Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder seeks public comment on proposed Vote Centers to be used for the November 2011 Election

LITTLETON --- Clerk and Recorder Nancy A. Doty is currently seeking public comment on changing the way some elections are conducted in Arapahoe County.

In preparation for the Nov. 1, 2011 Coordinated Election and looking ahead to the 2012 Presidential Election, the Vote Center form of election has become a popular alternative in Colorado to the more costly polling site method.

Only 15 percent of the voters in Arapahoe County went to the polls on Election Day in 2010.

“More than 70 percent of the voters in Arapahoe County choose to vote by mail, so it makes sense to consolidate precincts into centrally-located areas,” Doty said. “Vote Centers are a proven method of voting and it meets the needs of all citizens, while being fiscally responsible to our citizens.”

Arapahoe County is proposing 17 Vote Center sites where voters can vote by precinct regardless of where they live. In 2010, 197 voting locations were secured and staffed for Election Day. With Vote Centers, staffing is cut from approximately 1,500 judges on Election Day to less than 500 judges. In addition, the voting equipment needs also are dramatically reduced.

A description of the Clerk and Recorder’s Vote Center plan for the Nov. 1, 2011 Coordinated Election will be available on the County’s web site beginning April 1.

In order to address any concerns voters may have regarding Vote Centers and keeping in compliance with Colorado law, comments from the public will be accepted via the Elections web site at www.arapahoevotes.com until April 15, 2011.

Written comments also may be directed to the Clerk and Recorder’s Elections Division at 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton, CO 80120.

Interested citizens also are encouraged to attend a public hearing with Clerk and Recorder Nancy A. Doty, which will be held 2 to 4 p.m., April 20 in the County Administration Building West Hearing Room, 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton.

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