

**City & County of Denver**  
**Denver Election Commission**  
**200 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100**  
**Denver, CO 80204-2732**  
**Phone: 720/913-8683 Fax: 720/913-8600**

Denver Election Commission Meeting  
200 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Commission Meeting Room/2<sup>nd</sup> Flr  
Friday, February 25, 2005 – Regular Meeting of DEC Commissioners

Present: Wayne Vaden, Commissioner  
Sandy Adams, Commissioner  
Susan Rogers, Commissioner  
Karon Majeel Hatchett, Executive Director  
Victoria Ortega, City Attorney's Office  
Paul Casper, DEC Staff  
Carrie Kellogg, DEC Staff  
Anthony Rainey, DEC Staff  
Tina Romero, DEC Staff  
Dante James, African American Voter Initiative Project  
Frank Sullivan, Denver Democrats  
Lynn Presnall, City Council #5  
Suzanne Comcowich, Budget Management Office  
Paula VanDusen, Denver Democrats  
Felicia Hilton, City Council #7

Commissioner Wayne Vaden called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.  
Commissioner Rogers called at 1:56 P.M. to say she would be late.

I. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes: February 4, 2005 and February 15, 2005

Sandy Adams moved and Wayne Vaden seconded on approval of minutes from the Special Meeting of February 4, 2005, as amended, and the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2005. Minutes approved by quorum.

II. Executive Director Report:

See attached Executive Director Report. Three teams are surveying proposed locations. Regarding items C & D on page 2 on proposed facility relocation; there has been no word back from Asset Management. ED Hatchett to followup with Richard Warren at Asset Management on Monday, February 28. ED Hatchett referenced the Communications Department timeline for public outreach and press release information. Copy attached.

III. Old Business:

SOS Blue Ribbon Panel Update – (Hatchett/Vaden/Adams) Proposed voter registration deadline is being discussed. HAVA requires an ID for voter registration and voting for the first time. There is legislation in works to undo this. Showing an ID is a good deterrent to voter fraud as perceived by county clerks. There was a visitor from a Native organization regarding tribal identification. Colorado perceived as positive in terms of voter/election process. Student identification is still an issue. Attempt to put students under ID rule, but not perceived feasible by legislature until statewide system/shared system is in place between states. There is no way to track students from another state. Attendees advised to check SOS website (Blue Ribbon Panel) for updates. Proceedings did not get to the penalties phase in terms of voter registration. The Sub-committee on provisional ballots is working on the provisional envelope face and awaiting voter registration changes. Commissioner Adams is recommending comments section on provisional envelope face. This would also allow for distinguishing between polling place and certification judges in comments section. There was discussion about people who vote absentee and then die; how to know to pull those who have died? Ballot could already be counted. Provisional Ballot Subcommittee is expanding discussion beyond provisional to emergency ballot, registration form, etc. Absentee ballots can begin being processed 10 days before election day.

Election Judges - Polling place judges are paid \$100, Early Vote judges \$10 per hour, and supply judges are paid \$20. Commission cost could be \$200,000 based on 2000 judges. Hope of the Commission was

that by combining precincts, judges could be paid more. This is due to a realization of savings because of having to staff less judges. There was a consensus to table until November Election.

#### IV. New Business

Expanded Early Voting Sites – over 20 sites have been surveyed. New Hope Baptist Church and Kaiser Permanente have been confirmed as viable sites, and there are more than one site in some districts. Asset Management is assisting with vacant spaces and some spaces indicated no interest either due to size or technical capacity. Commissioner Adams raised the question about use of Wings over the Rockies. The team went onsite Wednesday and has been visited twice. Anthony Rainey and Carrie Kellogg stated that the space is too large to cordon off machines and there is no place to secure the machines. Question was raised about space requirement for actual voting machines. Forty-three sq. ft. per machine are required. Commissioner Vaden stated that other space is available in the area such as Windsor Gardens, and also Kaiser Permanente (currently used as a polling place). Deadline for identification of sites is March 7. Some sites may have parking challenges. Colorado Convention Center is viable for downtown workers. Goal is to have 11 sites. There was commitment last Tuesday to Council to work with the Council Districts per Debra Bartleson. She stated that Councilman Garcia has issue with the sites in Council District 1. Anthony Rainey went to Council Dist. 2 Super Police Station and space was deemed too small. The problem with recreation centers is availability. There are 10-12 vote machines planned per Vote Center. The Commission will be consolidating polling places for precincts within some Council Districts.

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Absentee Ballot Application Mailing - printer's proof for the application will be available by end of day, today 2/25. Requests are being issued to 245,000 active, registered voters. Ballots go out the first week of April and are mailed up to 1 week before the election.

67,000 out of 304,000 voters voted absentee in the November election. Commissioner Vaden commented that the state is requiring verification of signature by scan. We only have 15% of voter signatures on file. This is positive in terms of polling places. Absentee ballots will provide a valid signature, in order for scan to be on file in the DEC. Displaying the ID and obtaining the signature from the pollbook is one potential for verification. Commissioner Adams recommends we use the signature card as verification. Felicia Hilton, Councilwoman MacKenzie's aide, stated that constituents are expressing concern about their absentee ballots arriving. Per Carrie Kellogg the list is going to Sequoia the last week of March and the ballots will be mailed from our GMF facility in Denver. Voters can send a letter to the DEC with basic data. Adams says it's a waste of money when only 22% of the voters vote absentee. Commissioner Rogers says it's important to send something, in order to flag voters about the May election.

Combined polling precincts - concerns about combining precincts; confusing to voters and will provide challenges to voting; voting system has capability of consolidating precincts, but ED Hatchett says we have never done this; personal opinion is that this could pose a risk and expend energy on prototype voting centers. When combining polling places there will be 10-12 machines; on election day citizens will be voting in their polling place; typically there are 3 machines per 500-600 voters.

#### V. COMMENTS SECTION:

What's the difference between a vote center and early voting site? Larger site and ability to vote at any location; same technology; same concept; electronic pollbook is the master record of all the voters; all early vote counts as one precinct; vote centers will divide people up into their appropriate precinct.

Commissioner Adams suggests that if we want to encourage early voting, voters may go in direction of early voting. Vote Centers is just one day; it would be difficult without modifying software to do precinct by precinct breakdown; our software would have to be updated; protection of voter confidentiality is an issue related to early voting; who the vote is for and for capturing by Early Vote (EV) or absentee or polling place (separate stats); all EV is one big bucket, and returns in the Vote Center will be pulled out by precinct. Each precinct has its own ballot. EV model is a different model and can stop and capture data. Vote Center is used only for one day; have to be able to download memory when it reaches certain capacity; when machine is activated, it's activated by ballot style. EV is reported as only 1 precinct; tally software would not recognize; emergency is separate entity; election day voting; simultaneous voting occurring; 420 precincts reporting; software has to be certified by the state and this is a lengthy process. Sequoia has not been received to this State. Paper receipt legislation has not been approved by the SOS; SB 79 currently in State Senate—problem with bill is that our machines (1184) for \$5,920,000 paying until 2012 (5k per year); 8 years debt remaining at \$4,000,000. In order to purchase verifiable paper trails \$3500 per machine (\$2 million cost to modify current machines + accessories + labor); uncertain if certified, and benefit that citizens require is in question. If law is passed, Commissioners would like to be grandfathered in. Commissioner Adams suggests that the DEC buy another machine to provide paper verifiable ballot. Commissioner Rogers said a bill currently in Congress is requiring 2% mandatory recount by paper in precincts under consideration. The concern is that federal law could supersede state law and local.

Paula Van Dusen concerned about insinuation that language related to voter requiring paper ballot is unnecessary; election results have been statistically false; evidence is that voting machines have been rigged; vote should be sampled so that, for example, 40 ballots from a precinct would be statistically matched with the ballots in the statistical outcome, and if no match, it could indicate that there is something wrong with the electronic tabulation; need to ensure that votes were cast as intended and ensure that votes are verifiable by paper; there's good basis and statistics for this premise. Denver Democrats like the idea of vote centers and they want to ensure they work well.

Bonnie Clark from League of Women Voters compiled questions for evaluation cards. Commissioners will speak to the League and community forums will be held after May (after the election) to garner concerns.

Felicia Hilton asked why there is a perception of paranoia about dead people voting, people voting other people's ballots; has not witnessed mass voter fraud; changes were made due to legitimate quirks and verifiable voting is not a reaction to that; lack of trust by citizens is more the concern. Felicia says this is the primary quirk; showing an ID creates same lack of public confidence. Felicia states that the larger quirk is the lack of trust by the voter. Commissioner Adams stated that it's a whole movement of mistrust; integrity of the elections staff has to be assumed by the voter. ED Hatchett says there is a high level of integrity in this state; we know how hard the staff works to ensure integrity; we need larger pool of election judges and parties need to assist in becoming part of the process. Felicia Hilton recommended acknowledging the public's mistrust and regaining it; majority of the public doesn't get the word; more widespread outreach will garner public trust. Anthony Rainey stated that we do logics and accuracy testing and we allow the public to come in and view that what goes in, comes out. Commissioner Rogers acknowledged that the Commission becomes defensive.

Paul Van Dusen states that if we go to a system where we sample ballots this might help to ensure voter trust. She also made the point that people know more about computers, statistics available by Internet, more knowledge of technology and this is why things are different and people are learning more.

NEXT Regular Meeting March 8, 3 p.m. in order to review final sites and vote. Motion to move to Executive Session made at 3:20 p.m. by Commissioner Vaden. Unanimous agreement.

ATTACHMENTS: [Executive Director Report 2/25/05](#)  
[Communications/Outreach Timeline 2005](#)  
[Action Items List](#)

THE DENVER ELECTION COMMISSION

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Wayne E. Vaden, Commissioner

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Sandy Adams, Commissioner

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Susan Rogers, Commissioner

Attest:

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Karon Majeel Hatchett, Executive Director

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Date