

Andrea Gyger

From: Ralph Shnelvar [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2014 5:13 AM
To: SoS Rulemaking
Subject: An additional audit procedure.

I had made the following suggestion to Mary Tuneberg, Westminster, Co.

I am including here my version of what she submitted.

- - - -

The purpose of this suggested rule is to increase confidence in the machine count. The risk-limiting software (RLS) and procedure is a good first step. The procedure we propose is a good second step to help guarantee that any unscrupulous changes in the machine count be detected.

The current risk-limiting software randomly selects batches. We recommend that in addition to randomly selected batches, a randomly selected race(s) be completely hand counted.

The risk-limiting procedure/software has the possible flaw that it can be modified to avoid batches that were tampered with. For instance, the RLS could be hacked to deliberately avoid batches that have been tampered with.

By randomly selecting a race to be hand counted, every batch (and therefore, ballot--if a county-wide race is selected) will be examined. Since there is no software involved, the procedure is completely transparent. Since no race is off limits to this procedure, hackers would find it impossible to guarantee that malfeasance would not be detected.

As an example:

Boulder County cast approximately 90,000 ballots in 2010.

If a randomly selected race is county-wide (as most are), then the question becomes "How long does it take to count 90,000 ballots?"

If each batch averages 150 ballots, then 90,000 ballots is 600 batches.

Assume a modest 25 teams of election judges. Each team would be assigned 24 batches. At the incredibly slow rate of one batch per team per hour, the batches would be completely counted in 3 eight-hour days.

Every ballot would be counted. Every batch would have a count that could be compared to the machine count.

- - - -

I realize the above proposed rule is properly the domain of the legislative process.

Nonetheless, I suggest to the Secretary that this be made, at least, a best practices suggestion.

Ralph Shnelvar



Libertarian Candidate for Boulder County Clerk and Recorder
www.ralphyforclerk.org

Chair, Libertarian Party of Boulder County
www.lpboulder.org www.facebook.com/lpboulder