

Comments to Colorado Secretary of State, Wayne Williams, for the January 14, 2016 hearing for proposed rule changes.

From: Jean Alberico, Garfield County Clerk and Recorder.

Secretary Williams,

I have concerns and comments in the following areas:

Rule 6.1.2- My office currently works well with both local political party chairs and we currently try to use lists supplied to us after each caucus. But I need to maintain a core group of judges from election to election in both ballot prep and processing activities and at the VSPCs. Well-trained judges with previous experience in our processes make it much easier for my office to conduct elections.

Rule 6.8 For consistency and probably thoroughness, it is essential that the Secretary of State's Office provide training courses and documentation for signature verification.

Rule 7.2.8- I order carrier and return envelopes with a large group of counties on the Western Slope since this allows us to purchase colored envelopes at a reasonable price. I have a local printer and use Garfield County citizens to put the ballot packets together for mailing. I have already talked to my printer and there is no way that she can go back and put the individual voter's name on each return envelope. Once again it seems like the SOS rules are interfering with our efforts to conduct elections in a more cost effective manner by forcing counties to use a third party vendor for the entire ballot printing, insertion, and mailing process. My Board of County Commissioners like the fact that I try to keep much of my election spending local and use local judges for the ballot insertion.

Rule 7.2.9- Did you mean to say that the witness must print and sign their name on this line? The wording is vague and should be more specific.

Rule 8- I like many of the changes that have been made to this watcher section. Watcher Rule 8.13 gives a watcher the ability to escalate no more than 10 ballot envelopes per hour for additional investigation but Rule 8.15.1 states that a watcher may not personally interrupt or disrupt the processing, verifying, and counting or any ballots or any other stage of the election. Watchers are in election processing areas and VSPCS to observe the process and I do not believe the SOS has the authority to allow watchers to become part of the signature verification process.

Rule 11- I believe that the evaluation process for the pilot counties was inadequate. I do not think there was one member of the PERC committee who personally witnessed every step of the election process with each vendor's voting system. One major assumption of choosing a UVS was to provide the best product for the best value for the counties. My Board of County Commissioners are as surprised as I am that switching from our current vendor to Dominion will be much more expensive than upgrading with the Hart Verity system. Since there are no federal or state dollars available for implementing a new voting system, the entire financial burden falls on the county. My board witnessed how well the Verity

voting system worked in Garfield County and are not willing to pay thousands of dollars more for another similar system. Once again this is an unfunded mandate being handed down to the counties. I still encourage the Secretary to rethink your previous selection of a single vendor for Colorado and allow counties to make choices that best fit our needs.