

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the stars and stripes of the United States flag. The top half is dominated by a field of white stars on a dark blue background. The bottom half shows the red and white stripes of the flag, with the red stripe being more prominent in the lower right corner.

# El Paso County Election Education & Research Task Force

Robert C "Bob" Balink  
El Paso County Clerk and Recorder  
January 23, 2007

# Introductions

- Election Manager – John Bass
- Assistant Election Manager – Liz Olson
- Election Supervisor – Keri Ashley
- Task Force Panel



# Overview

- This group was initiated in 2005 to engage the citizens of El Paso County in the election process. We want to explore the election processes, laws (both federal and state), rules and specifically share our procedures at the county level.
- We will enlist the creative thinking of the group as we research the different ways of conducting elections and other topics the group feels deserve the attention of the group.

# Review

- 2005 The Task Force explored the possibility of Vote Centers in El Paso County
- 2006 Topics reviewed:
  - Help America Vote Act (HAVA) mandates
  - Poll Place Elections
  - Mail Ballot Elections
  - Two special presentations from Task Force Members
    - Professor Loevy – In March Professor Loevy gave a talk on the changing nature of the partisan vote in Colorado and El Paso County.
    - Professor Ponder – In May Professor Ponder gave a talk entitled Voter Registration, Mobilization and Turnout.

Information from all of these presentations is available on our web site at <http://car.elpasoco.com/Election> under the task force information icon.



# 2007 Issues in El Paso County

- Statewide Voter Registration Database
  - Colorado is in non-compliance of HAVA as of 01/01/06
  - The DOJ has been working with the Secretary of States office to ensure the state is compliant by the Presidential Election in 2008
  - El Paso County will be a test county for the new SCORE system vendor in 2007. It is expected to roll out to all Counties by early to mid 2008.

# Mail Ballot Elections – In the news

- In November of 1998 Oregonians passed Ballot Measure 60 directing all elections be conducted as mail ballot elections.
- January 2005 the Washington Post.com reports that while many states were embroiled in fights over Touch Screen voting machines, Provisional Ballots and struggling to find enough people to staff polling places, Oregon once again quietly conducted a presidential election with record turnout and little conflict. The article goes on to say that in November of 2004, Oregon had an almost 87% turnout for the 2004 General Election.
- January 17, 2007 article in the Rocky Mountain News points out that a ballot was mailed to the reporters home for a person who doesn't live there.
- In 2001 El Paso County conducted their first mail ballot election without incident.



# Mail Ballot Elections

- In November of 2002 Amendment 28 was on the ballot to change existing law to require “automatic absentee ballot elections” in most cases.
- The results in El Paso County of this question were: Yes – 54,310 and No – 90,869 and the results state wide were: Yes – 557,573 and No – 757,299.
- The City of Colorado Springs will be conducting a mail ballot election in April 2007.
- El Paso County will be conducting a mail ballot election in November 2007.

*Lets discuss mail ballots elections*

# Mail Ballot Elections



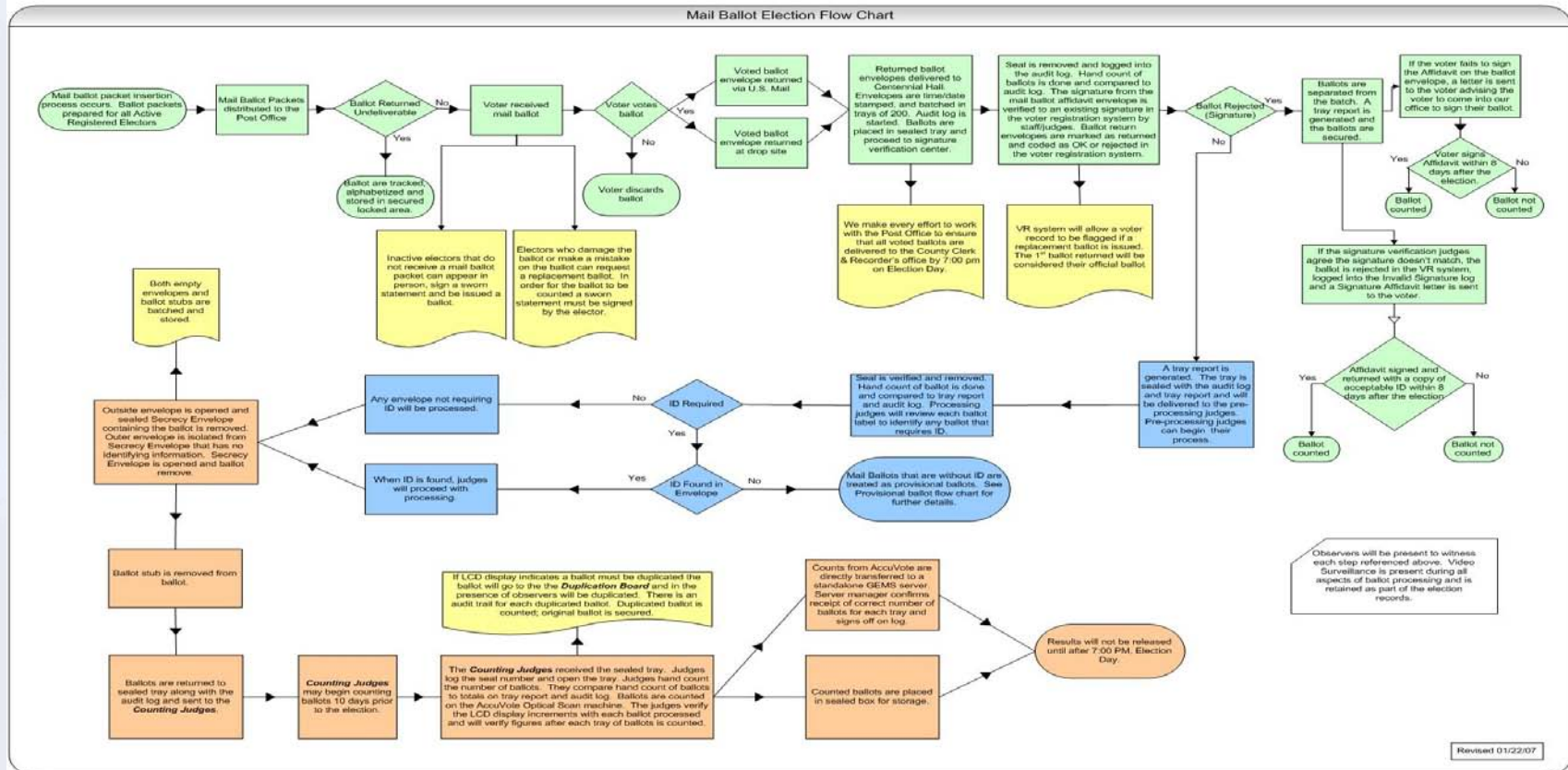
EL PASO  
COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE CLERK & RECORDER

Robert C. "Bob" Balink  
Clerk & Recorder

Election Department  
John Bass, Election Manager  
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Mail Ballot Election Flow Chart



Revised 01/22/07



# Mail Ballot Elections

## Citizen Benefits Identified in 2006

- Ease of Voting
- No multimillion dollar output for purchasing DRE's
- Eliminates the need to recruit up to 1800 election judges and locate close to 200 polling places
- Tend to be less expensive
- Gives voters the opportunity to research issues/candidates in their own time
- More efficient and secure election to administer from an election official's standpoint
- Increased turnout
- Better ballot inventory control

# Mail Ballot Elections

## Election Costs

- Projected costs for 2007
  - Polling Place Election = \$1,081,783
  - Mail Ballot Election = \$901,245
  - Cost Savings = \$180,538
- Some factors for the lower projected cost in a mail ballot election include:
  - Fewer ballots to order
    - Provisional
    - Absentee
    - We know how many active voters we will be mailing to so it's easier to project how many ballots we will need and eliminates the need for over ordering.
  - Staffing/Judges
    - We won't need as many temporary staff because no early voting.
    - We will only need a handful of election judges VS 1800+ for a polling place election.
    - We won't have permanent staff from other departments serve as election technicians on election day.
  - Judges Training
    - Eliminates the need for judges training facility costs.
  - Postage costs
    - Will have higher postage costs when mailing ballots out but majority of 1<sup>st</sup> mailing will go out as non-profit. This is an approximate savings of \$.50 per ballot packet. NOTE: Lots of the cost savings by mailing non-profit will be absorbed in paying the company to mail the 1<sup>st</sup> mailing.
    - Won't have to mail any voter information cards regarding polling place changes.



# Election Security

- All Clerk and Recorder Election Staff have a sworn oath on file with the Clerk and Recorder's office. Also a CBI clearance check is done on each employee and kept on file.
- Facility Security
- Ballot Security
- Equipment Security
- Judge procedures

# Facility Security

- Distribution Center (DC)
- Centennial Hall
- Early Voting locations
- All rooms where equipment and ballots are stored has a temperature and humidity control device installed. Rooms are monitored to ensure the temperature does not drop below 60 degrees or exceed 90 degrees and humidity level does not exceed 80% for more than a 24 hour period.



# Ballot Security

- Polling place ballots
- Ballots are reconciled by the Judges Statement of Ballots
- All unused ballots are tracked after an election
- Absentee ballots
- Each night the absentee ballots are reconciled

# Equipment Security

- Optical Scan Equipment
- Touch Screen Machines
- GEMs Server



# Judge Procedures and Post Election Procedures

- Early Voting
- Polling Place
- Canvass of Votes

# Future Meeting dates

- Fourth Wednesday
  - March 28
  - April 25
  - May 23
- Centennial Hall Auditorium
- 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Next Meeting Topic?