

Notice of Public Meeting

Alternative Voting Method Stakeholder Group

Date of Notice: February 3, 2020

Date and Time of Meeting: February 6, 2020, 9:00 A.M. MST

You are hereby notified that the Secretary of State will convene a public meeting to address legal, technological and practical issues relating to the possible implementation of two alternative voting methods – ranked voting and approval voting – in future Colorado elections, for some or all federal, state, county, municipal and local government elected officers.

The public meeting will occur on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 9:00 am MST. in the Aspen Conference Room, located on the third floor of the Secretary of State's office at 1700 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80290.

Interested members of the public, advocates for alternative voting methods, voting system providers, state and local election officials, and other stakeholders, are welcome and encouraged to participate in the public meeting remotely via webinar and telephone conference call. Please contact Business Analyst Katherine Huston (Katherine.Huston@sos.state.co.us / 303-894-2200 ext. 6346) and provide your email address, telephone number, and the alternative voting method in which you are interested or for which you advocate (if any), by 5 pm on Tuesday, February 4th. Ms. Huston will provide you with the webinar registration and conference call login information to join the meeting.

Background

The vast majority of Colorado elections utilize the plurality method, also known as “first past the post,” in which the candidates with the highest number of votes are elected, whether or not the highest number of votes in that contest represents a certain minimum percentage or majority of total votes cast.

For many years, election integrity activists and subject matter experts have advocated ranked voting or approval voting as superior voting methods. Several Colorado home rule municipalities either currently use or are actively considering the use of alternative voting methods for their municipal elections. In addition, recent legislative proposals, if enacted, would require ranked or approval voting in future federal, state, and local government elections.

Purpose

The purpose of the February 6th public meeting is to address in a public forum the relative advantages and disadvantages of ranked voting and approval voting in various types of elections and for various elected offices, and to outline any major obstacles or challenges to implement either method.

Agenda

- Overview of existing Colorado election laws
- Overview of alternative voting methods
 - The Ranked Voting method
 - Single officeholder contests – Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)
 - Multiple officeholder contests – Single Transferable Vote (STV)
 - The Approval Voting method
- Advantages and disadvantages of alternative voting methods
 - Compared to plurality method
 - Compared to one another
 - Fiscal impacts
- Implementing alternative voting methods in future elections
 - Required changes in election laws, if any
 - Required expansions of regulatory authority, if any
 - Alternative methods when multiple jurisdictions share ballot contests
 - Capabilities of existing certified voting systems
 - Capabilities of other existing election systems
 - Ballot layout options and voter usability
 - Results tabulation and reporting
 - Post-election audits
 - Current law
 - Current technology
 - Required enhancements or changes
- Next steps
- Other business

Meeting materials

All documents and materials referenced during the public meeting will be publicly posted and available on the Secretary of State's website.

Office contact

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Katherine Huston at 303-894-2200 ext. 6346