

## **Colorado County Clerks Association**

### **Media Contact**

Janet Braccio

Bella Voce Communications

303-447-7163, janetbraccio@comcast.net

### **Colorado County Clerks Request Swift Legislative Action for Statewide Mandatory Paper Ballots Delivered by Mail**

PUEBLO, Colo., (Jan 17, 2008) – Colorado County Clerks Association, meeting this week for its winter conference, has requested swift action from the state legislature to allow a one-year stop-gap measure providing for a paper ballot delivered by mail. This delivery system is the only immediate and workable solution that allows counties to plan for elections scheduled to occur in 2008, some in the next few weeks.

"We are encouraged with the legislative focus on this urgent matter," said Nancy Amick, president of the Clerks Association. "It is critical that the legislature works with the Clerks and moves swiftly on this measure. In a normal presidential election year, our planning would already be well underway, and we cannot afford to lose any more valuable time," said Amick.

A paper ballot delivered by mail is currently the most certain method for ensuring that the greatest number of Coloradans who wish to participate in 2008 elections will be able to do so. This process expands on the secure and well-established process for all-mail ballots already used in Colorado elections.

Drop-off and replacement locations are recommended to accommodate voters who didn't receive a ballot in the mail, lost it, or need a new one, and for voters who prefer to drop off completed ballots. The replacement locations will also provide accessible voting, required by the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002.

A statewide paper ballot delivered by mail for 2008 is considered to be a fiscally responsible solution for the individual counties by minimizing taxpayer dollars spent on short-term voting equipment solutions. It also provides a more reliable transition to the new statewide online voter registration system, SCORE II. This system has been used in the November 2007 election, however, only by a limited number of pilot counties and primarily in mail ballot elections.

"In order to ensure transparent, accurate, and reliable elections in 2008, Colorado's County Clerks urge the State legislature and the Secretary of State to work together, with the Clerks, to find a swift and effective solution," said Amick.

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