

## Mail In Election April 1, 2003 Colorado Springs, CO

The problems reported here are based on three reports by the City Clerk. Copies are available

1. **Election Verification Totals report** — Lists the official values for accepted, challenged, and denied ballot totals; the number of undeliverable and unreturned ballots; and the total scanned and processed ballots.
2. **Canvass Board Memorandum** — The official election results for each candidate and the tax issue on two pages signed by the election canvass board, former Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace and City Clerk Kathryn Young and dated April 8, 2003.
3. **Ballot Daily Totals** — A tabulation of ballots scanned, pulled, and counted for March 17 through April 2, 2003.

### Summary of Problems

- According to the Canvass Board Memorandum there were 142,194 ballots issued. However, the Election Verification Totals indicates there were 148,609 ballots issued (88,879 processed + 59,730 unreturned).
- According to the Election Verification Totals Report 82,463 ballots were scanned. Yet the Daily Totals show 97,620 ballots scanned, a difference of 15,157. Which number is correct?
- According to the County Clerk's office there were 222,691 registered voters in Colorado Springs at the time of the election but the Canvass Board memo indicates 141,614 active registered electors. Only "active" voters were mailed ballots. Therefore, 81,077 citizens, or more than one-third of the registered voters, were effectively disenfranchised, and this is permitted by current state law. A few "inactive" electors did manage to cast their ballots.
- According to the County Clerk's office 138,473 electors voted in the November 2002 election and were therefore counted as "active." The Canvass Board memo gives a value of 141,614 active voters. It is unknown why at least 3,141 additional ballots were mailed to apparently "inactive" voters, or who those individuals are. For all we know they could all be Democrats!
- The \$100,000 cost saving claimed for the mail in election was apparently based on not mailing some 81,000 ballots to registered voters. However, actual cost accounting for the election is not yet available. A false promise of cost saving was made in the November 2001 mail in election that did not materialize due to "unanticipated expenses."
- Ballot secrecy was compromised by opening ballot envelopes and examining ballots at the same table by two election judges. All election procedures were directed by the City Clerk.
- According to the Election Verification Totals Report *no* challenged ballot was counted. In a mail in election a voter has *no* recourse when their ballot is challenged and *no* way to know if their vote was counted. Problem is exacerbated because the judges knew who cast the ballot.
- At least 53,254 ballots simply disappeared, though the Election Verification Totals report states the number as 59,730. One is left guessing as to the fate of thousands of ballots.
- A pre-election press demonstration revealed a serious programming error by Diebold that didn't count the votes on the tax issue. No known tests or checks were made for other possible computer errors.
- Even the simplest election arithmetic contains inexplicable errors.