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Confined Voter Program

Denver, CO

Submitted by:

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Confined Voter Program Denver, CO

The Confined Voting Program ensures that all eligible voters confined to the Denver County Jail or the pre-trial facility have access to register to vote and participate in the elections process. No other jurisdiction has developed as thorough of a solution for eligible voters confined within jails. The Denver Elections Division coordinates with the Denver Department of Safety and City Attorney's Office to ensure accessibility for all eligible voters and has developed an innovative confined voting program. There are various barriers to voting while confined in the County Jail and pre-trial facility that support the implementation of the Confined Voting Program.

Upon assessment numerous barriers have been identified: limited access, chain of custody issues, potential voter intimidation, compliance with ADA requirements, as well as lack of access to various resources and information regarding the voting process. The Denver Elections Division has addressed each of these issues in our new Confined Voter Program. There are clear barriers to these individuals on voting information and registration. They have no access to internet, limited phone access, limited access to mailing, and they cannot physically visit a Voter Service and Polling Center. Having procedures in place for every step of ballot delivery means no longer relying on third party delivery. Ballot box security logs can track every movement of a ballot. Defined voting areas ensure a voter can privately mark their ballot and have assistance provided. Voter assistance can be more regulated with bi-lingual and bi-partisan staff and a tablet option for accessibility. Informing voters of eligibility will make registration processing more efficient and cost effective. Direct contact will enable a timely change of information to ensure eligibility. Informing voters of eligibility will make registration processing more efficient and cost effective.

Process for Confined Voting

REGISTERING A VOTER: A voter may need to have access to a Colorado Registration form. A Confined Voter should be informed of eligibility and the option of having a mailing address to the jail.

1. **Denver Elections Division** - The Jail Administrator will contact the Elections Division to set up a visit for bulk registration to the facility. The Elections Division will bring materials to register voters. The voter will be issued a form. Completed forms will be taken back to the Elections Division.
2. **Administrator** - The Administrator may have blank forms provided by the Denver Elections Division. The Administrator may distribute and collect the forms as needed. For new registrations, the Administrator may assist in supplying identification for an inmate if they do not have access to the information. The Administrator will return the completed forms to Denver Elections via mail, scanned in email, fax, or schedule the Elections Division for a pick-up.
3. **Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition** - Designated Volunteers may take training provided by the Elections Division to assist Confined Voters in registering to vote. A criminal background check and an Oath of Elections Judges will be applied to volunteers before assisting voters.

BALLOT DELIVERY: Ballots will be securely delivered to voters.

1. **Denver Elections Division** - Ballots will be mailed to the facility by USPS. The Elections Division will work with the Administrator to distribute the ballots they received. The Elections Division can register voters at this time as well. New voter's ballots and replacement ballots will be mailed up to 8 days before an election. Ballots will be delivered by the Elections Division to the jail within 7 days of any election.
2. **Mail Service to Administrator to Voter** - A voter may receive a ballot to the jail if they have selected the jail as their mailing address. The Administrator will hold these ballots until the Elections Division can distribute the ballots to the voters. After the Elections Division distributes the main batch of ballots, Administrators will then distribute ballots as they are mailed in to the facility.

VOTER MARKING BALLOT: A designated "Voting Area" should be established for a voter to privately mark their ballot and to have assistance provided.

The Administrator will designate an area for voters to mark their ballot without fear of any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates, or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both. (C.R.S. 1-7-115)

Assistance - The area described above can also be used to give voter assistance. The Elections Division may provide voter assistance when necessary during the time they are delivering ballots. A tablet with ADA compliant accessibility may be available for use. The Elections Division may also deputize individuals (bi-partisan volunteers) as Election Judges to provide voter assistance. The Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition are an example of the volunteers that will receive training, a criminal background check, and the Oath of Election Judges to assist voters.

VOTER RETURNING BALLOT

Voters will need to securely return ballots before 7:00 pm Election Day.

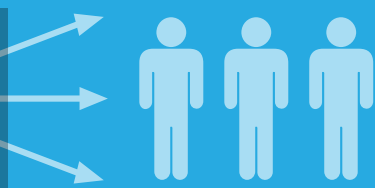
1. **Voter to Administrator to Mail Service** - When a voter has completed marking, signing, and sealing their mail ballot packet they can give it to the Administrator. The Administrator will then place the ballot in outgoing mail.
2. **Denver Elections Division** - The Administrator can schedule a pick-up by the Elections Division. The Elections Division will also collect any completed mail ballots when they are conducting Voter Registration, Ballot Distribution, and/or Providing Voter Assistance. A final pick-up will be scheduled on the day before Election Day.

The Denver Elections Division is excited to execute this powerful cross-agency partnership that encourages lawful civic engagement for those confined and unable to exercise their constitutional right to vote. The Confined Voting Program also empowers local non-profits such as the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition with the knowledge and resources to support the success of the program and its participants.

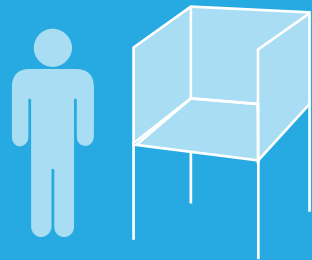
Confined Voting Process

Ballot Distribution and Voting

Bulk Distribution Event FACILITATED BY DENVER ELECTIONS DIVISION



Denver Elections Division will distribute ballots sent to the Facility



Ballot can be voted at a supplied voting booth or retained for later voting



A Tablet will be available for Accessible Voting



Bi-partisan Election Judges & Volunteers may provide assistance



DED will provide a ballot box for secure transfer back to the Office

Mail Service FACILITATED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Delivers Ballots as they Arrive after the first distribution by DED



A Voting Area will be Designated for a Secure Voting Process



Bi-partisan Volunteers may provide assistance to the voter if needed



Ballots may be Mailed back to DED



or

Administrator Schedules a Pick-up with DED

