



OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT
VOTE & RETURN PROMPTLY

Case Study

Voting for change: Colorado county and California city implement Ballot Now from Hart InterCivic

Kodak Scanners power the efficient use of paper ballots

For election officials in a large Colorado county and a moderate-to-large-size California city, the move made in the last decade from older systems, such as those using punch cards, to newer paper-based processes resulted in tremendous benefits but also some significant challenges.

Situation

Government entities in Colorado and California were struggling with voting systems that didn't adequately address the increasing need to produce and process paper ballots.

Objective

Implement an advanced system for the printing, scanning and validation of paper ballots.

Solution

A digital-scan paper ballot system called Ballot Now from Hart InterCivic that relies on various **Kodak** Scanner models for its input.

Results

The high volume capacity and image clarity of the **Kodak** Scanners has delivered outstanding efficiency and accuracy. The printing on demand capability of Ballot Now has greatly reduced waste.

Fast, flexible and secure

Both entities needed a system that had the flexibility to create a wide variety of ballot types quickly and efficiently. They also needed it to print ballots rapidly, perform fast and accurate tabulations, and comply with regulations regarding ballot security and verification. In short, they needed to find a balloting systems provider with cutting-edge technology and expertise in the officially mandated processes for handling results.

Here is where Hart InterCivic comes in. Based in Austin, TX and in business for more than a century, the company is a leading provider of election voting systems. Following extensive research and request for proposal (RFP) processes, both the Colorado and California officials selected Hart. Its Ballot Now product is a digital-scan paper ballot solution that controls all aspects of the process, from printing to scanning to resolution.

“The Hart solution has given us transparency, accuracy, reliability and accountability. The entire operation is transparent with checks and audits built into every part of the process, and we can see these at any time. And the **Kodak** Scanners have provided exactly the image quality we need. ”

Certified Election Administrator and Master Municipal Clerk, moderate-to-large size California city

Seeing clearly with Kodak Scanners

A paper ballot voting system is only as effective as the technology it uses to “see” the completed entries. Ballot Now relies on a variety of **Kodak** Scanners to accurately capture data from ballots. The Hart system then records the ballot images and safeguards them until the polls are closed and votes can be officially counted.

In Colorado: a smooth transition to a highly scalable system

Making the move to Ballot Now was easy, according to those coordinating the transition in the Colorado county. “When I go to election events and visit other municipalities and counties, people always ask about mail voting, and we’ve found that the Hart solution is very strong and efficient for that process,” said the county clerk. “With early voting and voting by mail constantly growing in popularity here, Ballot Now enabled a very smooth transition from our earlier system, and it offers exceptional advantages for this trend.”

The high volume **Kodak** Scanners in use around the county have delivered

outstanding efficiency and provide the ability to easily handle increasingly large paper voting volumes. This is critical, as 95% of votes cast by the county’s 225,000 voters in a recent election were in paper form. Since implementing Ballot Now, the county has also enjoyed cost savings in a number of areas: no additional hardware purchases have been required, a streamlined ballot printing process has been developed and the system’s on-demand printing capability has reduced waste.

Exceptional accuracy and simplified auditing

With their superior optics, **Kodak** Scanners ensure highly accurate and legible ballot scans, which simplifies the audit process when it is necessary. “The auditing aspects we benefit from are very valuable,” noted one system user. “The digital images of ballots are used for resolution of auditing and quality control. If a paper ballot is not completed as instructed, we can undertake an image-to-ballot comparison easily. And the ability to complete a really extensive audit gives us confidence and peace of mind.

Let me say this ... when we find an error, it’s related to a voter, not the system.”

In California: paper ... and paperless

While the majority of its 240,000 registered voters use paper ballots, the California city wanted to provide a more positive voting experience for its residents with disabilities who cannot easily complete a paper ballot. To accomplish this, election officials purchased four **eSlate** units from Hart. Two hundred voters with limited manual dexterity used these direct recording electronic (DRE) voting devices at the city hall voting location in a recent election with great success.

Speed, accuracy, transparency, compliance, accountability, cost savings ... the Ballot Now system driven by **Kodak** Scanners has delivered everything the two municipalities asked for. Not surprisingly, Hart voting systems are used in a growing number of locations, currently including more than 450 voting jurisdictions in 14 states. You might say they are receiving a resounding “Yea.”

Want to learn more?

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