Registrar of Voters

Elections - What You Should Know

Washoe County Registrar of Voters Mission Statement:
The mission of the Washoe County Registrar of Voters Department is to ensure that each citizen of Washoe county who is eligible to register and vote is able to do so; that Washoe County's Elections are operated with the utmost integrity, transparency, and accountability; and that the department is known for excellence in customer service and the administration of elections.

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The key to fulfilling our mission is transparency in what we do. That our processes are known and understood by all so that we can instill confidence in our elections and how they are conducted in Washoe County.

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- **Who we are:**
  - 6 full time staff members, including the Registrar
- **What our office oversees:**
  - **Voter Registration**

    Currently have 258,000 registered voters
  - **Petition Verification**
  - **District and Precinct Boundaries**

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Election Administration

This is the most visible side of what we do and how we conduct elections is mostly mandated by Federal and State Law

The Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act of 1965, Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986 (UOCAVA), National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter), Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), Nevada Revised Statutes, Nevada Administrative Code, and the Nevada Constitution.

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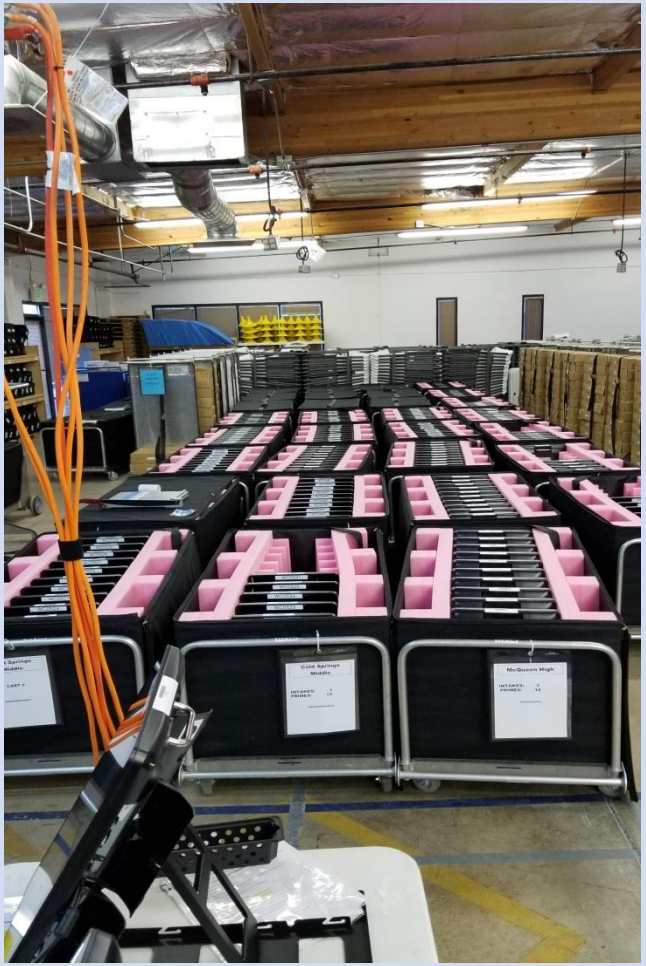
What does it take to run an election?

- Planning and coordination
- Managing timelines and meeting deadlines
- Equipment and supplies
- People



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Election Administration – Overview

- Begin Poll place coordination in November/December of year prior (both Early Voting and Election Day sites)
- Poll worker recruitment
- Candidate filing and Certified List of Candidates
- Ballot Set Up
- Sample Ballot Preparation and Mailing Services
- Election equipment moving services
- Absentee/Mail in Ballot services
- Mandated Publications

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Election Equipment

In 2017 Board of County Commissioners approved the purchase of new voting equipment for Washoe County at a cost of 4.2 M; State appropriated 1.7 M to Washoe County as a reimbursement to cover some of the cost.

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Important Facts on New Equipment

- Our new voting tablets are the next generation of voting equipment, purchased from a trusted vendor
- Like our old equipment, ICX Prime voting tablets are stand alone units, with no network or Wi-Fi connectivity and the tally system is on an isolated server
- Four points of redundancy – primary and back up results flash drives along with an internal memory backup and the VVPAT, or Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (NRS 293B.082, 293B.084)

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Important Facts Continued

– Our voting machines and our voter check-in kiosks (poll books) **NEVER** share data. The kiosks are only a means of checking a voter in and recording that a voter appeared to vote. And the voting machine does not record any voter information. **How you voted is confidential and not linked to your voter information in any way.**

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Election Equipment Requirements:

- Secretary of State cannot approve any mechanical voting system which does not meet or exceed Federal Standards (NRS 293B.104)
- We cannot use voting equipment unless it is approved by the Secretary of States Office or specifically authorized by law (NRS 293B.105)
- Our direct record device voting equipment is required to have the paper audit trail (VVPAT - voter verified paper audit trail) (NRS 293B.084)

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Other Requirements:

- Certification of Software and Operating Systems required not later than the first day of voting (NAC 293B.110)
- File election Computer Program at least one week before the Primary Election (NRS 293B.135(1))
- Appointment of Accuracy Certification Board Required and additional duties (NRS 293B.140 & NRS 293B.390)
  - **Current members for 2018 include Greg Neuweiler, Jean Stoess, Norm Schiff, and Steve Davidek**

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Pre-LAT Test (Logic and Accuracy Testing)– Required before Early Voting (NRS 293B.150 & 293B.165) and after the election and must be certified by the Accuracy Certification Board

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Election Tally Process Overview

- Per NRS 293.217 (3), no results can be released to the public until all polls have been closed in the state and we are notified by the Secretary of States office that we can begin to release unofficial results for the election
- Absentee Ballots prepared for tally – begins 4 days prior to an election (NRS 293.325). Confidentiality of the ballot must be maintained in this process and no results of any kind can disclosed until all polls have closed

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Early Voting Turnout and Results

These are the first reports released on election night

- At the end of early voting, all results drives and VVPATs are returned to our office and locked in a secure vault until election night.
- Similar to absentee/mail-in ballots, we do not load or tally these results until election night, period!

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Election Night Turnout and Results

- Throughout the night, as polling places report in, unofficial results will be released periodically after we receive authorization to do so.
  - Results drives must be delivered to us physically for tally-No results are transmitted electronically ever
- Once all early voting and election day results drives have been uploaded, and absentee/mail-in ballots are the last votes to be tallied. Once that is complete, a final unofficial results report will be released.

Final Election Notes

Results do not become Official results until after the Canvass of the Votes by the Board of County Commissioners

- Observers –per NRS293.274, observers from the public are allowed to observe the conduct of elections at the polling place, during Logic and Accuracy Testing, during absentee/mail-in ballot processing, and during election night receiving and tally

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Election Infrastructure and Cybersecurity

Organizations we belong to and resources available to us:

- **EI-ISAC (Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing & Analysis Center)**
- **MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center)**
  - As a member we have access to election-specific threat intelligence products, cybersecurity awareness and training products and webinars, security best practices, and cybersecurity alerts and advisories.
- **Election Center**
- **Election Administration Reports**
- **iGO (International Organization of Government Officials)**

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Election Security

Three Ways We Protect Our Elections Infrastructure

1. Physical
2. Procedural
3. Cyber

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Physical

- Decentralized System – voting tablets are stand alone with an isolated server
  - Server is contained in a locked server rack and is only accessible by authorized election staff
  - Election tally room is only accessible by badge access by authorized election staff
- No Wi-Fi or network connectivity on our voting equipment
- Barcoded and tamper evident seals, cable locks, lock boxes, machine logs, and other safeguards are used at all points of access to our equipment and this is enforced by our office

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Procedural

- Our office conforms to the Washoe County Security Policy
- Training on the security features of our new equipment has been conducted by all staff
- A Certification Board participates in and verifies pre and post-election audits
- Post-election audits are conducted using the VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail) to confirm votes cast
- Backups, redundancies, and emergency plans are in place for quick remediation of any failure or incidence.
- We perform system maintenance, monitoring, and reviews and watch for anomalies or suspicious activities or behaviors.

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Cyber

- Our voting system must meet or exceed federal election standards and must be certified by the state for use in Nevada.
- We verify the election tabulation and operating software and firmware for authenticity before each election.
- Election equipment uses security credentials and authentication of authorized users, and uses NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) approved encryption and decryption.
- Washoe County maintains a well trained and certified Cyber Security team, which uses modern technologies and procedures to help to protect Washoe County's infrastructure from common cyber threats.
- Monitoring, auditing, response, and remediation; both in house as well as with trusted security partners, are an important part of those initiatives.

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Elections and Security

We are aware and act vigilantly to ensure the security and integrity of our elections and our elections infrastructure.

Voter Registration and Elections Administration

Thank You

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Questions?