

CHAPTER 14: VOTING SYSTEMS AND TESTING

CERTIFICATION

In all elections held in Colorado, votes may be cast, registered, recorded, and counted via an electronic or electromechanical voting system.

Any voting system used by a county must be certified and approved by the Secretary of State for purchase, installation, and use.

See the following sections of the Colorado Revised Statutes and Election Rules for detailed information regarding voting systems standards and certification, inventory, and purchase or lease:

- Generally, Title 1, Article 5, Part 6 - Authorization and Use of Voting Machines and Electronic Voting Systems
- Section 1-5-608.5, C.R.S. (certification)
- Section 1-5-611, C.R.S. (requirements for electronic voting systems)
- Section 1-5-613, C.R.S. (purchase and sale of voting equipment)
- Section 1-5-615, C.R.S. (electronic and electromechanical voting systems requirements)
- Section 1-5-616, C.R.S. (voting systems standards and procedures)
- Section 1-5-617, C.R.S. (examination - testing - certification)
- Section 1-5-618, C.R.S. (modification of voting systems)
- Section 1-5-621, C.R.S. (compliance)
- Section 1-5-623, C.R.S. (special rules applicable to use, modification, or purchase of voting systems)
- Voting Systems Rule 11
- Election Rule 21 (Voting Systems Standards for Certification)

TESTING

The county must submit election setup records to the Secretary of State's office before each election and conduct testing on its certified voting systems, including:

- Hardware diagnostic test
- Logic and accuracy test
- A post-election risk limiting audit

[Sections 1-7-509 and 1-7-510, C.R.S.; Election Rules 11.3, and 11.4]

Review the following for information regarding voting system testing, auditing and compliance:

- Section 1-7-509, C.R.S. (electronic and electromechanical vote counting - testing of equipment required)
- Section 1-7-514, C.R.S. (random audit)
- Section 1-7-515, C.R.S. (risk-limiting audit)
- Section 1-5-610, C.R.S. (preparation for use - electronic voting)
- Section 1-5-621, C.R.S. (compliance)
- Election Rules 11.3.1 (hardware diagnostic test), 11.3.2 (logic and accuracy test), 25 (post-election/ risk limiting audit)
- Election Rule 20.14 (remedies)

A county clerk must notify the Secretary of State of any voting system malfunction. [Election Rule 11.7] The county must retain all testing records and documentation for 25 months. [Section 1-7-802, C.R.S., Election Rule 11.5]

For additional resources regarding certification, testing, and voting system chain-of-custody, review the links under the *Voting Systems* heading on Clerk's Corner.

ELECTION NIGHT REPORTING

The county must report election night results for all primary, general, coordinated, and recall elections. [Election Rule 11.9]

For more information on Election Night Reporting, visit the Clerk's Corner's *Election night reporting information* link under the *Voting Systems* heading.

TRAINING

The county must conduct training for all election officials and must conduct separate training for field technicians and election officials responsible for overseeing the transportation and use of voting systems, picking up supplies, and troubleshooting device problems. [Election Rule 20.10]

Our office recommends the following trainings, which are available under the Training Resources heading in Clerk's Corner:

- Elections Security
- Logic and Accuracy Testing
- Elections 101
- Provisional Ballots
- VSPC Set up and Management