Colorado Elections and Insider Threats

Matt Crane, Executive Director
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Colorado County Clerks Association

- Established in 1969.
- Voluntary, fee-based organization.
- All 64 clerk and recorders are members.
- 2 full conferences each year.
- Elected executive board, including 4 regional chairs.

Staff
- Executive Director
- Lobbyist
- Support Staff

- Very engaged at state legislature.
- Strong legacy of unified approach.
Mesa County
The Perfect Storm for Trouble

Low information election official
- Never truly studied laws/process/systems to know checks in place to ensure integrity.
  - Never received state certification.
- Poor management lead to high staff turnover.
- Extremely partisan and publicly supported conspiracy theories.
- Easy target for grifters and bad actors.

Well organized conspiracy groups
- Dominion MDM started here.
- Groups very effective at spreading malinformation.
- Groups place incredible pressure on EO’s to break law.
- USEIP leadership now running Lindell’s Cause of America.
CCC Response
Internal Association Support

- Act quickly.
- Immediate outreach to counties, especially in that area of state.
- Scheduled additional all-member Zoom calls.
  - Changed rules for calls after breach of trust.
  - Openly discussed situation and that laws were likely broken.
  - Not just a Mesa issue. Discussed likely increase in threats/intimidation directly tied to breach.
- More frequent individual contact by regional chairs.
- Contracted with Emergency Comms Specialist to help with both external and internal comms.
- Election Security Updates.
- Get The Facts.
Election Security Update

News and Information to Support Your Work

Oct. 7, 2021
This email is intended to provide you with updates and information about emerging issues on the election landscape. If you have information you’d like to see here, email cccaexecutivedirector@gmail.com.

From Matt’s Desk

- We continue to see disinformation spreading that claims the SOS and Dominion are conspiring to hide voting system and computer logs behind a secret password that only the SOS has access to. This disinformation has led to a new round of CORA requests that many counties have received over the last few days. Those spreading this disinformation clearly do not understand voting systems or what happens during the Trusted Build. The CORA requests are confusing, as are asking for specific information that misunderstands how the systems work. It seems they may be referring to the BIOS and logs therein. As we have discussed previously, the SOS goes into the system BIOS to disable all Wifi access on those components. The SOS then changes the BIOS password on each component. They do not share those passwords with counties or voting system vendors. The SOS does this for both the Dominion and the Clear Ballot voting systems, which both have components that include Wifi capability. There is nothing nefarious about this process and there is no intent to hide secret files. This practice was done by previous secretaries as an additional level of security. And again, it is the practice for both voting systems certified in Colorado.
Get The Facts

GET THE FACTS

Get election accuracy and security facts from the people who know

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- **Are cameras required to be filming election equipment at all times?**
  
Pursuant to Colorado Election Rule 20.9.3(a)(1), cameras are required to record all areas where the election management software system is used at least 60 days before Election Day to at least 30 days after Election Day.

  For counties with 50,000 or more registered voters, cameras are also required to record all areas used for signature verification, ballot opening tabulation, and storage of voted ballots at least 35 days before Election Day through at least 30 days after Election Day. Many counties have their cameras recording year-round.

- **Is Colorado an all-paper ballot state?**
  
Yes. All Colorado voters, with the exception of some UOCAVA voters (overseas and military voters), cast a paper ballot, whether they vote their mail ballot or vote in-person. In-person voters may use a touch screen ballot marking device (BMD). However, the BMD ultimately prints a paper ballot that the voter checks for accuracy and then casts.
CCCA External Response

- Important that policy makers and public hear from us and that we take a strong position.
- Actively support CDOS investigations into potential insider threat situations.
- Met with County Commissioner Association to discuss situations and MDM that helped lead to those situations.
  - Grifters and bad actors are putting pressure on county commissioners to withhold funding of voting system annual agreements.
Pursuing New Legislation & Policies

- **Proposing new legislation**
  - Stronger penalties for insider threats.
  - Mandatory state election certification before Clerk may serve as the designated election official for their county.

- **Working on New Policies**
  - Ballot images and cast vote records available for public inspection at no cost.
  - Signature verification audit process enhancements.
  - Voter list maintenance review/audit.
  - Ensure the proper funding of elections.
Building a Safety Roadmap EO’s

- Mesa County situation created much more dangerous environment for other clerks.
- Election officials facing more threats and intimidation than ever before.
- Laws aren’t always clear about what behavior constitutes a crime.
- EO questions about who to call in which situations.
- EO questions about how data is tracked.
- Working to create a working group that includes federal, state, and county partners to answer these questions and provide roadmap to EO’s.
Questions?

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