

Colorado Voter Group

Certification sabotaged. Process was not transparent. Elections are not verifiable.

Secretary Coffman repeatedly tells us, "Restoring voter confidence is my top priority..."

Required - To increase voter confidence one must reduce uncertainty. To reduce uncertainty one must increase transparency and allow each and every election process to be independently verified. As President Ronald Reagan said, "Trust, but verify."

Actual - The certification process has been sabotaged. Uncertainty has increased and voter confidence is falling like a brick. There is no transparency. Almost nothing can be independently verified.

1. The public portion of the certification occurred over five long days, May 3 – 25, 2007. The public could not see or hear the demonstrations. Hundreds of technical questions were submitted by the technically astute attendees. None have been answered. Obviously, the demonstrations were simply a show. The public was completely shut out of the rest of the process where 98% of the work was done. Even the current round of tests was secret, explicitly violating HB 1155.
2. Records requested in 2007 under CORA have not been produced. Bureaucratic stall tactics, bad faith responses, and nonsense about redaction have blocked the people's fundamental right to review public records and participate in re-certification decisions.
3. We have been refused access to meetings including those meeting where public policy was being decided. The department has never responded to our technical concerns and has never met with us to discuss these technical concerns. Not only are we prevented from participating in, we are prevented from observing these meetings. This is a clear violation of the law.
4. The unlawfully opaque certification process has skipped over key requirements of law and election rules. It has ignored scientific studies from Ohio and California that prove the equipment is not trustworthy. We have reported the skipped over requirements; we have been ignored; and, we are not permitted to discuss these skipped-over requirements at this hearing.
5. Canvass board members are locked out of testing sessions and denied access to election data needed to find error and fraud. Canvass boards cannot fulfill their statutory duties.
6. Watchers are prevented from seeing or hearing what is going on. They cannot detect problems.

This certification process has failed. We have less, not more, voter confidence. We have no transparency and almost no verifiability. Laws are being side-stepped and some even broken. The department is out of control. Somebody needs to be held accountable.

Temporary fix - Rules must be adopted to make the 2008 primary and general elections transparent and verifiable. These rules must be approved by independently appointed experienced canvass board members and watchers. Without transparency and verifiability it is foolhardy to have confidence in these voting systems.

Al Kolwicz, Trustee
Colorado Voter Group
303-494-1540
www.ColoradoVoterGroup.org

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