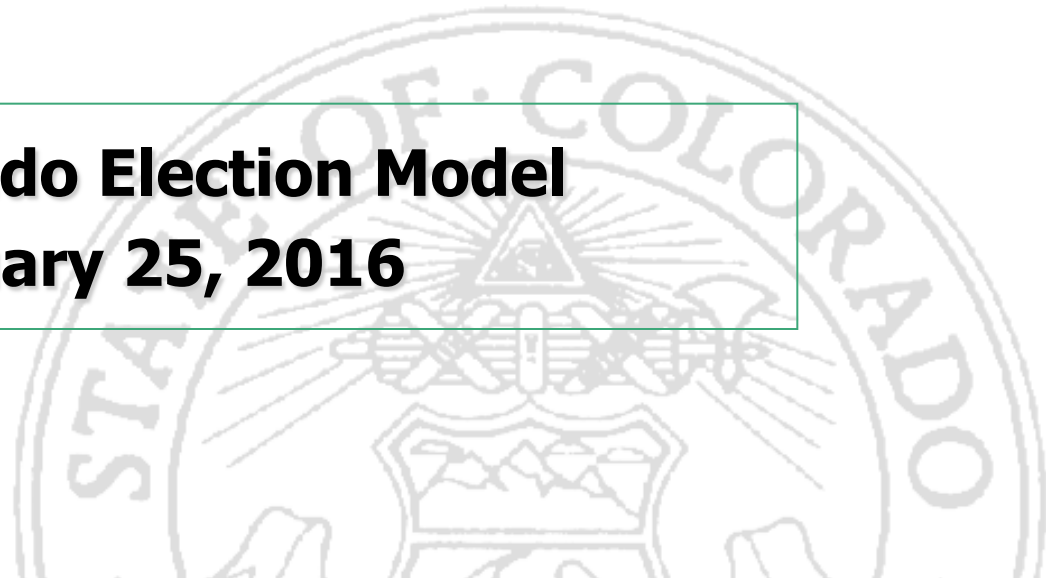


Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams

**The Colorado Election Model
February 25, 2016**



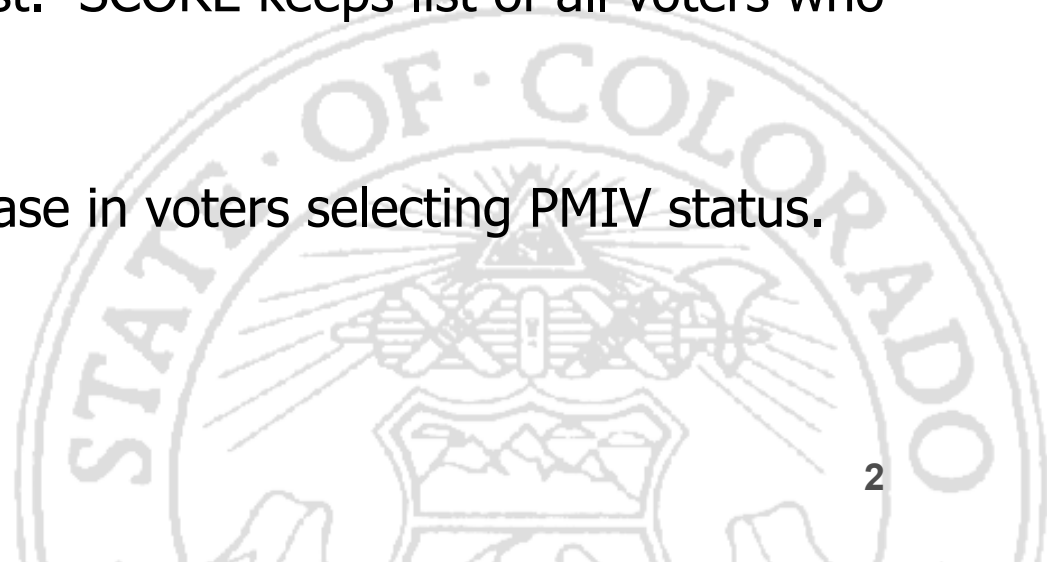
Colorado's Mail Ballot History

Before 1992 - Colorado voters needed an excuse to get a ballot by mail.

From 1993-2008 - Colorado voters could request a mail ballot each election w/o an excuse.

2008-2013 – Colorado voters could request to be added to the permanent mail-in voter (PMIV) list. SCORE keeps list of all voters who always receive a mail ballot.

SCORE data shows a steady increase in voters selecting PMIV status.

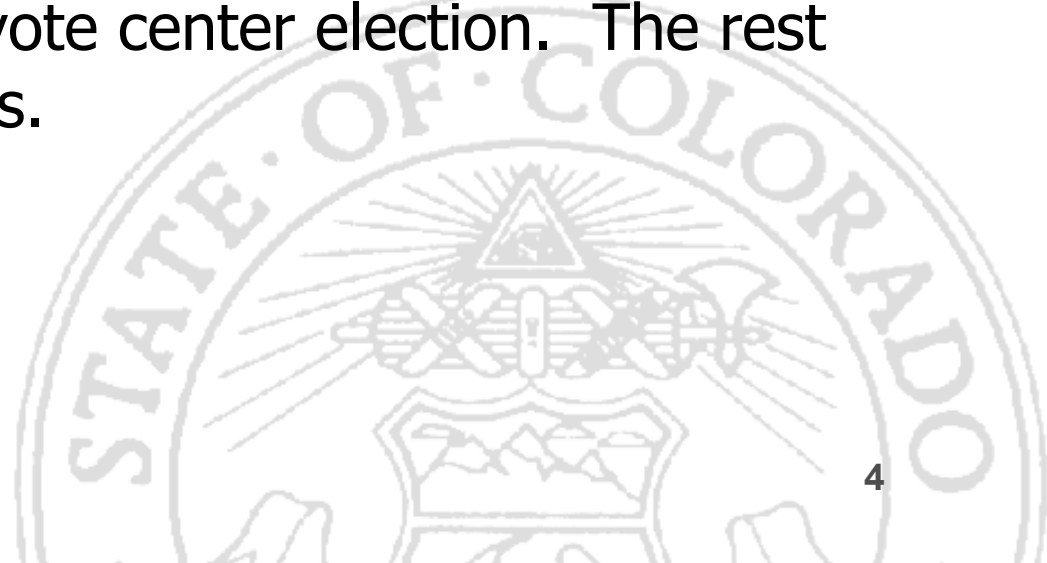


History Cont. - PMIV

- The evolution of PMIV:
 - 2008 General – 40% of active voters were PMIV
 - 2010 General – 55% of active voters were PMIV
 - 2012 General – 70% of active voters were PMIV
 - 2013 – 75% of active voters were PMIV
 - On May 10, 2013, upon the signing of HB13-1303, 100% of active voters became PMIV

History Cont.

- **2009-2013** - Counties allowed to do “all-mail” elections except in even-year General Elections.
- In the 2009 election – the first where counties could send every voter a mail ballot – only six counties chose a polling place/vote center election. The rest chose to mail all ballots.



History Cont. - HB13-1303

HB13-1303 was signed by Governor Hickenlooper on May 10, 2013. It became effective upon signature.

Major Provisions:

1. Changed in-state residency requirement from 30 to 22 days.
2. All state and federal elections by mail ballot.
3. Register to vote thru election day & vote the same day (same-day registration).
4. State provides and counties complete an NCOA check each month.
5. Each county opens Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC) – number based on a complicated formula.

VSPC Formula

for General Elections (Section 1-5-102.9, C.R.S.):

- Counties with at least 25,000 active electors:
 1. Early voting period (15 days before Election Day, excluding intervening Sundays): At least 1 VSPC per every 30,000 active electors
 2. Election Day: At least 1 VSPC for every 15,000 active electors, but no fewer than 3
- Counties with at least 10,000 but fewer than 25,000 active electors:
 1. Early voting period: At least 1 VSPC
 2. Election Day: At least 3 VSPCs
- Counties with fewer than 10,000 active electors:
 1. Early voting period & Election Day: At least 1 VSPC

VSPC Characteristics

- Citizens may go to any VSPC in their county to vote
 - May use same day registration
- All VSPCs must have internet connectivity to ensure that citizen has not previously cast a ballot
 - Eliminates some polling places
- Judges must be computer savvy
 - Eliminates some judges

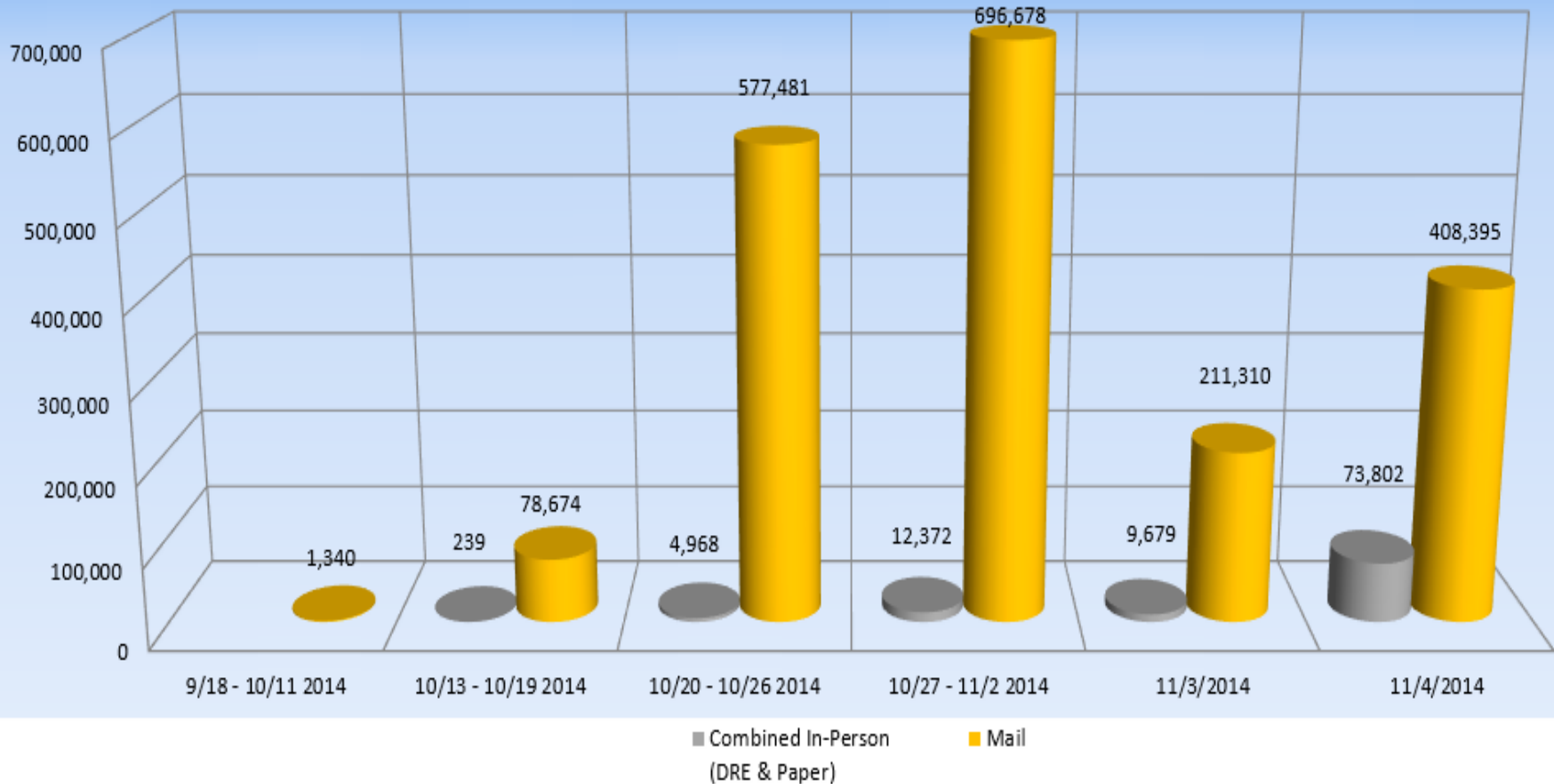
2014 Election Data

The 2014 Election was the first general election under HB13-1303. Statistics:

- 1,989,123 Coloradans voted a mail ballot
- 101,060 Coloradans voted at VSPC in-person (4.8%)
- 8,458 voters registered to vote and then voted the same day
- Of voters who registered and then voted the same day registration, 60 had a bad address when checked after the election:
 1. NCOA – 10
 2. Confirmation bounce – 50

2014 Election

VOTE COUNT BY VOTE METHOD 2014 GENERAL ELECTION Total Voted in Colorado 2,074,938

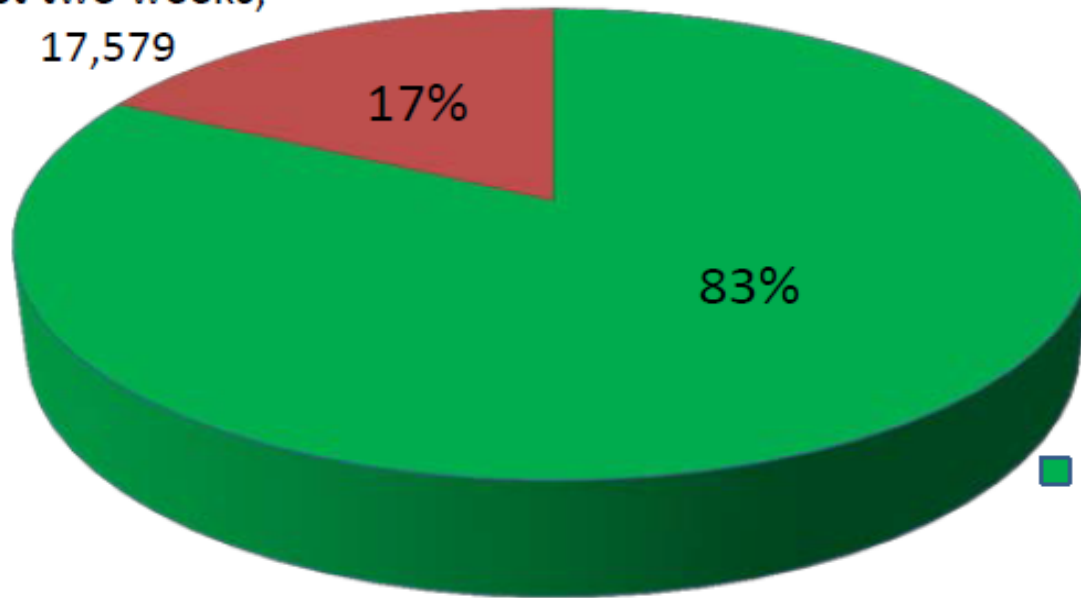


2014 Election

- 101,060 Coloradans voted at VSPC in-person (4.8%):

In Person Voting 101,060 Total

■ Voted in the
first two weeks,
17,579



■ Voted in the last
two days of the
election, 83,481

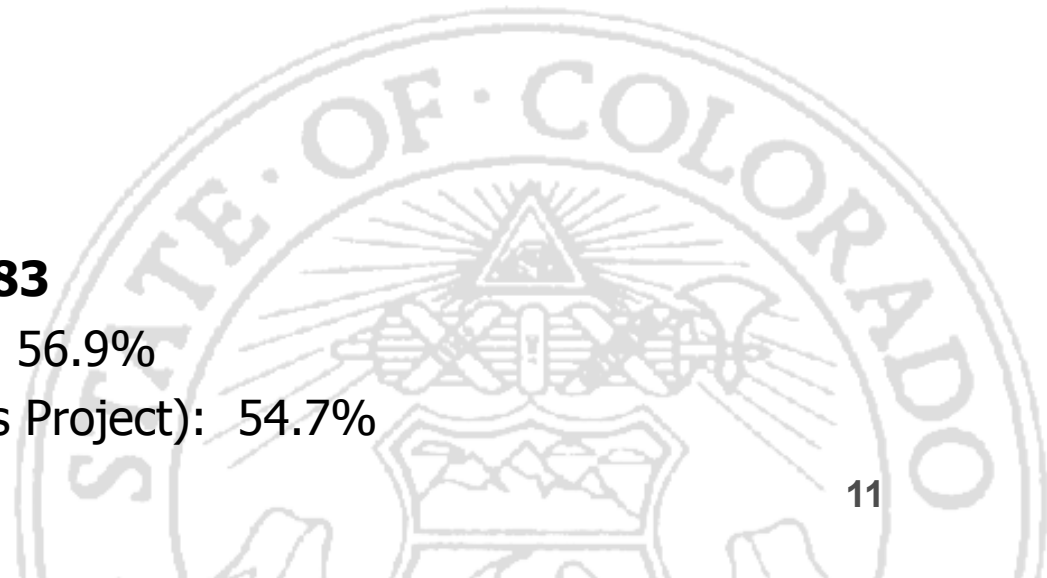
2010 v. 2014 Performance Data

2010:

- Voted by mail: 1,262,170
- Voted in-person: 557,648
- Total number voted: **1,819,818**
- Turnout (traditional measure – voted/registered): 55.2%
- Turnout of all eligible (Elections Project estimate based on Census): 51.7%

2014:

- Voted by mail: 1,989,123
- Voted in-person: 101,060
- Total number voted: **2,090,183**
- Turnout (traditional measure): 56.9%
- Turnout of all eligible (Elections Project): 54.7%



Turnout: Ballot Content Trumps

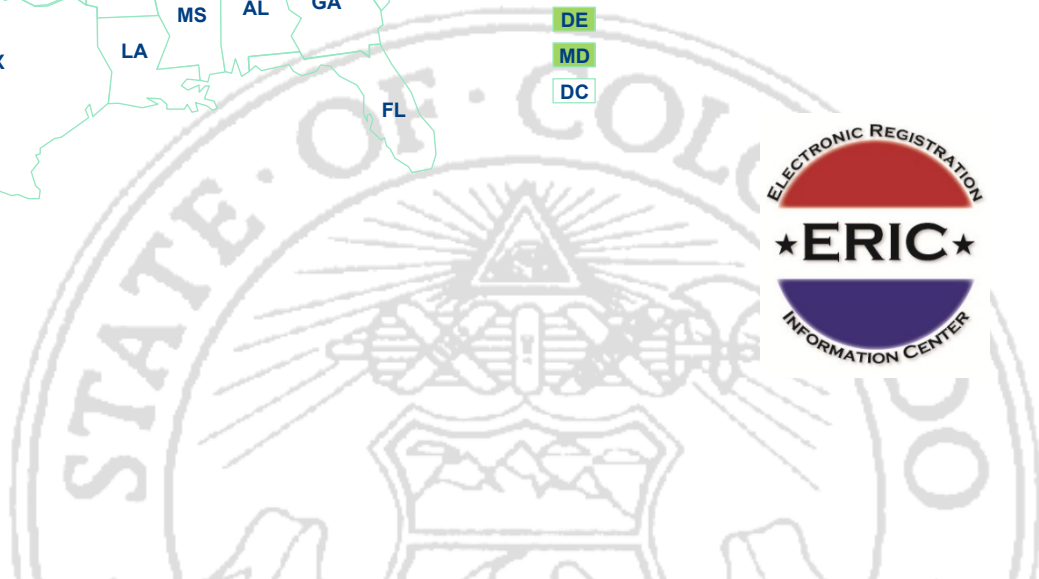
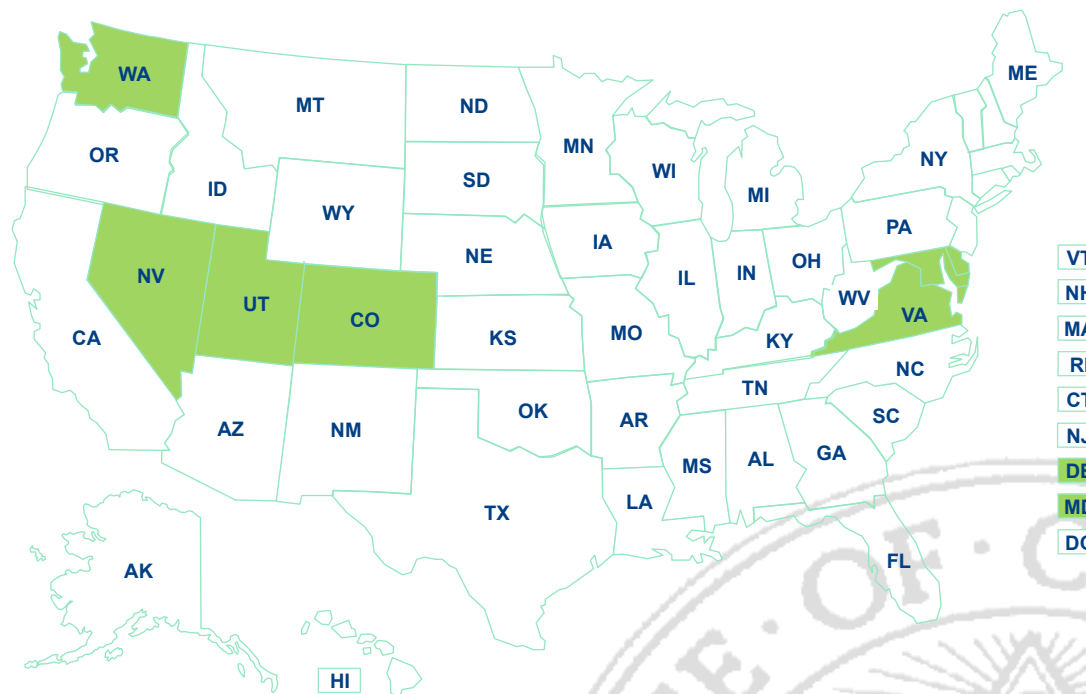
- Biggest Factor in Turnout is still the issues and candidates on the ballot:
 - 2010 Governor (Pre-Change) **1,819,818**
 - 2011 School/Tax (Mail) **1,075,020**
 - 2012 President (Pre-Change) **2,584,719**
 - 2013 School/Tax (New) **1,410,667**
 - 2014 Governor (New) **2,090,183**
 - 2015 School/Tax (New) **1,245,664**

Voter List Improvement

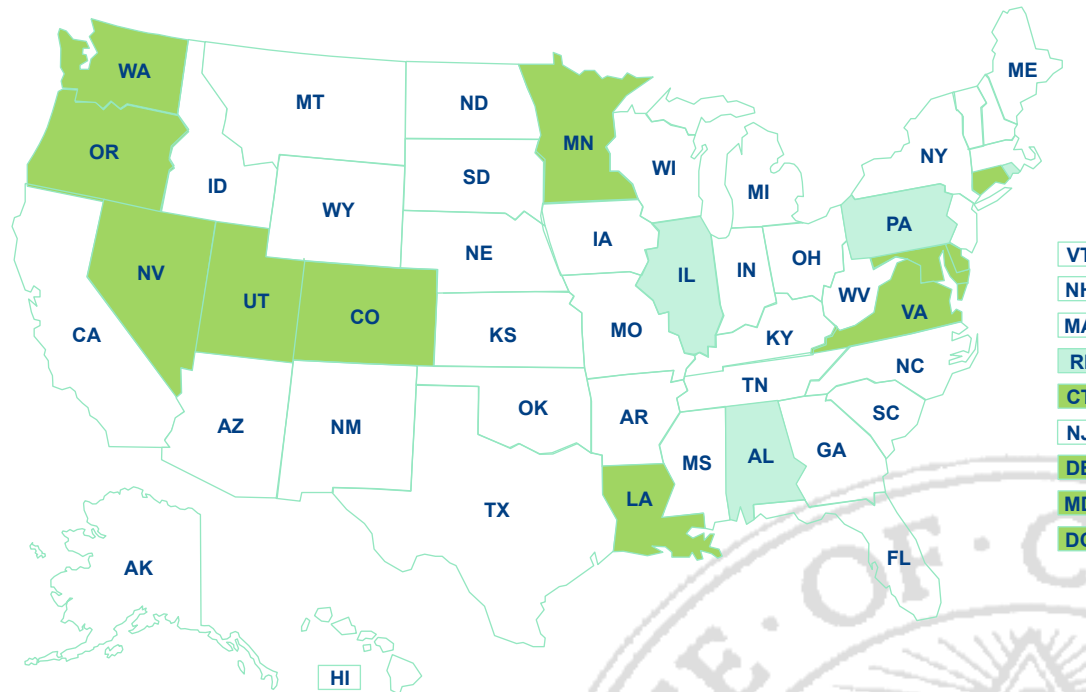
Colorado has adopted several strategies to clean and keep clean the state voter list:

1. NCOA – National Change of Address
2. Department of Health Death Record Report
3. Felony Incarceration Report
4. Citizenship check
 - Legally present
 - Not in the state legally
5. Driver's License Address Change (unanimously passed 2015)
6. ERIC – Electronic Registration Information Center

The Original Seven ERIC States (2012)



ERIC States Today: 15 states and DC



ERIC and NCOA

Colorado joined ERIC in 2012 and started statewide NCOA in 2013.

ERIC – National consortium of states* who send their voter registration and DMV files to ERIC for review. Two purposes:

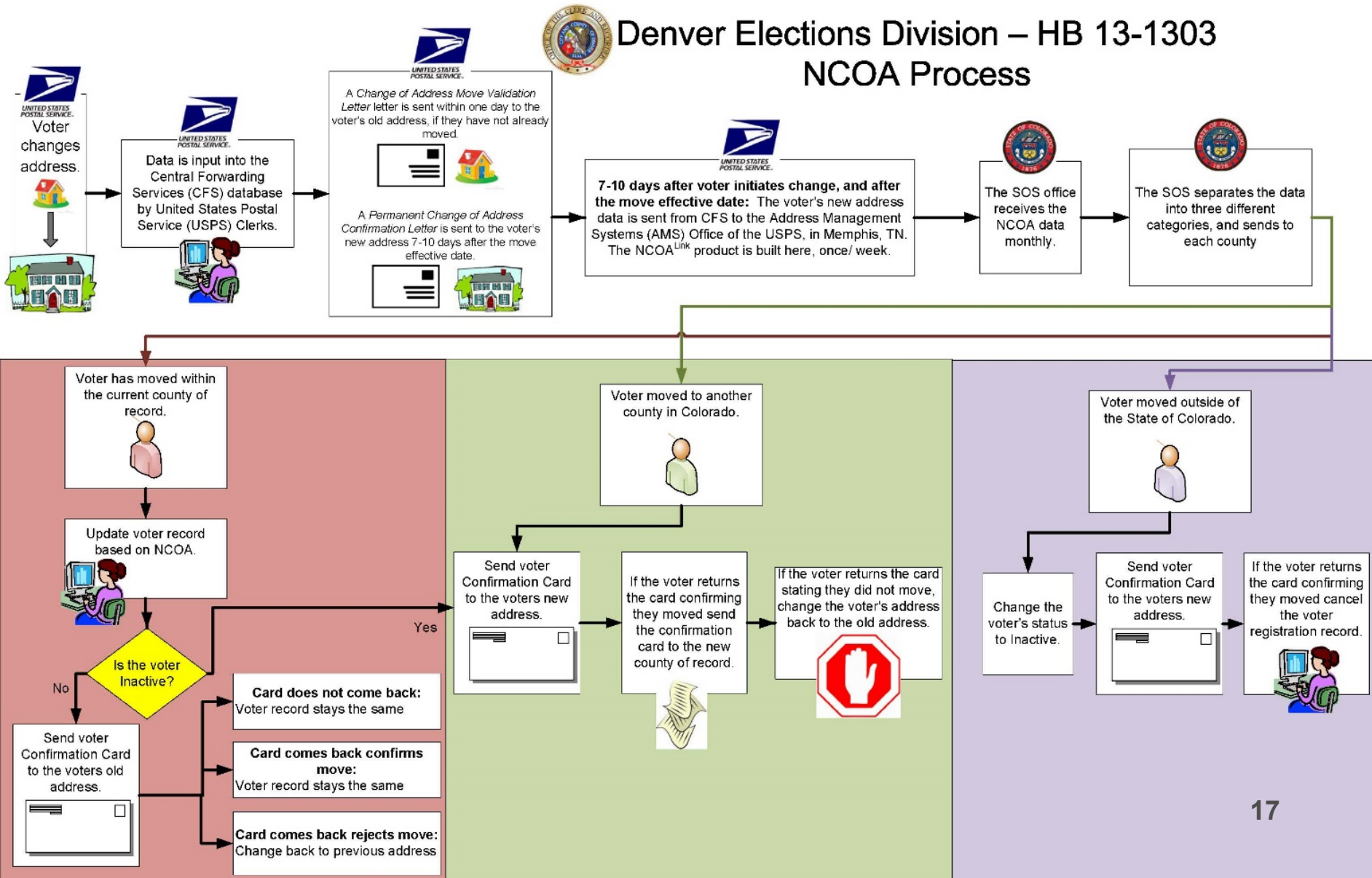
1. Identify voters who have moved so their records can be updated.
2. Identify people who appear to be eligible but are not currently registered and invite them to register using OLVR.

NCOA – a USPS dataset of approximately 160 million records consisting of the names and addresses of individuals, families and businesses who have filed a change-of-address with the USPS.

1. Colorado pulls the NCOA list from ERIC (now a vendor).
2. Counties update in-county records automatically.
3. Counties send mailing to others directing them to OLVR.

NCOA Process

Denver Elections Division – HB 13-1303 NCOA Process



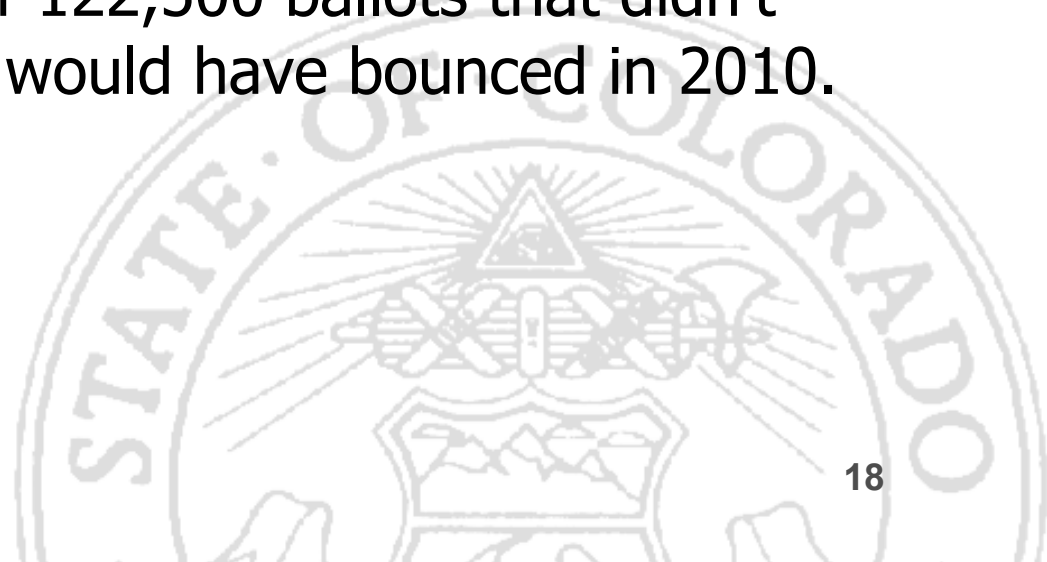
ERIC and NCOA Data

List Cleaning Success – 2010 v. 2014:

2010 election - 7% of the addresses in SCORE were bad addresses

2014 election - 3.5% of ballots mailed bounced for bad addresses

- That's a difference of 122,500 ballots that didn't bounce in 2014 that would have bounced in 2010.



ERIC and NCOA Data Cont.

Other ERIC/NCOA data:

- Since 2012, Colorado has cleaned over 5,000 names off the voter list who SSA listed as dead that were not listed on the CDPHE list.
- ERIC will add “vote history” later this year – making it the best way to identify voters who cast ballots in two states for the same election.
- In 2012, Colorado issued over 60,000 provisional ballots.
- In 2014, Colorado issued 981 provisional ballots.

Areas for Improvement

- VSPCs are open for significantly more time than necessary, causing counties huge expense
 - Only 0.8% of voters voted in person during first 2 weeks
 - Mail ballots were still available during 1st week
 - State's most populous county had 12 VSPCs open on first Saturday for 5 hours
 - In 60 hours of voting, only 5 citizens voted
 - One voter per 12 hours was incredibly inefficient
- Minimal number of VSPCs needed prior to Monday and Tuesday of Election Week

Areas for Improvement

- Need for 24/7 Drop Boxes
 - 2/3 of Voters prefer to return via drop box rather than mail.
 - Consolidation of Postal processing centers has lengthened mail timeframes
 - First legal mailing day is usually Columbus Day
 - USPS recommends mailing 5 business days before election, i.e., the Wednesday before
 - Example: Conejos County, 2014 Primary

Areas for Improvement

- Tighten Up Legal Standards
 - Early mailing of ballots allowed voters to cast mail ballot in Colorado and then vote in another state on Election Day
 - Prosecutor said no violation of Colorado law
 - 2016 legislation makes doing this illegal
 - Changed law in 2014 to clarify voter must actually live at claimed residence
 - 2013 law permitted mere intent to live there
 - Absence of photo ID permits multiple registrations and voting
 - Photo ID is free in Colorado to indigent & elderly
 - Potential 2016 ballot question

Areas for Improvement

■ Recall Election Concerns

- Recall provisions are in Colorado Constitution and are based on polling place election
- Replacement candidates have until not less than 15 days before day of election to turn in petitions
- SOS attempt to change struck down by court
 - 2013 Senate Recall candidates finalized at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday prior to election
 - Forced polling place election
- Legislation passed definitional change in 2014 that has not yet been tested
 - Asserts that day of election is first day ballots are mailed (so 37 days before Election Day)
- Real fix is amending Constitution, which is challenging

Questions?

