

From: [Candice Stutzriem](#)
To: [Statewide Initiatives](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Objections to Proposed Initiatives numbered #209, #210, #211, #212, #213, #214, #215, #216 and #223
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:58:16 PM

Addressed to the March 20, 2024 Title Board Hearing:

I am writing to convey my reaction to the attempts to Modernize Colorado Elections through the sweeping changes brought on by the proposed initiatives numbered #209 through ##223.

Quoting Article V, Section 1(5.5) of the Colorado Constitution, "if any subject shall be embraced in any measure which shall not be expressed in the title, such measure shall be void only as to so much thereof as shall not be so expressed. If a measure contains more than one subject, such that a ballot title cannot be fixed that clearly expresses a single subject, no title shall be set and the measure shall not be submitted to the people for adoption or rejection at the polls."

Not a single Proposed Initiative numbered #209, #210, #211, #212, #213, #214, #215, #216 and #223, qualifies for the ballot due to this restriction. Not a single proposal limits its content to a single concept. All nine propose to rewrite the totality of Title One of the Colorado Revised Statutes. It is impossible to do so initiative by initiative on the ballot. This is why such sweeping alteration to the time tested methods of conducting elections in this state should not be changed by such surreptitious and fraudulent individual ballot initiatives.

Quoting C.R.S. 1-40-106.5 (II)

"To prevent surreptitious measures and apprise the people of the subject of each measure by the title, that is, to prevent surprise and fraud from being practiced upon voters."

I submit this is the precise objective of the proponents' choosing to enact such sweeping, draconian change to election law through changes to the constitution. It is precisely the surprise and fraud of a bait and switch operation where the voter elects for "Modernization of Election Systems" and ends up: Eliminating the caucus and assembly system, doing away with trusted partisan primaries where likeminded people chose their best candidate, ending up with a "jungle primary" free from party distinction intended to clarify a candidates' ideology, and sweeping in the dreaded Ranked Choice Voting into the General Election, where a contrived "majority" elects candidates who paid their way onto the ballot. It's like choosing Prince Charming and waking up with Dracula. Only there is no annulment in the morning. These changes will be baked into the constitution.

Historical and contemporary experience with Open and Jungle Primaries, ending the caucus system and Ranked Choice Voting reveals a dismal track record. The history of Ranked Choice Voting is the single best argument against it. 85 percent of municipalities who have tried the method have later repealed the scheme altogether. I am therefore most

concerned that Colorado's dalliance with this system is being introduced as a Constitutional amendment rather than approaching these sweeping changes by legislative pathways. By bringing the issue to the People's House, the merits and detractions of these far-reaching changes might be discussed in the light of day. Instead, the constitutional changes are brought about through misleading titles, multiple subjects are blended into a single decision which are at best vaguely understood by the voter. Further, the most significant result is that it will take a constitutional amendment to repeal the monstrosity. We are going in to this knowing of its dismal track record without an exit strategy. We will be locked into this decision like quickset concrete.

I respectfully ask you to pump the brakes and acknowledge the reason these initiatives can't pass the muster of the Title Board is because they have no legitimacy appearing before you. The system is rejecting them because it is designed to prevent the kind of damage they will inflict.

Respectfully,
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