

Support HB20-1289: Align Precinct Caucus Eligibility Deadlines

Representative Kennedy • Senators Foote & Holbert • Updated 2.11.2020

Last year, House Bill 19-1278 made numerous changes to our election laws including allowing more people to participate in the precinct caucuses.

House Bill 20-1289 includes one clarification to last year's bill and one change that was overlooked. If passed into law before the 2020 caucuses on March 7, this bill will help both major parties' caucuses run more smoothly this year.

Section 1: Clarifying eligibility for 17 year olds

HB20-1278 allowed pre-registered 17 year olds to participate in caucuses if they will be 18 by the date of the next general election. However, the same section of statute indicates that a person must be affiliated with the party for at least 22 days. This bill clarifies that 17 year olds who pre-register within 22 days of caucus may still participate in caucus and be elected delegates to assemblies and conventions.

Section 2: Aligning eligibility for precinct committee persons

HB20-1278 changed residency deadlines from thirty days to 22 days and affiliation deadlines from two months to 22 days for persons to be eligible to be elected delegates to assemblies and conventions. This bill makes conforming changes to residency and affiliation deadlines for persons to be eligible to be elected as a precinct committee person.

The bill language has been vetted and approved by legal counsel for both the Colorado Democratic Party and the Colorado Republican Party.