

MEMORANDUM

To: Scott Gessler, Secretary of State, Colorado

From: Dr. Jeanette Baust, Denver, CO

Re: Proposed Changes in Voting Rules and Policies for November Election

The following are my comments about proposed changes:

- 1) The timing so close to the November election makes the changes seem politically motivated, rather than a public service.
- 2) Removing people from rolls, without adequate time for some, like military personnel overseas, to re-register or even receive the notice that they are no longer registered, puts added burdens on people.
- 3) Removing people from “permanent mail-in vote rolls” poses many problems, not the least of which is undermining voter confidence in the process and unduly hurting those who are most vulnerable, are already disenfranchised, or find themselves in extenuating circumstances. This list includes, but is not limited to: those who are transient or have been foreclosed on, those who are less educated, those who do not have direct access to the internet, students who are often in-between out-of-state residency and summer trips home, seniors and those who do not engage politics enough to show interest in non-presidential elections.
- 4) Recent comments you made at the hearings suggest that it “seems there are many irregularities” in voting procedures. It is reasonable to admit that counties likely do many things which are not uniform. But, it seems to me that you must make your case that these differences are posing real problems, not things that seem to be problematic.
- 5) Voter fraud has not been reported as problematic, even if there have been some registration irregularities. These seem to be caught by the system of checks and balances.

And finally –

- 6) Perception matters. Getting voting right is as much a matter of hard realities on the ground and public perception. If your office wants to get this right, I suggest you:
 - A) Consider the large number of comments and testimony you have heard
 - B) Postpone any significant change till after the Presidential election and
 - C) Make a clear case for how the current system is actually broken or lacking – get bi-partisan buy in and proceed.

Respectfully submitted by

Jeanette Baust, educator / consultant
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