

**STATE OF COLORADO**  
**Department of State**

1700 Broadway, Suite 270  
Denver, CO 80290

---



**Gigi Dennis**  
Secretary of State

**John Gardner**  
Voting System Specialist

---

April 06, 2006

Boulder County Board of Commissioners

Re: Purchase of New Voting Systems including DRE's

Commissioners,

Our office has been asked to provide some clarification on items regarding the Boulder County Elections' department purchase of voting equipment.

1. Effective January 1, 2006 per HAVA Section 301, and Colorado Revised Statutes Section 1-5-705, every county shall install one DRE equipped for individuals with disabilities.
  - Our office has been working diligently with the Counties and Voting System Vendors to ensure the success of this project.
  - Our office has provided a financial mechanism (IGA) to assist the counties with this purchase. Boulder County will receive \$1,080,700.
  - Our office has distributed an Order on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to encourage the counties to move forward on the purchase equipment. A response is due in our office April 17<sup>th</sup> to inform us of the progress being made by each County.
  
2. Our staff is currently involved in extensive training sessions with all of Colorado Clerks to ensure that voters' privacy is protected, no voter is turned away at the polls, and there are no acts of discrimination towards voters who may or may not choose to vote on a DRE that will be deployed at vote centers.
  - Training includes encouraging Election Judges to vote on DRE's to protect the privacy of a small turnout of votes on a DRE;
  - Counties will receive instructions on proper etiquette in working with potentially disabled voters; and
  - Counties will instruct Judges to allow anyone to vote on a DRE that is interested.
  
3. Our office has worked diligently to certify four different voting systems for counties to purchase to meet the requirements of item 1 of this document.
  - A procedures document is publicly posted on our website which describes the 478 requirements a system must pass for certification.

- Ballot marking devices such as the AutoMark currently do not meet Title 1 requirements for a voting system.
- All systems must pass federal certification prior to applying for State Certification.

With this clarification, we continue to stress and support the same message since the beginning of 2006. Counties must purchase one DRE per voting location, counties will receive extensive training on the use and handling of the equipment, and we will have multiple vendors certified for use.

If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 303-894-2200 ext. 6318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginette Dennis".

Ginette Dennis  
Secretary of State