



The Secretary's Report

Secretary of State
Mike Coffman

Newsletter
August 2007

Coffman Receives Federal Funds for Voters with Disabilities

Secretary Coffman announced earlier this month that Colorado will receive an additional \$150,000 in grant money from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the federal "Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities" program.

Coffman will use the increase in federal funding to provide assistance to counties in their efforts to continue improving access to voting for the disability community.

"Equal access to the polls is a fundamental principle of representative government," Coffman said. "These funds will help ensure that individuals with disabilities have the same opportunity to vote as other

"Task Force on Charitable Giving" Formed

Secretary of State Mike Coffman formed the "Task Force on Charitable Giving" this month to advise him on legal and regulatory reforms for the nonprofit sector.

Under the Colorado Charitable Solicitations Act, charitable nonprofit organizations that solicit donations in Colorado are required to register with the Secretary of State's office, provide identifying information about their organization and file annual financial reports. The public can visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.co.us, to verify if a charity has registered with the state and view its financial disclosure reports before deciding whether to donate.

"I am looking to this task force to give me concrete recommendations on how to increase charitable giving in Colorado," said Coffman.

The task force will examine ways to improve and promote the Secretary's website as an important tool that can educate the public about charitable nonprofits, increase donor confidence, and ultimately increase giving in the state. The task force will also examine the regulatory and legal framework for the nonprofit sector to recommend if any changes should be made.

Thayer Tutt Jr., president and chief operating officer for the El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs, is chair of the task force. "It is a privilege to serve Secretary Coffman in this capacity," Tutt said. "I look forward to working collaboratively toward the important goal of increasing charitable giving in the State of Colorado."

The task force, which brings together representatives from state government, the law enforcement community and the nonprofit sector, will meet throughout the summer and early fall, and will submit formal recommendations to Coffman by November 2007.

Charley Shimanski, president and chief executive officer of the Colorado Nonprofit Association, highlighted the need for such a task force. "Coloradans earn seven percent more than the average

Americans."

The federal grant comes on the heels of Coffman's formation of his Voter Accessibility, Independence and Privacy Task Force that advises his office on election issues and their potential impact on people with disabilities.

"Our goal is to make sure Colorado is one hundred percent compliant with accessibility laws for the 2008 election," said Coffman.

[Read more here.](#)

Campaign Finance Task Force Holds Public Meeting

In the first of several public meetings the task force heard public testimony on how the state's campaign finance website can be improved to increase transparency and accountability in Colorado politics.

The meeting focused on seeking input on how a campaign's financial data is entered into the system. Task force members heard testimony from political campaign committees, campaign treasurers and other registered

American, but our annual giving to charity is eight percent below the national average," Shimanski said.

Representative from the following government agencies and nonprofit organizations comprise the "Task Force on Charitable Giving":

- Association of Fundraising Professionals
- Berenbaum, Weinshienk, & Eason, P.C.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, Inc.
- Boulder County District Attorney's office
- Catholic Charities of Pueblo
- Colorado Association of Funders
- Colorado Attorney General's office
- Colorado Children's Campaign
- Colorado Nonprofit Association
- Colorado Nonprofit Development Center
- Colorado Secretary of State's office
- Community Resource Center
- Denver Options
- El Pomar Foundation
- Independent Higher Education of Colorado
- Kunderling, Corder & Engle, P.C.
- Mile High United Way
- Ravenna Golf
- Regis University\
- The Children's Hospital Foundation
- The Colorado Health Foundation\
- The Daniels Fund
- Valley-Wide Health Systems
- Volunteers of America

Read news stories in the [Denver Post](#) and the [Denver Business Journal](#).

Read the Secretary of State's [Tips to Wise Giving](#).

Colorado Secretary of State's I.T. Project Receives National Award

Coffman's administration received national recognition last month by the Administrative Codes and Registers Section of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). NASS awarded the Colorado Secretary of State's office with the 2007 "Robert J. Colborn, Jr. Innovation Award" at its summer conference in Portland, Oregon.

agents.

The next public meeting will be on August 9 at 5 PM in the Secretary of State's office:

1700 Broadway
Denver, CO
Blue Spruce Room

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The Secretary of State's office is responsible for making the administrative rules, adopted by all of the agencies of state government, available to the public. These administrative rules cover all aspects of state government, from food safety regulations promulgated by the Department of Public Health and the Environment, to what documents are required before a Colorado driver's license can be issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

"Our web-based system makes every branch of state government more transparent and accountable to the public. In a time when Colorado has seen several high-profile I.T. projects flounder, this is an exceptional milestone for the state," said Coffman.

To increase public accessibility to the internal operations of state agencies, the Colorado Secretary of State's office embarked on an ambitious project to put the entire rulemaking process online so that citizens and other interested parties can follow the process and comment during the required public hearings. This goal was met in July 2007 when the online Code of Colorado Regulations became the official source for Colorado administrative rules.

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