



HB23-1149

Modify Conduct of Elections in Small Counties

ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: State, Civic, Military, & Veteran Affairs

THE ISSUE:

Currently in most rural/ frontier counties in Colorado, Clerk and Recorder offices have a large pressure to find three election judges for multiple voting centers throughout their county. In Colorado, roughly 47 out of 64 counties are considered rural/ frontier counties meaning these parts of Colorado have 37,500 or less electorates, of those 47 counties, 27 have less than 10 thousand electorates.

IF PASSED:

HB23-1149 will allow counties with 37,500 or less electorates to combine voting centers in close proximity with one another or which have little to no use on election day. The Secretary of State's office will review the county's local voting center data and review on a case by case basis. Additionally, this bill will also allow a Clerk and Recorder staff member to fill in one of the three election judge positions.

With in-person voting being down and threats against election judges on the rise. Voting season can be a heavy lift for many rural/ frontier Clerk and Recorder offices. From finding three election judges per voting center to purchasing and providing equipment, ballots and supplies for multiple low traffic voting booths around the county, a YES on HB23-1149 will help our rural/ frontier Colorado counties spend money efficiently and help mitigate the lack of election judges.

47 Counties under 37,500: Summit County, Alamosa County, Lincoln County, Ouray County, Delta County, Washington County, Custer County, Phillips County, Baca County, Costilla County, Sedgwick County, Dolores County, Cheyenne County, Kiowa County, Jackson County, Hinsdale County, Mineral County, San Juan County, Grand County, Las Animas County, Archuleta County, Moffat County, Prowers County, Rio Grande County, Yuma County, Clear Creek County, San Miguel County, Conejos County, Lake County, Kit Carson County, Huerfano County, Rio Blanco County, Saguache County, Crowley County, Bent County, Gilpin County, Morgan County, Montezuma County, Elbert County, Routt County, Gunnison County, Teller County, Logan County, Chaffee County, Otero County, Pitkin County and Park County.

Sponsors: Rep. Holtorf & Sen. B. Pelton

"Colorado Counties by Population." *Colorado Outline*, 2021, https://www.colorado-demographics.com/counties_by_population.

Courtesy of Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, and Courtesy of Lisa O. Monaco. "Justice Department Launches Task Force to Combat Threats against Election Workers." *The United States Department of Justice*, 17 Sept. 2021,

Scherer, Zachary. "Majority of Voters Used Nontraditional Methods to Cast Ballots in 2020." *Census.gov*, 8 Nov. 2022,