

From: [Terri Goon](#)
To: [SoS Rulemaking](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed New Election Rules
Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 9:12:31 PM

I am writing only because I cannot be at the in-person hearing on the new SOS rules. My name is Terri Goon and I've lived in CO for most of my life. (58 years old)

I have been a poll watcher multiple times throughout my career. Back in the 80s I was so surprised and disappointed to see how sloppy elections were run. Over the years though, further rules have occurred to tighten up what I think had just occurred because "things have always been done this way".

This past year it seems as though everything that had been done in order make certain that elections are fair is being subsumed by on-the-fly rules. For example, even though I know of no poll watcher who protested more than 5 signatures during a shift, during the last election we were only allowed to protest 5 signatures during a shift.

The **new potential** rules from the SOS include no challenges at all from watchers. What is a poll watcher's purpose if not to straighten out things that may slip through in the fast pace of an election? The following would be repealed.

8.13 During initial signature review by an election judge, the county clerk may allow a watcher to 6 escalate ballot envelope signatures for secondary review by a bipartisan team of election judges

This has always been allowed in Boulder County. The purpose of the watcher is to watch what's going on. I know personally how fast judges work and how fast the election goes by. Watchers are a help and not a hindrance to keeping our elections accurate.

And then there is this:

*A COUNTY CLERK MUST REVOKE THE CERTIFICATE OF A WATCHER WHO:
8.15.2 8.14.2 Write WRITES down any ballot numbers or any other personally identifying 16 information about the electors.*

Ballot numbers can be used again as a check on the ballots that need curing. It allows citizens to review to make certain these ballots were cured vs passed through by county staff. Again this is a step that helps keep elections transparent and trustworthy.

And finally this:

*A COUNTY CLERK MUST REVOKE THE CERTIFICATE OF A WATCHER WHO: 5
Interact COMMUNICATES with election judges ABOUT THAT JUDGE'S DUTIES
WHETHER 23 OR NOT THAT ELECTION JUDGE IS CURRENTLY ON DUTY,
UNLESS THE JUDGE IS THE other than a 24 designated watcher contact except as
permitted by the county clerk under Rule 8.13.*

Why would this be? Often poll watchers and judges are married or friends and they have things to share about the process. Issue committees and candidates work with groups of watchers and need to be able to communicate. The SOS office cannot mandate speech or no speech and this type of rule only looks like there is less vs more transparency in our election process.

Elections belong to citizens not to the secretary of state. He/She is there to facilitate the process, and make it trustworthy for those on all sides of the issues and candidates.

There are further problems with the new rules that make me question what is going on. Ideally the SOS would work to make elections more fair, more transparent, more readily audited and hence more trustworthy, but the following items all take away from those goals.

It's quite possible that I am thinking of the worst case, while the SOS is just trying to codify what is actually happening, but again, I would request as a citizen that elections become more transparent and more reviewable as our population grows and our potential for problems in elections grow as well.

Signatures can be rejected if the address for the signer is not an exact match to what is on the voter rolls. Most people can't even sign their name exactly the same from when they registered yet now we need to know Street from St from Ste? This can look like voter suppression.

And logs not being kept regarding acceptance or rejection of signatures? The purpose of a log is to help review potential problems or questions or concerns. Cancelling this is questionable at best. It is definitely not transparent.

The elimination of seals, chains of custody, the lack of secrecy envelopes in vote centers and having no serial numbers to keep track of votes at vote centers? And even determining when the advisory commission meets.

Elections are for citizens, we are here to help keep your job accurate and efficient. This is not a time in our history to leave us further questioning how elections are run.

Thank you for your attention.

Terri Goon

Longmont, CO

720-935-3000