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Chief Deputy and Elections
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July 18, 2017

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

Re: Election Rules – 8 CCR 1505-1 – Proposed Rules Issued July 6, 2017

Dear Secretary Williams:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules.

Rule 2.5.4: We support this rule. The unaffiliated voter might not have adequate time to receive and return another ballot.

Rule 2.14.4: We recommend allowing counties to request by written authorization, possibly with the Mail Ballot Plan, a schedule of reports for Election Day so we can effectively manage our internal election process. We ask that prohibited reports be identified by report code and name at the earliest possible opportunity.

Rule 2.17: We are neutral on this proposed rule. However, to eliminate any confusion that might arise, we do recommend striking, "...IN THE NEXT PRIMARY ELECTION." The word "next" makes it sound like the ballot preference is for the following primary election and not the current primary election. The last sentence is sufficient enough in saying that the party ballot preference is only effective for a single primary election.

Rule 7.5.10: We recommend this proposed rule be left the way it is written in current rule 7.5.9. It is critical for us to keep batch association through tabulation for preparation for canvass, reconciliation for a recount, and allowing counties to pull envelopes post-election for cases submitted to the District Attorney.

Rule 7.5.11: We support the change to the portion of the proposed rule that doesn't require a county to scan the envelope if they physically deliver ballots to another county no later than the next business day.

Rule 7.5.13(C): We recommend less specificity in this rule. Allow counties to determine their best process. Consider redrafting to: THE COUNTY SHALL USE A PROCESS TO DETERMINE WHICH PARTY'S BALLOT WAS RETURNED AND MUST ENSURE THE VOTER'S BALLOT PREFERENCE IS RECORDED IN SCORE WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PROTECTING THE VOTER'S PRIVACY.

Rule 7.5.14(B): Existing SOS Rule 18.2.4, a ballot which has no marking for any candidate races or ballot measures must be tallied as a blank ballot. In addition, Rule 18.5 states that if the ballot is truly blank, the resolution board must record the ballot as a blank ballot in the voting system's resolution application. Proposed Rule 7.5.14(b) appears to be in conflict.

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Rule 7.9.9: We support this rule in the current proposed format and would not support increasing tracking wait time on more than just Election Day.

Rule 7.16: We support this rule and program. It opens more opportunities for commuter voters to cast their vote while maintaining the same number of VSPCs, which effectually doubles the number of locations available to voters.

Rule 8.1.5: We recommend making the training certificate expire after the current year. The last two sentences in this rule create a situation where two different watchers for the same election could be certified under two different training programs with possibly different laws and procedures.

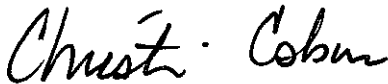
Rule 10.4: We recommend clarifying this rule to allow counties to convene, but not certify, their canvass board to review required information before RLA. Also, we recommend clarifying what “manually adjust” means and how it should be performed.

Rule 10.5: We recommend striking “...the day of...” because canvass will be held on multiple days as a result of the new RLA timelines.

Rule 20.17.3: We recommend striking “read-only, write once” and replace with encryption or hash value. We would like to use a flash drive and flash drives that are read-only, write once are rare or nonexistent.

Thank you for considering our feedback on the proposed rules.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christi Coburn".

Christi Coburn
Chief Deputy