



MESA COUNTY ELECTIONS



Sheila Reiner, Clerk

May 15, 2015

The Honorable Wayne W. Williams
Colorado Secretary of State
Via email to: SOS.Rulemaking@sos.state.co.us

Dear Secretary Williams:

Mesa County would like to submit the following comments concerning the proposed rules of May 8, 2015:

Overwhelmingly, we appreciate many of the changes made in the draft proposal. They contain improvements that are needed, necessary, and/or useful. Although we support a majority of the changes, we would add more specific comments on a few rules that we believe should be amended or struck entirely.

Rule 6.4.2 – This rule seems to require all counties have their training approved by the Secretary of State. We believe this would be overly onerous on county staff as well as Secretary of State staff. Training materials are constantly changing to remain relevant and train our judges effectively and efficiently, we believe this would make it impossible to have it timely reviewed and approved before every election.

Suggestion: Strike “OR APPROVED BY” entirely. Or create state level training in order to supplement the training provided by the Clerk.

Rules 7.2.6 – There is no statutory obligation for a voter to indicate that they are allowing someone else to deliver their ballot, nor provide the name of the person doing so. It will prove more confusing for voters and is entirely unenforceable. In the worst case scenario, it would hinder a voter from having their ballot return if they are afraid to say someone else is returning it.

Suggestion: Strike rule 7.2.6 entirely.

Rule 7.5.1 – We suggest that wording be added to indicate that drop-off locations that are not 24 hours only need to be monitored when they are in operation.

Suggestion: “THE COUNTY CLERK MUST ADEQUATELY LIGHT ALL drop-off location WHEN IN OPERATION...”

Rule 7.7 – By using the process outlined in 1-7.5-107.3(2)(A), county clerks would be required to send ballots with no signatures to the District Attorney (DA). Not only would this add to the workload of the already over-burdened DA’s, there is nothing on these envelopes that could be pursued for legal purposes against the person who returned the ballot without a signature.

Suggestion: a) clarify that these ballots do not need to be sent to the D.A's office, OR b) make the appropriate change in rule without referring back to 1-7.5-107.3(2)(A)

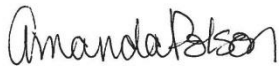
Rule 7.11.2(B) – This would require that Mesa County train judges on both WebSCORE and SCORE. One purpose and advantage of using WebSCORE was to transition away from the complicated ballot issuance training necessary for using SCORE. We should still have the ability to issue ballots in whatever back-up method works best for our process should WebSCORE connectivity be lost. We do not believe there is a statutory obligation for us to offer voter's a SCORE ballot should the VSPC poll book be down.

Suggestion: Strike rule 7.11.2(B) entirely.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office. I can be reached at 970-244-1749 or

Amanda.Polson@mesacounty.us.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Polson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Polson
Mesa County Elections Director