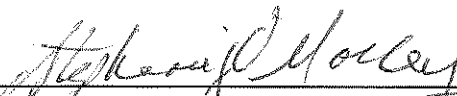
Caucus Report – Mike Scarpello announced that the Elections Division went above and beyond in assisting with the caucuses even though they are completely run by the Democratic and Republican parties. Elections entered voter registrations on time and added staff. They also dedicated staff from Jan. 28th thru Feb. 5th to help with phone calls to get electors to their caucus locations. On February 5th office hours were extended past 8:30pm to keep the phones manned.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS BY CLERK AND RECORDER, STAFF, AND GUESTS

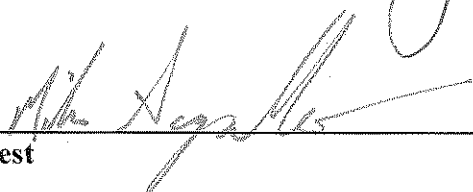
- Sandra Shreve, LoWV, gave congratulations for bringing Nancy Reubert on board. The League of Women Voters has been trying to assist with election judge recruitment; however, there is a concern about losing volunteers due to "full-day" shifts.
- Mike Scarpello announced Elections is looking for people to help in the office in the days leading up to the election, and those people can even work shorter shifts. For those working on Election Day, Elections has not made a final decision if they will have less than full-day shifts or not. It is more efficient and leads to less problems to have full day shifts.
- O'Malley stated there is so much work to be done for the 2008 elections, and The CR welcomes any help it can get. There is a way to successfully accommodate volunteers who do not wish to work full day shifts. There is a lot of opportunity for hands-on help.
- Citizen Carol Tone, based off of her own experience as an election judge, reiterated the concern for election judges to be able to work less than full-day shifts on Election Day.
- O'Malley thanked Ms. Tone for her input.

V. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT AND/OR EXECUTIVE SESSION – O'Malley adjourns the meeting at 6:16pm.


The Public Forum was televised by Denver 8 TV. To view the February 26, 2008 Forum in its entirety, visit: www.DenverGov.org/Denver8Online.



 Stephanie Y. O'Malley, Clerk & Recorder



 Attest



 Date