

# El Paso County, Colorado Independence Center presentation



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El Paso County Clerk and Recorder  
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A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars on the left and red and white stripes on the right. The graphic is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent pink shape that serves as a background for the text.

## Accessible Elections in Colorado

- Colorado became a hybrid voting state in 2013 - we mail ballots to all registered, active voters and open a select amount of Voter Service & Polling Centers (VSPCs) throughout our counties
- Voters may mail back ballots or drop them off at 24/7 dropboxes
- At VSPCs residents can register to vote, updated registration & vote all in one place!

# Advancing Independence in Accessibility

## El Paso County's Story

- Sought to take Colorado's advancements in accessibility one step further by partnering with an organization/center in our community that facilitates independence for those in the disabled community



# From the Beginning

- Partnership started in February of 2016 with discussions with The Independence Center (IC) staff
- We requested their help with a disability etiquette session during our election worker training
- IC staff were extremely helpful and readily accepted the offer to train our judges
- Training proved to increase election judges' confidence when working with the public as well as:

# Developing the Partnership

- Relationship evolved into conversations of using the local IC facility as a VSPC in November of 2016
- The Independence Center facility is the model of accessibility with too many features to name. A few include:
  - Flooring with an accent color against the wall to assist those with visual disability to navigate independently
  - Low pile carpet for increased mobility
  - Loop system in conference rooms for those who need to access T-Coil technology for increased hearing

# Independence Center as a VSPC



CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING  
HOME HEALTH | CNA SCHOOL | ADVOCACY

Your community.  
Your **VOTE.**

**VOTE**  
BY NOV. 8

**VOTE AT  
THE INDEPENDENCE CENTER**  
729 S. Tejon Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

For other polling locations visit,  
[epcvotes.com](http://epcvotes.com)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Monday, October 17th**  
Mail-in ballots sent to all registered voters can be returned by mail or at a ballot drop off location

**Monday, October 24th**  
Some local in-person polling places open early

**Thursday, November 3rd**  
Final day to send mail-in ballots through the mail

**Monday, November 7th**  
All polling places, including The IC, are open from 8 AM - 5 PM


**ELECTION DAY**  
Tuesday, November 8th

Final day to vote in person or drop your ballot at a drop box from 7 AM - 7 PM

If you are voting the day of the election, you must drop off your ballot at a drop off location or vote in person at a Voter Service Polling Center (VSPC). You may visit any VSPC to vote or receive a replacement ballot. Visit [www.epcvotes.com](http://www.epcvotes.com) for more information about VSPC and drop off locations.

To register or update your registration, visit [govotecolorado.com](http://govotecolorado.com)

To contact the County Clerk, call 719-575-VOTE or email [elections@elpasoco.com](mailto:elections@elpasoco.com)

 Check out our Facebook Page! [www.facebook.com/TheIndependenceCenter](https://www.facebook.com/TheIndependenceCenter)



# Independence Center as a VSPC

- Provided voter registration opportunities
  - Although same day registration exists in Colorado, by registering people prior to election day, voters' time is significantly reduced at the VSPC



Students from the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind visited and many learned how they could vote – for the **FIRST TIME!**



# Proposition 108

Unaffiliated Voters in El Paso County

- 141,715

Total who picked a preference 3,719

- Republican preference
  - 2133 voters
- Democratic preference
  - 1586 voters



OR



- First election in Colorado history where Unaffiliated voters can vote in a Partisan Primary
- You will receive two ballots, however; you can only vote one!



# Primary Election Timeline

- **June 20, 2018**
  - Recommended last day to return ballots by USPS
- **Monday June 25, 2018**
  - Independence Center opens as a VSPC
- **Primary Election Day**
  - June 26, 2018

# Election returns to date

- 54,493 ballots returned (14%)
- Democratic-13,671 (14.93%)
- Republican-29,483 (16.90%)
- Unaffiliated-11,339 (7.12%)

# Tips

- Return early
- Legibly sign the back of your ballot
- If an Unaffiliated voter, return just one ballot

# Conclusion

- Accessibility to voting should be an everyday concern

# Primary Election

- Election Day, June 26-Ballot due by 7:00 pm
- Call 575-VOTE (8683)
- [Epcvotes.com](http://Epcvotes.com)