

## The Twelve Principles of Good Election Practice

### The Democracy Technology Project

1. The voting process should be conveniently available to every eligible voter.
2. The voting process should elicit the feeling of democratic participation in a simple, trustworthy procedure.
3. The voting process should generate an unambiguously marked, tangible ballot that is the single record of the voter's choices.
4. The voter's privacy and the secrecy of the voter's choices should be protected.
5. A spoiled ballot should be canceled without compromising the privacy of the voter's choices.
6. A voter should be protected from intimidation during all parts of the voting process.
7. The voting technology should permit the voter to indicate rejection of all of the available choices.
8. The voting process should be sufficiently accurate that there is overwhelming confidence that any errors are so small that the election outcome is not in doubt.
9. The voting process should conform to a universal standard and should be capable of instant runoff voting and other alternative counting methods.
10. There should be a continuous, observable chain-of-custody of the ballots from the start of voting until all questions concerning the outcome of the election are resolved.
11. To the extent possible, without violating any of the other requirements, the voting process should be inexpensive to implement.
12. The voting technology should be owned by the people, without encumbrance, and all details should be available for public inspection, without constraint.

Submitted by Ivan Meek of the  
Democracy Technology Project  
255 Regal Street, Louisville, CO 80027