Testimony to Vote Access and Modernization Commission
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I hope to suggest some Rules to the Secretary of State that could strengthen Colorado's election integrity, given that many changes have taken place in election procedures in the last few years, and safeguards for election integrity have not always caught up with these changes.

There is only time to mention a couple of such changes today.

Provision for Identifying Deliverer of Others' Ballots and Voters of the Delivered Ballots.

Colorado has abandoned parts of our law that once protected votes from the weak chain of custody characterizing mail/absentee ballots. Now that HB1303 requires all-mail elections, there will probably be more ballots that do not get voted by legitimate electors, which could increase the opportunities for misuse.

Compared with some other states, at present Colorado has a relatively lax law regarding how many voted mail ballots one person (who is not an agent of an election official) can deliver for counting in one election. I believe it was 2009 when the number of voted ballots which one person could deliver for others per election went from five to ten. And unlike in an even earlier year, there is no requirement that either the name of the deliverer or the voters who have given over their ballot for delivery be recorded.

This means that one person could deliver more than one batch of ten ballots per election without detection. I will propose that a Rule be instituted which would make it possible to better enforce this law, by requiring that the names of deliverer and those whose ballots are delivered be recorded. (I believe this requirement still exists in municipal law.)

Provision for Watchers

When counting of ballots took place in a polling place on the same day, watchers were able to observe this process more easily than today. Now, with more voting taking place remotely, and over a longer period of time, there is more work to prepare votes for counting (such as checking signatures and removing ballots from envelopes), and a longer counting period.

I will suggest a Rule which requires that election officials post easily-accessible schedules of when counting-related processes take place, so that these processes could more reliably benefit from the oversight which watchers provide.