

January 30, 2005-10-04

I enjoyed attending the TGDC meeting in Boulder on 29 Sep 05.

Comments:

I have volunteered as an election "watcher", election judge and an active member of bipartisan citizens that keep close watch on the conduct of elections. I have witnessed city and county clerk's attempts to cover poor management by citing vague federal, state or local statutes allowing them to conduct elections in accordance with law "they only think they understand". I have witnessed state level election personnel support these same officials without any clear explanation to the public that questions their actions.

The proposed guidelines that you are all working so hard to produce will not work for me. As I stated to a number of your staff - you are developing a document that will be as complex as the current tax code. I was assured that what actually comes down to the users and public will be a simplified version. However, if it ever becomes necessary to challenge an election at any level based on these guidelines it will NOT be the simplified version that a judge will use in court or that I might have to use in court. Where are you adding PUBLIC OVERSIGHT?

I just read the Carter/Baker election report. Easy to read. Easy to understand. Easy to implement. I also do not agree with everything they suggested. But you should at least look at it. Unless all of the commissioners, committee members, staffers and other support people remain on the job to actively keep current, explain the what, how, why, and who for every election, I believe that you will end up with a very costly outcome that does not serve the public.

Please remember it is our vote that you are talking about. It is only right that we, the public, understand what you are doing. I thank all of you for your hard work and look forward to following your progress.

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