

Andrea Gyger

From: Betsy Romere [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 12:43 PM
To: SoS Rulemaking
Subject: Comments - election rules - 1/14/2016 hearing

01/08/16

E. K. Romere
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am sending these comments and expression of my concerns after carefully reading and considering the "Preliminary Draft of Proposed Rules" (Election Rules) I printed from the web site of the Office of the Colorado Secretary of State. The document date is 12/15/15 and the numerical designation is 8 CCR 1505-1. My primary concerns have to do with proposed changes noted under "Rule 6. Election Judges".

First, a little background is necessary. I have ALWAYS appreciated my right as a law abiding citizen of this country to vote and willingly accepted the responsibility to vote in all elections in which I was legally allowed to vote from the time I turned 21..... almost 52 years ago. Upon retiring from a 42 year professional nursing career in 2007, I took it upon myself to affiliate with a major political party as I now had the time to "get involved" and be active in the party..... not just a name on a list. I was a precinct chair for 4 years and enjoyed my associations with most of the people I met ON THE LOCAL LEVEL during this time. However, as I became more active in the party and learned more about "politics" and those who controlled the party on the state level, I realized NEITHER MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY REALLY REPRESENTED ME NOR WAS DESERVING OF MY "UNQUESTIONING LOYALTY". Game playing and backroom dealings totally made me lose respect for and unable to support ANY POLITICAL PARTY AS I BELIEVE THEY ARE ALL ALIKE IN THIS RESPECT! I have actively supported and worked for candidates I PERSONALLY VETTED AND THUS WAS COMFORTABLE CONTRIBUTING MY MONEY AND TIME TO GETTING THEM ELECTED. I have also become involved in the local election process (approximately 8 years now) on the county level and really love doing this. When I retired, I promised myself I would "give back", volunteer, and continue to "broaden my horizons" by informing myself and actively contributing to my community on different levels in my retirement years..... being an election judge for my county in various elections (municipal and private) is one of the ways I have kept that promise and DEARLY WANT TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DO THAT! With this history in mind, I AM VERY CONCERNED those of us who are, I believe, RESPONSIBLE, CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES, BUT WHO ARE SIMPLY UNABLE TO ALIGN OURSELVES WITH A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY ARE ABOUT TO BE DENIED THE CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL LEVELS OF THE VOTING PROCESS! SINCE WHEN IS BEING A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTICULAR PARTY A PERQUISITE TO PARTICIPATING IN ANY LEVEL OF THE VOTING PROCESS? CONVERSELY, WHERE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DOES IT GIVE THE GOVERNMENT THE RIGHT TO ABRIDGE ANY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO IS NOT A FELON, RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AT ALL LEVELS OF THE ELECTION PROCESS? I'm sure tax money from those of us who are not members of "a particular major political party" is spent in support of these elections along with those who have chosen to affiliate with a "major party" so why are SOME OF US UNFAIRLY AND ILLEGALLY, ABOUT TO BE DENIED OUR RIGHT AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE RESPONSIBLE, PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES? NO POLITICAL PARTY OR PARTIES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTROL ANY LEVEL OF THE VOTING PROCESS IN THIS COUNTRY!

I love this country and cannot believe I have lived long enough to see "WE THE PEOPLE" IN DANGER OF BEING RELEGATED TO AN ABRIDGED POSITION AT ANY LEVEL OF THE VOTING PROCESS. I BELIEVE OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WOULD BE HORRIFIED THAT ANY POLITICAL PARTY'S PREFERENCES ARE ABOUT TO CONTROL WHO MAY WORK AT THE VOTING CENTERS! I AM ASHAMED, DISHEARTENED, AND DISGUSTED THAT THESE CHANGES ARE EVEN BEING

CONSIDERED..... I have no objection to trying to balance participation of major political party members in the election process, but to exclude other citizens in good standing (not convicted felons) who are simply unaffiliated or not members of a certain "major" party is unfair, unconscionable, UNCONSTITUTIONAL, REPREHENSIBLE and clearly against the principles upon which this country was founded! Statistics, in this county show that the unaffiliated voters slightly outnumber the members of either "major political party" so to attempt to exclude 1/3 of the registered voters from participating on any level of the election process should be illegal and is certainly immoral! I actually believe the UNAFFILIATED MAJORITY OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS COUNTY SHOULD, AT THE VERY LEAST, ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS AS THE MEMBERS OF EITHER OF THE "MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES" in the eyes of the law!

Most Sincerely and Respectfully,
Elizabeth K. Romere