



Colorado Secretary of State

The Secretary's Report

Secretary of State
Mike Coffman

Newsletter
April 2007

In the April Issue...

4 Counties Placed on Election Watch List

Coffman Strengthens Testing Requirements for Electronic Voting Machines

Plus, do you think you know Mike Coffman?

A message from the Secretary's desk...

Dear Friend,

This month I announced two policies that I believe are critical to restoring voter confidence in our elections.

First, the Election Watch List - for counties that experienced significant problems in conducting their elections - establishes a process by which my office will work

Coffman Announces "Election Watch List" Initiative

Colorado's chief elections official, Secretary of State Mike Coffman, has announced the creation of an "Election Watch List" for counties that have experienced significant problems in conducting their elections.

This major policy initiative establishes a process by which the Secretary of State will work with counties placed on the probation list to ensure corrective action is taken.

The ultimate goal for this new policy is to restore the confidence of voters in the counties that experienced significant problems in the last election. This policy signifies an important step in protecting the integrity of elections and in making sure that Colorado's elections are always fair, honest and well-managed -- all top priorities of the Secretary's administration.

"With the Election Watch List in place, my office can work with counties in a collaborative manner to correct their problems to avoid the drastic step of court-ordered supervision of their elections," Coffman said.

with them to ensure corrective action is taken.

Second, my office has strengthened testing of our electronic voting machines, to ensure that they are able to accurately count every vote, and that the results can be verified.

Restoring voter confidence is my number one priority, and I believe these two initiatives will help us get there.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman

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Counties on the Election Watch List: Denver, Douglas, Montrose and Pueblo.

[Read more](#) about the Election Watch List.

Stronger Testing Requirements for Electronic Voting Machines

After a thorough public comment period and a rigorous drafting process, in which IT professionals, computer scientists, university professors and concerned citizens and organizations participated, Secretary Coffman has adopted stringent testing requirements for electronic voting machines used in future Colorado elections.

Electronic voting machines used in Colorado must be certified by the State; the Secretary of State's office will recertify electronic voting machines to these new testing requirements before the next election to ensure their reliability.

"The electronic voting machines used during our elections must protect our most sacred right - the right to vote," said Coffman.

"That's why it is critical to have stringent security measures surrounding their use. Coloradans must have confidence in the technology used to conduct elections, and these new testing requirements will provide that confidence."

[Read more...](#)

Do you think you know Mike Coffman?

Did you know he's a fan of Italian opera?

Well, Brooke Wagner of CBS4 sat down with the Secretary this month to ask him about growing up in a military family, his experiences in Iraq and how he is handling the pressures of his new job... and she got to the bottom of that opera thing too.

See the interview [here](#).

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