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Arapahoe County will use more voting machines than ever before

Record numbers participate in early, mail voting as county gears up for Election Day

LITTLETON, CO --- On Election Day, Arapahoe County will use more voting machines than ever before. Arapahoe County will deploy 1,300 voting machines to more than 200 polling sites compared to 1,100 machines in 2004.

“Your vote is as important to us as it is to you,” said Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Nancy A. Doty. “We’ve seen record numbers of voters participating in early voting and vote by mail and we are ready to insure a smooth voting process on Election Day.”

On Friday, Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Nancy Doty rolled out additional voting machines at two popular voting sites to handle the large number of voters participating in the last day of Early Voting.

More than 20,000 have voted early in Arapahoe County so far, and another 4,000 to 5,000 people are anticipated to vote Friday. The number of voting machines were doubled at CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Dr., Aurora to a total of 24 and an additional four machines were deployed to Smoky Hill Library, 5430 S. Biscay Circle, Centennial, to help ease wait times.

“We’ve tried to give voters as many options as possible to vote, including early voting, mail in ballots and early voting on election day,” Doty said.

This year, 207,381 mail-in ballots were requested and 155,000 have been returned as of Oct. 30. When combined with Early Voting, 175,000 total votes have been cast in Arapahoe County so far. Arapahoe County has 344,088 registered voters.

Based on Early Voting, Vote by Mail and the County’s prior voting history, Doty said she expects fewer voters to cast ballots on Election Day than in 2004. That year, 113,757 votes were cast on Election Day. Doty said she anticipates between 54,000 (based on total active voters) to 114,000 (based on total registered voters) to vote in person on Tuesday.

“We’ve proactively encouraged voters to vote early and by mail to make the voting process easier for them,” Doty said. “We strongly encourage voters who are still holding mail-in ballots to get those returned to us as soon as possible.”

Arapahoe County is encouraging the 55,000 people still holding their mail-in ballots to return those ballots as soon as possible. Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. Election night, Nov. 4.

Voters who requested mail-in ballots, must vote by mail-in ballot and cannot vote in person at their precinct.

Mail-in ballots can be dropped off at any of the County's 13 ballot drop off locations. To find the location nearest you, visit www.arapahoevotes.com. Please note that mail-in ballots cannot be dropped off at polling sites on Election Day.

Voters needing help finding their voting poll place can call 303-795-4511 or visit www.arapahoevotes.com or www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

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Video/Photo:

Video and photos of workers setting up voting machines and Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Nancy Doty discussing expectations for Election Day are available for download at the County's FTP server: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/photos/>

Video/Photo Captions:

Before polls opened this morning, technicians set up additional voting machines at Arapahoe County's CentrePoint Plaza location in Aurora.

Instructions at each voting machine in Arapahoe County make casting your vote easy.

Arapahoe County voters turn out bright and early Friday to cast their vote on the last 2008 Early Voting Day.