

**Jim Smith**

---

**From:** headquarters@jeffcorepublicans.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 1:28 AM  
**To:** Jim Smith  
**Subject:** Re: HB23-1180 would help Jeffco GOP regain a seat on the Board of County Commissioners

Hello:

Thank you for sending this over to us. I have been watching this and other bills.

I too feel it would be good for Jeffco. The question of only having 3 commissioners for our county has been around for years. This bill would force them to 5. I have a couple of meetings on Thursday, so I am not sure if I can physically be downtown, but I will watch remotely.

In doing research, it would only affect 4 counties, as most of the larger counties already have 5 commissioners.

It is in the "kill" committee, so it may not make it out, but it is worth a shot. Though Democrats sponsored this bill, I don't see them supporting this. Especially when Priola's name is on it.

Thank you for stepping up and testifying on Thursday.

My Best,

Nancy Pallozzi

JCR Chair

720-353-3171 cell

On 2023-02-28 21:52, Jim Smith wrote:

Dear Jeffco GOP leadership:

Are you familiar with HB23-1180?

It would mandate that Jeffco expand the BCC to five seats and that at least three of them would have to be elected by district instead of countywide.

If Jeffco has five districts and commissioners are elected by district, you could count on at least one of those districts electing a Republican. With Jeffco being more blue than red nowadays, the current system of three commissioners all elected countywide is likely to favor the Democratic Party. Currently, all three county commissioners are Democrats.

I favor this change personally and will be testifying in favor of HB23-1180 this Thursday, 3/2, at 10 a.m. (or thereabouts) before the State, Civics, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee in LSB A (big white building across the street to the South of the Capitol). Note: The committee only meets after the House adjourns for the day, which is expected to be in the morning. To make sure I don't miss it, I'm going at 10 a.m. and taking work with me...

Here's a link to a description of the bill: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb23-1180> and Here's a link for signing up to testify this Thursday in person, remotely, in writing, or simply to listen in on the hearing:

<https://www2.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2023A/commsumm.nsf/signIn.xsp>

I hope to see a representative of Jeffco GOP at this hearing. Thank you!



**Jim Smith, Broker/Owner**

**Golden Real Estate, Inc.**

1214 Washington Avenue, Golden CO 80401

Direct: **303-525-1851**

## **Public Comment on HB23-1180, Mar. 2, 2023**

My name is Jim Smith. I am the broker/owner of Golden Real Estate, and you may know me from my weekly real estate column in the Denver Post.

I was part of a group in 2013 called “Jeffco5” which attempted to put on the ballot an initiative expanding the Board of County Commissioners to 5 commissioners, each elected by district.

The expansion of any public board from 3 to 5 members is made compelling by the Open Meetings Law of 1972 which says that no two members of a 3-member board (because they constitute a quorum) may talk, text or email each other about county business without announcing that conversation in advance and opening it to the public. I don't recall any such meetings being called, and it's hard to believe that a 3-member board can function effectively when it's illegal for them to discuss county business with each other between board meetings.

Being elected by district makes eminent sense and should appeal to board members, because they wouldn't have to campaign countywide to win a seat representing one-third or one-fifth of the county. County residents also suffer because, with all commissioners elected countywide, they don't have the full attention of any one commissioner.

Indeed, I don't even know which of the Jeffco commissioners is "my" commissioner, and that's probably true of 99% of Jeffco residents.

The only argument one can make against HB23-1180 is that it is an unfunded mandate, and that adding two commissioners would cost over half a million dollars per year according to Jeffco's own analysis. But Jeffco has 580,000 residents. That's only \$1 per resident to improve county-level representation.

On Tuesday, I videotaped an interview with the chair of the Jeffco Board of Commissioners, Andy Kerr, who couldn't be here in person but wanted to state his support for expanding his board to 5 commissioners and having them elected by district. You have received a link to that 5-minute video.

I'm submitting with this testimony a print-out of my email exchange this week with Nancy Pallozzi, chair of the Jeffco Republican Party, in which she says, "I too feel it would be good for Jeffco" and thanked me for testifying today.

If you feel the need to amend HB23-1180, my only suggestion would be to limit it to counties over 250,000 population instead of counties over 70,000. Thank you for your time and consideration.