



Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120-1136
Phone: 303-795-5467
Fax: 303-734-5470
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

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Contact:

NANCY A. DOTY

Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder

Direct: 303-795-4285

E-mail: ndoty@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe County seeks comment on Vote Centers for 2012 Election

Clerk and Recorder proposes 30 Vote Centers as alternative to 200 precinct polling places

Littleton, Colo. – The Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder’s Office is seeking public comment on a proposal to conduct the Nov. 6, 2012 General Election using Vote Centers, instead of precinct polling places. State law requires a 15-day public comment period and approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Arapahoe County successfully implemented Vote Centers at 17 locations for the Nov. 2011 Coordinated Election.

“With more than 70 percent of voters requesting to permanently vote by mail, it is no longer cost-effective to continue to staff and support nearly 200 precinct polling places in November election,” said Clerk and Recorder Nancy A. Doty. “I believe that Vote Centers are not only a fiscally-responsible alternative but also provide more convenience for our voters who prefer to vote in person on Election Day.”

Under the Vote Center proposal, registered voters would have three options to cast a ballot in November. Voters could request and cast a mail-in ballot, vote at an Early Vote site starting 15 days before the General Election, or cast a ballot any one of 30 Vote Centers on Election Day, regardless of where they live in the County. There would be no assigned precinct polling places.

Vote Centers look similar to precinct polling places, but are located in larger settings, such as schools, churches and public buildings. Each Vote Center features electronic touch-screen voting machines and laptops with a real-time connection to the State of Colorado Electronic Pollbook to check in voters. Approximately 500 paid election judges and 600 voting machines would be needed to support 30 Vote Centers, compared to the 1,500 judges and approximately 1,000 machines that would be required to implement a precinct polling place election.

A description of the Clerk and Recorder’s Vote Center plan and proposed sites for the Nov. 6 General Election is available at www.arapahoevotes.com.

Public comment on the proposal will be accepted from April 16-30, 2012. Comments may be submitted via the Elections Division Web site at www.arapahoevotes.com or in writing to the Clerk and Recorder’s Office, 5334 South Prince St., Littleton, CO 80120.

Interested citizens are also invited to attend a public hearing at 9:30 a.m., May 3 in the West Hearing Room of the Arapahoe County Administration Building at 5334 South Prince St., Littleton. For more information, please contact the Elections Division at 303-795-4511.

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