

August 23, 2014.

To: Colorado Secretary of State Office

RE: Comments on Proposed Election Rulemaking

From: Wendy T. Warner, Chairman-Denver County Republican Party

The following are my brief comments on the proposed Election Rule changes:

1. I strongly support the addition of 7.2.5 and 7.2.6 regarding the collection and submission of ballots by third parties. I further urge that these provisions be effective for the fall 2014 General Election. I have personally observed ballot collectors in several precincts in House District 6 who had in their possession more than 10 ballots. These ballot collectors were going door to door to collect these ballots. In some cases, they remained in the house for a period of time, which could have been the time for a voter to complete a ballot, thus potentially compromising the secret ballot.

The right of voters to individually and confidentially complete their vote without observation or pressure from another person is essential for voting integrity. The provision that a voter sign an affidavit to authorize a specific person to deliver the ballot is a reminder to the voter to complete his/her own ballot and discourages those who might misrepresenting their position or harvesting ballots for which there is not a rightful owner at that address. It will also allow tracking to assure a person collects no more than 10 ballots.

These provisions are so needed that they should be implemented for the 2014 General Election.

2. I have some concern that provision 8.6.1 as worded will not allow a poll watcher to elevate a significant concern to the Supervisory Judge in time for the protest to be considered before a vote is cast and/or counted. We have had problems with the past with judges limiting poll watchers' abilities to carry out their duties and I fear judges could use this provision to effectively prevent challenges.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

-Wendy T. Warner

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