

VOTE CENTER PRESENTATION OUTLINE

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What I will cover today...

- About Larimer County
- What/Why of Vote Centers
- The Larimer County Experience
- Vote Center Processes
- Legislation (Colorado SB 04-153)
- The Future of Vote Centers
 - In Colorado
 - Other States

About Larimer County Colorado

- Size: 2,600 square miles
- Type: Urban/Rural
 - Cities/Ranches/ Mountains
- Population: 275,000
- Registered Voters: 183,000
- Active Registered Voters: 140,000
- Average No. of Ballot Styles: 40
- Precincts: 153
- Voter Registration: Votec/Saber
- Voting: Diebold Accu-Vote/TSX
- Absentee/Permanent Mail-In Ballot
- Early Voting (2 weeks out)

Voting in Larimer County

- Absentee/Permanent Mail-In Voting
 - 30 Days Prior
 - No excuse
- Early Voting
 - 7 Locations
 - 2 Weeks Prior
- Election Day
 - 30 Vote Centers
 - Early Vote Sites become Vote Centers

What/Why of Vote Centers

What is a Vote Center?

(simply said...)

“A Vote Center is a polling place where any voter in the county may go to vote.”

No wrong place to vote!

Why Vote Centers?

- Voters love them
- Increased turnout
- Electronic Poll Book/VR data
 - Instant credit for voting
- Poll watching easier
- Cost savings under HAVA
 - ADA compliant facilities
 - Equipment needs reduced
 - Fewer judges needed/easier to manage
- Best Practice Model

Technology

- Vote Center Stations
 - Replacement computers
- CITRIX Farm
 - Multiple servers (Poll Book/VR data)
- Parallel to Internet
 - SSL security
- Grid Monitoring
 - Enhanced management tool

The Larimer County Experience

The Larimer County Experience

- 2003 Off-Year Election
 - Turnout – 42%
 - Prior – 33/35%
- 2004 General Election
 - Turnout – 95%
 - Prior – 65/70%
 - No end-of-day lines
- 2006 General Election
 - Turnout – 73%
 - Prior – 67%
 - No end-of-day lines

Education

- Mailings
 - Vote Center explanation with Mail-In Ballot Request
- Public Appearances
- Communication Campaign
 - One spokesperson
 - Media meetings
 - Editorials
 - Advertising
 - TV/Radio PSAs
 - Fact sheet/flier
 - Newsletter
 - Press release timeline
 - Website – www.larimer.org/elections.
- All press releases directed to web pages
 - Signature Cards
 - Bumper Stickers (2003 only)

Results of Education

- Early Voting Doubled
- Voters brought IDs and Signature Cards as requested
- Voter turnout increased
- Overwhelming voter acceptance

Vote Center Administration

Design

- Sites
 - 1500 to 2500 square feet
- Smaller in rural/mountain communities
 - Adequate parking (80 spaces)
 - ADA compliant
 - Connectivity
 - Geographical location

Election Day Logistics

- Delivery and Pickup
 - Moving company
- Road Runners
 - Election Day
- Contingency measures

- Extra judges, equipment, supplies

Troubleshooter & Supervisor

- Supervisor
 - Clerk staff member
 - Election questions
 - Oversees all processes at election site
- Troubleshooter
 - Traffic flow
 - Technology

Election Judges

- Recruitment
 - Political Parties
 - Student Judges
 - Motor Vehicle Staff
 - County Employees (election workers)
- Training
 - Specific job function

Internal Processes

- Stations
 - Greeter
 - Electronic Poll Book/Street Locater on computer
 - Provisional Stations
 - Ballots
 - Voting Booths
 - Ballot Deposit

Greeter Station

- Check for ID
- Check for Signature Card
- Direct to appropriate area

Electronic Poll Book Stations

- 90 Seconds or less
- Bar code scan
- Check ID against poll book
- Check poll book for address changes
 - Assigns new ballot style
- Mark poll book

Provisional Station

- Not in Poll Book/Not eligible
- Colorado Specific
 - Doesn't want to vote Absentee/Permanent Mail-In Ballot
 - No ID
- No wrong place to vote
 - Fewer Provisionals
 - All votes counted

Ballot Station

- Sign Signature Card
- Get ballot & secrecy sleeve
- Vote electronically

Voting Booths

Deposit Ballots or Return Voter Access Card

Observations/Results

- Voters love them!
- "It's all about convenience"
- Improved sense of community
- Easier to manage
- Improved efficiency
- Election Day issues reduced
 - Fewer problems/less stress
 - Improved coordination

Legislation

- Support came from
 - All Larimer County Legislators
 - Secretary of State
 - Colorado Clerks' Association
- Senate Bill 04-153

Future of Vote Centers

- Other Colorado Counties
- Colorado VR System to accommodate
- Other States
- Rice University study
- National Election Reform Committees

■ Interested Groups

- Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
- League of Woman Voters (LWV)
- Carter Baker Commission
- Congressional Research Library
- Brookings Institute
- The National Academies
- National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)
- National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)
- National Association of Counties (NACo)
- electionline.org
- The Election Center
- IACREOT
- Common Cause
- There are others...

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