

Colorado County Clerks Association

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Colorado County Clerks More Than Alarmed with Governor Ritter's Recommendation for Paper Ballots at Precinct for 2008 Elections

DENVER, Colo., (January 24, 2008) – The clerks of the Colorado County Clerks Association, who are on the ‘front line’ of the election processes, are more than alarmed by Governor Bill Ritter’s recommendation for using a paper ballot at polling precincts for Colorado’s 2008 elections. “We are deeply distressed and disappointed that we have made a concerted effort to make our voices heard and our concerns have been ignored,” said Nancy Amick, president of the Colorado County Clerks Association.

At their winter conference last week in Pueblo, county clerks voted, by an 85% majority, to recommend a paper ballot delivered by mail format for the 2008 elections. This recommendation was approved due to the emergency election situation faced by the clerks with the decertification of voting equipment and the transition to the new statewide voter registration system, SCORE II.

A paper ballot delivered by mail, at least for this year, allows for the greatest opportunity of voters to cast their votes, eliminates long lines and accessibility issues at polling places, allows for speedier results, and provides a more fiscally responsible solution to a myriad of unresolved questions, including the new SCORE II statewide voter registration system, which has not been tested in an election of this magnitude.

“We appreciate Secretary of State Mike Coffman’s support of our position and his time in listening to the concerns of each county clerk,” said Amick, “and we are hopeful that the governor and the legislators will give us a similar opportunity to explain our concerns.”

Clerks with decades of experience in running successful elections are requesting a paper ballot delivered by mail as the safest option with fewest points of failure. This process has many protections and expands on the secure and well-established process for all-mail ballots already successfully used for several years in Colorado elections.

"This is an extremely serious situation, and the Colorado county clerks want to avoid being the next national election disgrace," said Amick. "The proposal recommended by the governor and our lawmakers places the election at risk for many counties."

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