

January 20, 2016

The Honorable Wayne Williams  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
1700 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80290

**Re: Elections rulemaking, proposed rule 7.2.6**

Dear Secretary Williams,

My name is Joe Wood, and I live in Denver. I am 27 years old, and I grew up in Colorado.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. My remarks are brief; I oppose rule 7.2.6 because I believe that it causes unnecessary confusion for voters without cause. I urge you to keep this complication out of our election process. Voter confusion keeps eligible voters from participating in our democracy, and should be avoided at all costs.

My mother and brother both live in Denver as well. For the spring 2015 municipal election, I turned in their ballots for them at the Ross Cherry Creek Library dropbox at 3rd and Milwaukee. My mother, Amy, asked me to turn in her ballot for her. It's clear to me that this rule would add unnecessary complication, confusion and hesitancy to what should be a straightforward interaction: a son dropping off his mom's ballot.

I should be able to help her without issue, and she should be able to hand her ballot to me to turn in without complication—especially as she ages. Let's say this rule had been in effect, and she had filled out her ballot before a trip, leaving the completed ballot on our kitchen table for me to pick up to turn in. What if she had forgotten to complete this extra component on the envelope--does that mean she would have lost the right to vote in that election? Will it be clear to voters what to do in that situation? Or, what if she wasn't sure which of her sons was to turn her ballot in while she was away? And in either situation, what if none of us—myself, my brother, or my mom—understood what was required of us and that confusion undermined our confidence in our rights' to vote that election?

This rule creates confusion that will keep eligible Colorado voters from participating in our democracy. It can have a chilling effect on the voters themselves, as well as on people like me who are willing to help voters get their ballots in.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joe Wood

