

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LA PLATA COUNTY VOTE CENTER CONCEPT AND ITS APPLICABILITY TO LA PLATA COUNTY

The League of Women Voters of La Plata County supports the concept of vote centers*, which we believe has the potential of increasing citizen participation in the political process by making voting easier. Members support the implementation of vote centers in La Plata County if and when all the following conditions are met:

1. Cost effectiveness: the potential savings produced by consolidation over time must make the initial investment worthwhile
2. Design of overall system is voter friendly to all demographic groups (rural voters, urban voters, minorities, voters with disabilities, voters with limited mobility, rural residents who work out of state, etc.)
3. Enabling technical requirements are met:
 - a. Secure systems
 - b. Acceptable connectivity from all voting locations to the centralized database (High speed connectivity will be necessary for large vote centers, dedicated dial-up may be adequate for small precincts)
 - c. Single, state-wide voter database with fast, simultaneous access capability from multiple centers
4. Plans for training for election officials and adequate education for voters are in place
5. A monitoring system that measures the success of the vote center concept in La Plata County according to defined parameters, such as voter turnout, voter satisfaction and costs/savings, is in place
6. Continued availability of early and absentee voting

Members agree that the ability to print the appropriate ballot at the vote center for each individual voter would be ideal but not a requirement for implementation of vote centers.

Members believe a mix of vote centers and traditional polling places is acceptable if required to meet the needs of various demographic segments of the voting public, especially during the transition period.

Members agree that the implementation of the vote center concept in La Plata County cannot be considered a success unless

1. The process of voting takes the same or less time for all county residents than it does today, in 2006.
2. Overall voter turnout increases over time without a decrease in turnout for any specific demographic segment.

*The State of Colorado defines a vote center as 'a polling place at which any registered elector in the political subdivision holding the election may vote, regardless of the precinct in which the elector resides'

This position was adopted by the membership at the Annual Meeting, May 13, 2006.