

Andrea Gyger

From: Christi Coburn <CCoburn@adcogov.org>
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2016 1:28 PM
To: SoS Rulemaking
Cc: Stan Martin
Subject: Adams County written comments on propose Elections Rules

Please see the following comments submitted on behalf of Adams County Clerk and Recorder Stan Martin.

Secretary Williams-

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Rules.

Adams County agrees with the comments submitted by the ESRC. In addition, I support the proposed repeal of Rule 1.1.13 (c). Removing this requirement gives counties discretion on how they handle confidential voter information. And while some counties choose to duplicate ballots with confidential information before scanning, Adams County finds it more efficient and cost-effective to redact any confidential information post-election using electronic technology.

Additionally, I oppose proposed Rule 8.15.8, which bans watchers from having a mobile phone or device in their possession. Adams County believes that transparency often starts with positive relationships with watchers. In the past, we have instructed watchers that they may not use their phone or device to make calls or to take pictures, which is consistent with existing rule. We have not seen any instance where a poll watcher violated this rule and therefore, I believe the proposal is unnecessary. Current prohibitions on taking pictures or making phone calls are sufficient to protect voter confidentiality.

Further, Adams County does not wish for the watcher's first impression of the election process to be negative and I believe confiscating cell phones and devices is counter-productive to this approach. I also have concerns that if watchers may not have phones or devices in their possession, the county then has responsibility for the security and safety of the device. Asking a watcher to take their phone or device to their car, assuming they drove one in, is heavy-handed and unreasonable.

Given that we have not encountered any problems with watchers violating existing Rule, I urge you not to add another layer of unnecessary and provoking bureaucracy.

If you have any questions about my comments, please contact me.

Regards,

Stan Martin
Adams County Clerk and Recorder