

2024 Assembly/Convention Report

from the desk of Peg Cage,

**FORMER CO GOP TELLER
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**



February 27, 2024

Yesterday, I was removed as the CO GOP Teller Committee Chairman by Chairman Dave Williams for refusing to allow machines to interfere with the people's demand for a 100% hand counted paper ballots election for the State Assembly/Convention on April 6, 2024. It is with great sadness and trepidation that I must submit this report to the Colorado Republican Committee. It inherently includes details of the election integrity struggle that has come to a head in the past month between formerly trusted party leaders and the people of the party. Although I have been removed as Chairman of the Teller Committee, I hold firm in my stand that Republicans should conduct the Assembly election without any machines.

Bottom Line Up Front:

The State Assembly is being held for ELECTED Delegates to participate in ELECTIONS. The integrity of the ELECTION Process is paramount to the Assembly. By forcing the use of the Scantron election machines alongside the hand-count audit at the Assembly, Chairman Dave Williams and CRC Ballot and Election Security Committee Chairman Ron Hanks are betraying the trust of the people. This betrayal is even more grievous as both have run several campaigns on an election integrity platform to get rid of the machines.

The Republican National Committee, the 2022 COGOP Assembly Delegates, and our top Republican Candidate, President Donald J. Trump, and Republicans nationwide are all insisting upon eliminating election machines and returning to hand-counted paper ballot elections. No less than the future of Colorado's elections, and therefore our government, rests on the party's ability to prove that no election machines are needed or wanted in Colorado.

To this end, I suggested that Chairman Dave Williams should relinquish control of all aspects of the April 6, 2024, Assembly/Convention and appoint a capable and neutral person as the Chairman of the State Assembly Committee. This person would coordinate with all subcommittees as we prepare for an historical reclamation of honest election processes.

Williams should publicly renounce the use of machines, endorse the hand-count, and get a refund of the money wasted on the unwanted Scantron machines which violate CRC Policies and Procedures.

TO CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT, WE MUST FIRST CONTROL ELECTIONS.

Immediately after the SCC's September vote to have "Paper Ballots" at the 2024 Assembly, the Teller Committee dove into preparations for the election, with the challenge of counting 3,500+ ballots with the possibility of 200 or more National Delegate Candidates on each. We merged our Glass Box Process with Clerk Rhonda Braun's and the Maricopa GOP's systems of recording each ballot's vote marks onto tally sheets that create a manual Cast Vote Record. Maricopa counted 2,500 ballots with 80 candidates in one hour with less than 100 volunteers. Colorado has planned for a similar success.

The CRC Teller Committee has the experience, knowledge, and skill to conduct every aspect of the elections at the State Assembly.

It is important to note that up until January 13th, I and the Teller Committee thought the GOP was, at last, unified in the goal of regaining control of Colorado's elections. We planned to showcase a one-day, in person, hand-counted paper ballot election with only verifiably eligible electors. Producing trained volunteers from every Colorado County would give a jumpstart to President Trump's goal of machine-free elections.

Much of the current controversy could be chalked up to the lousy communication that has happened bidirectionally, but after my removal as teller chair, it is clear that our goals are incompatible.

We want honest elections and Chairman Williams wants the machines. Any machines.

- Since the beginning of his term, Chairman Williams has told Executive Committee members that he's okay with the use of election machines.
- Chairman Williams did in fact contact county clerks with Dominion machines to talk about contracting them to "administer the elections at the State Assembly." He discussed the details with the clerks, and agreed to the accuracy of the Dominion machines. The clerks were unable to agree to administer the assembly election only due to the timing of state and federal elections being held this year.
- Chairman Williams blamed non-existent conversations with me, along with negotiable details in the Teller Committee proposal concerning ballot distribution, as reasons for seeking the machines, although the proposal was created in response to his seeking machines.
- Chairman Williams asked if I was willing to have my photo and cellphone number on the Assembly's big screen during the count, along with instructions to call me, not him, with any complaints. I agreed to these terms as I am confident in the Teller Committee's plan and the abilities of our team of enthusiastic volunteers.
- Chairman Williams asked if I was willing to have my team **put down a \$20,000 deposit** so we'd "have skin in the game" and to cover facility fees if the counting was to go over the time he has contracted with the venue. Although I thought it was absurd to ask for this from experienced volunteers who have already invested hundreds of hours formulating a plan, I asked him for a contract to consider what he was proposing.
- Chairman Williams sent this message in an email with the non-disclosure agreement attached:
"Please sign and return this NDA for us to move forward. Additionally, no confidential or privileged conversations or information related to the State Assembly will be allowed to be disseminated without my expressed written consent."

I do not believe an NDA is appropriate as the business of the party should be held in public to assure integrity. I thoroughly believe that the volunteer Teller Committee will provide an accurate and efficient hand count of the Assembly elections if given the support of the CRC leadership. However, Chairman Williams has created an adversarial atmosphere by excluding the Teller Committee from important decisions and inserting overwhelming obstacles to our success.

The Teller Committee's Hand Counted Paper Ballots Election Proposal can be found at <https://mycoloradogop.org/429-glass-box-elections>.

THERE IS NO BENEFIT TO ADDING ANY TYPE OF ELECTION MACHINE. IT WILL NOT MAKE THE HAND-COUNT EASIER, FASTER, MORE TRANSPARENT, MORE SECURE, MORE ACCURATE, OR PREVENT DRAMA.

I disagree with Chairman Hanks of the COGOP Ballot and Election Security Committee and candidate for CD 3 in his statement made on February 16, 2024.

(<https://mailchi.mp/cologop.org/assembly-ballot-counting-procedure>.)

- Hanks' arguments numbers 1-5 do not address the conduct of elections at the State Assembly. Rather, they seem more concerned with the outcomes of his and Williams' Congressional District elections which appears to be a conflict of interest. (Of note: The Executive Committee did not have Dave sign the CO GOP Political Conflict of Interest agreement after being elected as Chairman.)
- Several of the reasons for using the machines imply that without the machines, President Trump will not visit Colorado. President Trump is our champion for eliminating the machines and using "Hand, hand, hand count systems." How could the use of machines possibly entice him?
- The claim that we must win elections to BEGIN fighting for honest elections is patently absurd. Chairman Williams has the power right now to give those who elected him in the party a 100% win by saying "NO MACHINES" and conducting a Hand Counted Paper Ballots election - ONLY.
- Allowing machines at the Assembly and claiming a 90% win for the grassroots is gaslighting for multiple reasons:
 - Attempting to count the Scantron ballots by hand is a set up for failure as the ballots are designed to be read by machines and not humans.
 - Adding any election machines would be a 100% ideological failure for the election integrity movement and an embarrassment to the party. Already we have seen news articles ridiculing the Chairman who once spoke out against the machines but is now considering the use of machines at the largest Republican event of his chairmanship, the State Assembly/Convention.
 - Asserting that using machines is the only way possible to provide a "drama free" Assembly and to provide the Trump Team with fast results is another absurdity, considering the machine count is not official and any delay on April 6th won't hamper the RNC Convention in July.
- The only "ad hoc" plan for the Assembly election is the plan to use Scantron machines which have their own laundry list of issues:
 - An investigative email to Scantron confirms their software is not open-sourced, as is required by the CRC Policies and Procedures for the Conduct of Elections at Meetings of the Colorado Republican Central Committee, Article 2 § 2.
 - Scantron ballots only have 50 bubbles on each side. With the potential of having over 100 candidates for National Delegate, there is a possibility of Delegates needing to manage and correctly mark three to five pages of unidentified bubbles. Those pages then have to be manually fed into the Scantron machines, one side at a time, in the proper order to be tabulated correctly.
 - The overwhelming experience of teachers who have suggested a 1 in 20 rate of confusion or mismarking the bubbles.
 - Filling out ballots with #2 pencils that can be smeared or erased could cause ballots to be spoiled and votes to be improperly counted.
 - Even at this late date (less than six weeks out), it is unclear if the Scantron ballots can be printed on due to the possibility of creating stray marks that might interfere. Therefore, candidate's

names and the titles of resolutions would need to be printed on a separate paper, making it difficult to select the correct bubble.

- Without the ability to print on the ballot, the Scantron ballots will not comply with CRC Bylaws, Art. XIII, § A(5)(c): “The ballot shall include the presidential candidate each candidate for national delegate is pledged to support.”
- The forced use of the Scantron ballots bars the Teller Committees’ ability to design a ballot that facilitates easy voting and fast and accurate hand counting.
- The list of Scantron issues and time wasted trying to educate the 3,500 Delegates on how to fill out the ballot could foreseeably outpace the time needed to hand count ballots.

COGOP has begun purchasing Scantron tabulators for continued use. This will ensure that whatever hand-counting limitations they claim this Teller Committee has will also be applied in the future.

It is the Teller Committee’s and my belief that using any machines in this election will go against the Republican Party’s values and principles and kill the momentum towards honest elections that we have spent the last three years promoting and working towards.

Furthermore, after searching the Bylaws and RNC RULE NO. 16(f) FILING SUMMARY, it appears that Chairman Williams is in noncompliance with Article 13 § 2(a) by failing to adopt and file complete “rules, procedures, policies, and instructive material governing the selection of delegates and alternate delegates to the national convention.” This failure leaves it open to interpretation if he is the sole authority in selecting the method of election to be used at the Assembly. It is my understanding that Chairman Williams filed changes with RNC on February 14th, I have not yet obtained those documents to know what was added or deleted at such a late date.

Due to Chairman William’s apparent conflict of interest and his noncompliance with Article 13 § 2(a), I believe it best serves the party’s interests to appoint a competent and neutral Chairman of the Assembly/Convention to successfully implement a secure, hand counted paper ballot election.

Sincerely,

Peg Cage

Former COGOP Teller Committee Chairman

APATHY IS WHERE FREEDOM GOES TO DIE.