

# A Solutions Story from Kodak Alaris

## Colorado County and California City Enhance and Streamline Voting Processes and Validation With Ballot Now From Hart InterCivic

**Kodak** Scanners, at Central and Remote Scanning Sites, Speed Process and Help Deliver Clear Results

### Customers

In a large Colorado county, the County Clerk and Recorder oversees selection voting. Over 225,000 voters currently reside in this county, and they vote at 100+ polling locations. In 2008, in one election, approximately 115,000 voted by mail; 27,000+ voted early, and about 29,000 cast their ballots at polling places.

In a moderate-to-large size California city, approximately 240,000 individuals are registered to vote. In a citywide election in 2010, about 70,000 voters cast ballots within nine voting districts.

Both localities rely heavily on early voting and the use of paper ballots within a system that is mandated to be highly reliable and verifiable.

### Challenge

Over the past decade, both jurisdictions have evolved from older systems—such as the punch cards used in Colorado—to newer solutions with paper balloting as the primary focus. In Colorado, for example, 95% of voters use paper ballots. Because of this, requirements increased for a solution that provided the flexibility to create a great array of customized ballots quickly and efficiently. Varied and streamlined ballot printing; accurate and fast tabulation; process security and verification; and achieving additional key voting process objectives are also critical.

In short, both entities require trustworthy and nimble efficiency that expedites their voting processes while keeping a close eye on budget parameters.

### Solution

After each locality conducted a review and research—and undertook their RFP process—both chose a Hart Voting Systems solution from Hart InterCivic of Austin, TX. Hart, a leading national provider of proven election voting systems and in business for over 100 years, helped each area implement a voting architecture featuring the Ballot Now system—a digital-scan paper ballot solution that manages the printing, scanning and resolution of paper ballots. The county in Colorado began using elements of the Hart system in 2004, while the California city bought their solution in 2006 with first use in 2007 elections.

Ballot Now allows municipalities to quickly print customized ballots as needed, and uses various **Kodak** Scanner models to capture voting data accurately from paper ballots. Hart Voting Systems are in place today in 14 states in over 450 voting jurisdictions.

It's a solution that meets the many legal requirements of the voting process. For example, ballot images are captured by **Kodak** Scanners, saved and safeguarded, but not tabulated until all the polls are closed during any election. Thus, results are protected and not known by any individual before counts begin.

In terms of printing, Ballot Now affords great versatility. In California, the Certified Election Administrator and Master Municipal Clerk of the city uses it to print 40 to 50 different ballot groups, each unique. Once generated, a supplier to the city mails these out to all individuals voting by mail. And all polling places receive paper ballots, printed in advance.

The California city also utilized four “eSlates” from Hart to better enable voting by the disabled community. These direct recording electronic (DRE) voting devices have been used at their city hall voting location in recent elections.



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## Results

### > Smooth transitioning from previous systems

"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 in Colorado. "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."

### > Scalable as needs grow

The high volume capacity of various **Kodak** Scanners in Boulder, used for centralized paper ballot capture, has delivered outstanding efficiency and given the County Clerk's department the ability to easily handle increasingly large paper voting volumes. 95% of votes in a recent election were cast on paper.

### > Ease of auditing, assured quality

"The auditing aspects we benefit from are very valuable," the Clerk noted. "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."

### > Electronic voting for those with manual dexterity limitations

eSlates in California have been found to be very easy to use and ideal for those with limited manual dexterity. About 200 voters used them in a recent municipal election.

### > Cost savings

Staying with, and expanding upon, paper-based balloting in the Colorado county has delivered significant positives: no additional hardware purchases required, less waste thanks to ballot printing on demand, and process streamlining through advance printing of mail and polling place paper ballot orders.

### > Accuracy and legibility

Using **Kodak** Scanners helps assure highly accurate and legible ballot scans, thanks to their superior optics. Cleaning requirements and dust accumulation are also mitigated, thanks to the short, straight paper path.

*"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

### To learn more:

Call 1.800.944.6171

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