

**Kay Weinland**

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Office of the Clerk & Recorder

**News Release**

**October 20, 2010**

**Today, Routt County Clerk and Recorder Kay Weinland explained to the county commissioners and members of the public an inadvertent error that corrupted the encryption ID on the eSlate Cryptographic Module (Security Key), which allows access to the election data base.**

**“My top priority is to be transparent with the voters and explain the steps my staff will be following to mitigate this issue,” Weinland said. “We will follow the same security and election procedures that voters are accustomed to and most voters will not be affected.”**

**At issue are mail ballots sent to voters prior to October 19. Because the county was forced to reprogram the machines that tabulate mail ballots after those ballots were released, the ballots will no longer be recognized by the tabulation equipment.**

**“This is a security measure in place to prevent voters from casting multiple ballots and this measure will continue to be preserved,” Weinland said.**

**Teams of bi-partisan election judges will work to replicate the ballots exactly as they were voted and an audit trail will be produced. (Details for replication are included in the attached Procedure Document.) Poll watchers may and will observe all aspects of the ballot replication. Routt County will begin replication of these ballots at the earliest time practical and will ensure that a sufficient number of election judge teams are available for expeditious processing of ballots received on Election Day.**

**Measures will be taken to protect the integrity and the anonymity of the voted ballots. All voted ballots will be replicated according to procedures prescribed in state law and follow all Secretary of State rules, including those relating to maintenance of voter anonymity, ballot security, documentation and election material retention.**

**“We are cooperating with Clerk Weinland and appreciate her openness in addressing this issue in a responsible manner,” Secretary of State Bernie Buescher said. “Routt County voters can rest assured that the replication process being deployed by her capable staff will preserve both the anonymity and the integrity of those ballots.”**

**Voters who have already received a mail-in ballot and have not returned it have the following options:**

1. **They can vote the original ballot they were mailed and it will be replicated when it is received by the election office. Voters are encouraged to return their original voted ballot as soon as possible.**
2. **Through October 29, they can surrender the original ballot they were mailed either at the Early Voting polling location or the county clerk’s office. They will then have the option of voting electronically or receiving a replacement ballot.**
3. **On November 1 and Election Day, they can surrender the original ballot they were mailed and receive a replacement ballot at the county clerk’s office only.**
4. **On Election Day, voters who received a mail-in ballot but did not return it have the option of voting a Provisional Ballot at their polling place.**

**Voters with any other questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Clerk and Recorder’s office at (970) 870-5416 or by visiting www.co.routt.co.us.**