Signature Verification Audit Update

CCCA 2022 Summer Conference

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CCCA Recommendations to Enhance Colorado's Election Model

- **Signature verification audits**
- Voter list maintenance review and/or audit
- Ballot images and cast vote records (CVRs) made public
- Proper funding of elections

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Outcomes of Signature Verification Audits

- Greater consistency for how “sig ver” is performed across counties
- Improved training material
- Provide evidence the process (and technology) in Colorado is working
- United messaging and sharing of resources

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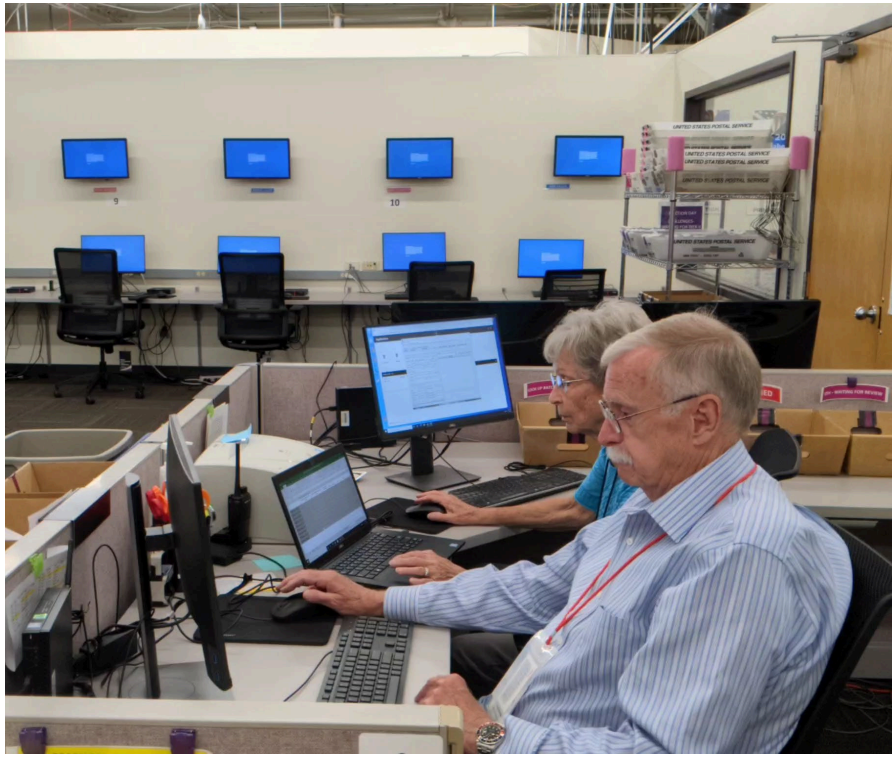
Challenges and Concerns

- No existing empirical standards for evaluating a signature
- Technology limits how and what data can be reviewed
- Process that works for everyone – regardless of technology
- Auditing the process, not the signature itself
- What happens when a discrepancy is discovered?

Pilot Audit Participants June Primary

Arapahoe
Chaffee
Denver
Eagle
LaPlata
Logan
Pueblo
Weld



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Pilot Preliminary Outcomes

- **4,410** signatures randomly selected for audit
  - includes both accepted (Tier 1 & Tier 2) and rejected signatures
- **43** signatures **rejected** by election judges would have been accepted by auditors
- **11** signatures **accepted** by election judges would have been rejected by auditors
- Auditor's disposition did **not** change the judge's determination

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Some Takeaways

- Original judge determinations are hidden so audit team is not biased.
  - Keeping original determination of the ballot secret during audit challenging for some counties.
- Alias used in reporting to protect voter identity, signature verification judge identity and/or audit team identity
- Random selection from the aggregate of accepted and rejected led to more ballots with an accepted disposition being selected than rejected.
  - Question: Should more ballots rejected in Tier 2 be audited if very few are randomly chosen?
- Opportunities to improve signature verification training and election judge performance in real time.

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Concerns Raised

- Poor quality signature images
- Should future audits focus only on the performance of the election judge since the sample size and procedures for auditing ASR is already address specifically in rule?
- Need a clarification of the rule for “attempt to sign” and how that differs from “made a mark”.

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Next Steps

- Working group debrief and review of updated procedures – **Sep**
- Meeting for counties interested in November pilot – **Sep**
- Identify November pilot counties – **Sep**
- **November General Election pilot**
- Working group debrief - **Dec**

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Discussion