



HOUSE RESOLUTION 19-1010

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Becker, Buckner, Buentello, Caraveo, Duran, Esgar, Froelich, Galindo, Garnett, Gray, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Roberts, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Sullivan, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Weissman.

CONCERNING THE APPROVAL BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA JOHNSON TO THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Section 5 (2)(a)(II) of article XXIX of the state constitution provides that one member of the Independent Ethics Commission created in section 5 (1) of that article, hereafter referred to as the "Commission", shall be appointed by the House of Representatives, and section 24-18.5-101 (2)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes, provides that said appointment shall be made by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with the approval of two-thirds of the members elected to the House; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to such authority, Speaker KC Becker appoints Debra Johnson, a Democrat, to the Independent Ethics Commission to succeed Commissioner April Jones upon the conclusion of her term; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson is the Denver Clerk and Recorder, serving her second consecutive four-year term in that elected position; and

WHEREAS, Prior to her election as the Denver Clerk and Recorder in 2011, Ms. Johnson was the appointed Aurora City Clerk for ten years; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with the Denver Clerk and Recorder's Office, Ms. Johnson was instrumental in instituting the mail ballot delivery method as authorized by legislation enacted by the General Assembly during the 2013 legislative session to ensure that all Coloradans have equal and easy access to the polls; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson, seeking to ensure that all voters have the opportunity to be well-informed, included "pro" and "con" sections on each local question in the municipal Blue Book distributed by the Denver Elections Division; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, Ms. Johnson's leadership and tireless efforts to update and revise Denver's campaign finance laws resulted in a more transparent election process with enhanced candidate accountability; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson, in an effort to maximize citizen participation in elections, fought to send ballots to inactive, failed-to-vote voters, which position was ultimately upheld by the Denver District Court; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson has publicly acknowledged her passion for public service, fair elections, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Following nearly 20 years of honorable service as a public servant overseeing municipal elections, Ms. Johnson has announced her intent to retire from the Denver Clerk and Recorder's Office this spring; and

WHEREAS, On the basis of her extraordinary service as a public servant, her innovation and resolution of issues for the benefit of citizens, her passion for fairness, her impressive experience and knowledge, and her demonstrated integrity, Debra Johnson has demonstrated the qualifications that will allow her to serve as a respected member of the Independent Ethics Commission in an exemplary manner and to provide leadership on matters of ethics in a way that will reflect well upon the House of Representatives, the Colorado General Assembly, and the State of Colorado; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That the House of Representatives hereby approves Speaker KC Becker's appointment of Debra Johnson to the Independent Ethics Commission for a four-year term commencing July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2023.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this House Resolution be sent to the Chair of the Independent Ethics Commission, April Jones.

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

KC Becker
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES