



925 S Niagara St Suite 600

Denver, Co 80224

***Representing >29,000 Coloradans***

RE: SB21-007 - OPPOSE

Members of the Senate State, Veterans, Civic & Military Affairs Committee

Senators,

The Colorado Alliance for Retired Americans views this bill as an attempt at voter suppression for the following reasons:

1. Currently all registered voters receive a mail-in ballot changing this would be confusing and expensive to complete.
2. Requiring voters to cast their ballot in person would be impossible for members of the military stationed out of Colorado.
3. Ballots can currently be placed in any SOS approved drop-box throughout the state and then referred to the proper county clerk. They can also be mailed via USPS.
4. The 7day limitation on ballot returns would reduce voter turn-out as would reducing the current limiting ballot returns to Monday-Friday instead of Monday-Sunday. It would lead to long lines at the polling locations.
5. There is no way that the county clerks can count all ballots on election day. This would place an additional unnecessary expense on counties and the USPS.
6. Preliminary results after 7p are important to the voters and the media and allows for time to cure ballots before certified results are filed.

Sincerely,

CARA Lobby Committee, Mona Moffatt, Sara Gagliardi, Sheila Leider, Ed Augden



Aide Senator Gonzales &lt;aidesenatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com&gt;

**Fwd: SB21-007**

1 message

**Julie Gonzales** <senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com>  
To: Curt Baker <aidesenatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 2:35 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Amy Paschal** <amypaschal@me.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 9:22 AM

Subject: SB21-007

To: &lt;pau.lundeen.senate@state.co.us&gt;

Cc: &lt;julie.gonzales.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;james.coleman.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;sonja.jaquez.lewis.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Senator Lundeen and the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,  
I am writing concerning SB21-007 which I consider to be a very bad bill.

The Colorado mail-in voting system is one of the best in the nation. You are proposing a bill to solve a non-problem, I assume as a response to the 2020 Election Stop the Steal movement. That movement was based entirely on misinformation. You are only adding to the misinformation and propaganda by asserting this bill would be a fix to our system and would "Improve Public Confidence".  
Further this bill makes it harder to vote and increases expenses to tax payers.

Here are the details of the proposal that are concerning to me:

**1. You are rolling CO back from a mail-in ballot state to an absentee ballot state and at the same time reducing the in-person voting period.**

From the bill "EACH COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER SHALL INSTITUTE PROCEDURES BY WHICH A REGISTERED ELECTOR MAY CHOOSE TO VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT BY AFFIRMATIVELY REQUESTING THAT THE ELECTOR WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AND CAST A BALLOT BY MAIL FOR ALL FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS." and

"VOTING IN PERSON IS LIMITED TO A SEVEN-DAY PERIOD COMMENCING SIX DAYS BEFORE AND CULMINATING THE DAY OF THE 16 ELECTION."

These changes will result in making it harder to vote and creating confusion among voters. **The net result will be that fewer people will vote.** I'm guessing this is your goal. I personally support making voting possible and reasonably convenient for every person with the legal right to vote. As a constituent, your attempts to suppress the vote do not represent my concerns.

**2. You are suppressing the votes of overseas military.**

From the bill: "A MAIL BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE 1OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER NO LATER THAN 7 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY." Currently, the only ballots counted that arrive to the county clerk after election day are overseas military and ex-patriots.

**3. You are increasing costs to the tax payers.**

This bill has a stated fiscal cost of \$1,764,341. How is that being fiscally conservative in a down economy? Further, I believe that is an underestimate. This bill would create much greater demand for in-person voting in a shorter period of time. This change will require hiring and training much more temporary staff and buying more equipment for the clerk & recorder's offices.

This bill would also create confusion among voters. We still have some voters who come and vote on election day because they don't realize there is an early voting period. We still have voters who don't understand how the changes to unaffiliated voters in primaries impact them. Voters are slow to adapt to change.

The state and counties will need to undergo a massive and expensive voter information campaign to counter those effects. That is, assuming the goal is for people to vote. It is for me.

**4. You are creating an undue and unnecessary burden on the Secretary of State's office and the offices of County Clerk & Recorders.**

This bill requires all ballot counting to be complete on the last day of the election. "ALL BALLOTS MUST BE COUNTED NOT LATER THAN THE DAY OF THE ELECTION."

This places an unreasonable and undue burden on county clerk's offices. They will need to increase their county equipment and personnel, again costing the tax payers more money. Further, this leaves no margin of error should there be any equipment delays when counting or should there be a significantly greater turnout than anticipated on election day.

And again, this requirement disenfranchises over seas military.

In short, this bill reduces voting accessibility and creates unnecessary expense for the taxpayers and an unnecessary burden on the Clerk & Recorder's offices. It's a bad bill.

Further, I believe this bill was created for the sole reason of pandering to election integrity misinformation. I find that behavior disgusting and below what I expect from a Senator.

Amy Paschal  
Constituent, voter and tax-payer  
Monument, CO

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\*Julie Gonzales\*  
Senator, District 34  
(she/her/hers <<https://www.mypronouns.org/she-her>>)  
[senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com](mailto:senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com)  
[image: unnamed.png]



Aide Senator Gonzales &lt;aidesenatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com&gt;

**Fwd: NO to SB21-007**

1 message

**Julie Gonzales** <senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com>  
To: Curt Baker <aidesenatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 2:36 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Randi McCallian, MPH** <randaljackelyn@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 4:53 PM

Subject: NO to SB21-007

To: [julie.gonzales.senate@state.co.us](mailto:julie.gonzales.senate@state.co.us) <[julie.gonzales.senate@state.co.us](mailto:julie.gonzales.senate@state.co.us)>, [james.coleman.senate@state.co.us](mailto:james.coleman.senate@state.co.us) <[james.coleman.senate@state.co.us](mailto:james.coleman.senate@state.co.us)>, [sonya.jaquez.lewis.senate@state.co.us](mailto:sonya.jaquez.lewis.senate@state.co.us) <[sonya.jaquez.lewis.senate@state.co.us](mailto:sonya.jaquez.lewis.senate@state.co.us)>, [cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us](mailto:cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us) <[cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us](mailto:cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us)>, [senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com](mailto:senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com) <[senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com](mailto:senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com)>

Dear State, Veterans, &amp; Military Affairs Committee Members,

I do not want to see such an expensive bill even pass out of committee. How ridiculous to take us backward from the safety, security, cost-effectiveness, and ease of our mail-in/drop-off ballot system.

I vehemently oppose this effort to drain tax money into more in-person election sites and staff, when mail-in works excellent.

VOTE NO!

~Randi McCallian, MPH

Colorado Springs Resident

--

\*Julie Gonzales\*

Senator, District 34

(she/her/hers <<https://www.mypronouns.org/she-her/>>)[senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com](mailto:senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com)

[image: unnamed.png]



Aide Senator Gonzales &lt;aidesenatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com&gt;

**Fwd: NO SB 21-007**

1 message

**Julie Gonzales** <senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com>  
To: Curt Baker <aidesenatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 2:38 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pam Lively** <pamelaklively@comcast.net>

Date: Thu, Feb 18, 2021 at 3:08 PM

Subject: NO SB 21-007

To: &lt;julie.gonzales.senate@state.co.us&gt;

Cc: Paul Lundeen &lt;senatorlundeen@gmail.com&gt;, &lt;james.coleman.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;sonya.jaquez.lewis.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com&gt;

**Dear Senator Gonzales –**

**I want to share my letter to Senator Lundeen with the Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs. Thank you for allowing me to speak out to the entire committee since I am an unrepresented constituent of Senator Lundeen's, as are a vast majority of Senate District 9 voters, at least on this issue. From his aide's reply, it sounds like he's inviting the interference of ALEC in our State's affairs instead of listening to constituents, referencing the *NYT* rather than actual voters who have the utmost confidence in the election security of Colorado, & pointing fingers despite our extraordinary strides toward ending voter suppression in Colorado as evidenced by our 2020 turnout.**

**Thank you again,****Pamela Lively****Monument, CO**

Dear Senator [Lundeen] -

There's an old saying, "If it's not broke, don't fix it!" Coloradans do not lack confidence in election security, not now, not under Secretary of State Griswold's GOP predecessor either. In fact, after the 2016 election Wayne Williams reported only 48 potential cases of illegal ballots: .00001726. Yes, statistically insignificant.

But why would you ever consider disenfranchising or endangering Colorado's elderly population? Why would you ever consider moving backwards? Why would you ever consider wasting our time on such an insignificant issue when we have a pandemic & it's economic fallout to deal with.

My guess is that you either believe the Big Lie, you want campaign \$\$\$ from Don the Con's cronies, or you're in cahoots with ALEC. Regardless, you are not supported by your State Senate District 9 constituents.

Denver, February 16, 2021 – Below is a statement from Secretary of State Jena Griswold regarding SB 21-007, the "Improve Public Confidence in Election Validity" Bill, which was introduced today in the Colorado State Senate.

“Senate Bill 21-007 would disenfranchise Coloradans by reducing voter access to mail ballots and making it harder to vote. 94% of Coloradans returned a mail ballot in last November’s record-setting General Election. Colorado’s election model is renowned as the nation’s gold standard due to both our election access and election security. This bill is a partisan effort to suppress the voices of Coloradans, and should be resoundingly rejected.”

Our extraordinarily secure mail-in ballot system is renowned, even revered; whereas you are hereby reprimanded & censured for failing to represent your constituents, the vast majority of whom vote securely & confidently by mail & have for years.

Sincerely yours,  
Pamela K. Lively, Disgusted Constituent

--

\*Julie Gonzales\*  
Senator, District 34  
(she/her/hers <<https://www.mypronouns.org/she-her>>)  
[senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com](mailto:senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com)  
[image: unnamed.png]



Aide Senator Gonzales &lt;aidesenatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: SB21-007, Improve Public Confidence Election Validity**

1 message

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**Julie Gonzales** <senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com>  
To: Curt Baker <aidesenatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 2:36 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Timothy Courington** <tcourington@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 1:11 PM

Subject: SB21-007, Improve Public Confidence Election Validity

To: &lt;julie.gonzales.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;james.coleman.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;sonya.jaquez.lewis.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us&gt;, &lt;senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Senator:

I urge you to reject the subject bill as totally unnecessary. The bill attempts to distract & confuse Colorado voters, who today benefit from perhaps the best voting system in our Nation.

As an interested & engaged voter, I ask you to stop this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Timothy Courington

[2541 Dublin Dr, Castle Rock, CO 80104](mailto:tcourington@gmail.com)

--

\*Julie Gonzales\*

Senator, District 34

(she/her/hers <<https://www.mypronouns.org/she-her/>>)[senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com](mailto:senatorjuliegonzales@gmail.com)

[image: unnamed.png]

Testimony on SB21-007 "Improve Public Confidence in Election Validity"  
Senate State Affairs Committee  
2/23/21

NOTE: I was not able to join the remote testimony, as apparently my computer's operating system is slightly too old. So I am submitting in writing.

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Peggy Leech, and I am representing the League of Women Voters of Colorado.

The League is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 19 local leagues operating in several regions of the state.

We strongly oppose SB21-007, Improve Public Confidence in Election Validity.

Of course, the League favors public confidence in the validity of elections.

But we do not believe that this bill accomplishes that objective. Instead, we believe that the effects of this bill would be harmful to Colorado's voters, especially older voters, those with disabilities, and lower-income voters who cannot easily make it to a voting center.

The League supported the 2013 legislation to implement mail-in balloting, with the option to vote in-person. After several years of using this system, it runs very smoothly, and Colorado is recognized as one of the best states for voting.

In the November 2020 election, 94% of Colorado's voters returned a mail ballot, whether by U.S. Mail or delivering to a drop box. Clearly, our voters prefer the mail ballot.

One reason, besides the accessibility that I mentioned earlier, is that voters have more time to carefully consider their choices on the ballot, rather than experiencing the pressure of voting in-person with long lines. This is another reason that the League favors the current system, as we encourage informed voting.

Coloradans can and do have confidence in the validity of our elections, as we have a well-developed system, paper ballots so that recounts are possible, and statewide risk-limiting audits to assure us further that our votes have been counted correctly.

Again, the League strongly opposes SB21-007.

Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the committee.

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs				
Testimony - SB21-007 Improve Public Confidence Election Validity				
First Name	Last Name	Representing	Text of Testimony	
Michael	Niel	Against	Remote	2/23/2021 14:27
Martha	Tierney	Against	Remote	2/23/2021 11:27
Morgan	Royal	Against	Remote	2/23/2021 13:03
Paul	Lopez	Against	Remote	2/23/2021 13:57
Julie	Gonzalez	Questions Only	Remote	2/23/2021 14:11
Karen	McMilland	For	Remote	2/23/2021 14:59
Reggy	Smith	For	Remote	2/23/2021 15:02
Haley	Rubin	Questions Only	Remote	2/23/2021 15:12
Kara	Hernandez	Against	Remote	2/23/2021 10:34
Salvador	Crane	Against	Remote	2/23/2021 11:16
Matt	Gagliardi	Against	Remote	2/23/2021 12:06
Sara	Amanda	Against	Remote	2/23/2021 12:26
				2/23/2021 10:20
			<p>Testimony on SB21-007 "Improve Public Confidence in Election Validity" -x0000_</p> <p>Senate State Affairs Committee -x0000_</p> <p>2/23/21 -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>Good afternoon, Madama Chair and members of the committee, -x0000_</p> <p>I -x0000_</p> <p>I am representing the League of Women Voters of Colorado, -x0000_</p> <p>The League is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 19 local leagues operating in several regions of the state, -x0000_</p> <p>We strongly oppose SB21-007, Improve Public Confidence in Election Validity, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>As a member of the League favors public confidence in the validity of elections, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>But we do not believe that this bill accomplishes that objective. Instead, we believe that the effects of this bill would be harmful to Colorado's voters, especially older voters, those with disabilities, and lower-income voters who cannot easily make it to a voting center, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>The League supported the 2013 legislation to implement mail-in balloting, with the option to vote in-person. After several years of using this system, it runs very smoothly, and Colorado is recognized as one of the best states for voting, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>In the November 2020 election, 94% of Colorado's voters returned a mail ballot, whether by U.S. Mail or delivering to a drop box. Clearly, our voters prefer the mail ballot, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>One reason, besides the accessibility that I mentioned earlier, is that voters have more time to carefully consider their choices on the ballot, rather than experiencing the pressure of voting in-person with long lines. This is another reason that the League favors the current system, as we encourage informed voting, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>Colorado can and do have confidence in the validity of our elections, as we have a well-developed system, paper ballots so that recounts are possible, and statewide risk-limiting audits to assure us further that our votes have been counted correctly, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>The League strongly opposes SB21-007, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>Thank you, Madama Chair and members of the committee, -x0000_</p>	2/23/2021 14:23
Posgy	Leach	Against	Submitted text	
			<p>I support this bill. Until Colorado cleans up their voter registrations, automatically sending ballots to everyone should not be done. -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>Thank you for the time that there is no evidence of mail-in voting fraud, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>I received a mail-in ballot for the previous owner of my home who left the united states 7 years ago. Colorado is currently being sued to clean up their voter's list but obviously has not done so, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>Sounds like you are saying people are too lazy, too inert to simply request an absentee ballot. Using COVID as an excuse is not a valid excuse not to go in person to vote, since people have no problem going to stores, restaurants, or protests, -x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>L-x0000_</p> <p>No reason for the voting timeframe to be longer than 7 days. No good reason has been presented for having that timeframe longer.</p>	2/23/2021 15:12
Karen	McCallister	For	Submitted text	
Maria	McCallister	Against	Updated file	2/22/2021 14:31



# Office of the Clerk & Recorder

1750 33rd Street · Boulder, CO 80301 · [www.BoulderCounty.org](http://www.BoulderCounty.org)

**Molly Fitzpatrick, Boulder County Clerk & Recorder**

February 23, 2021

RE: SB 21-007

To: Senate Committee – State Veterans and Military Affairs

Dear Senate State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee:

I am writing to express my office's opposition to SB 21-007. This legislation undermines the validity of our election model and seeks to disenfranchise the millions of voters who want to participate in our elections.

Our mail ballot election model is safe, secure, and considered the "gold standard" of election administration across the nation for its voter-centric approach layered with security protocols. Every election is conducted with scores of bi-partisan election judges at nearly every stage of the process. Additionally, the certification, public testing, and audit process on our voting systems and numerous other policies and procedures already built into the election process are the foundation of our strong election model. The leadership, integrity, and commitment by all Colorado county clerks and their staffs to fulfill the statutory requirements already spelled out in election law should give comfort to this Committee and the citizens of Colorado that our election process is already secure.

In fact, Boulder County was the first county in Colorado to conduct a risk limiting audit to ensure that the tabulated results matched the voted paper ballots. Actions such as this promote public confidence in the validity of elections. Other security considerations include pre-election testing of ballots and equipment, a continually improving signature verification process, strict voter privacy procedures, and carefully documented chain-of-custody procedures. Election security is an aspect we continue to improve upon with each election, but this bill would be a step backwards and has no technical attributes to improve election security or bolster public confidence in the validity of our elections.

Additionally, the bill requires voters to affirm for each general election that they would like to receive a mail ballot. This places undue hardship on voters to receive a ballot in the mail. Already, when voters register, they are tacitly confirming they would like to receive a mail ballot. Restricting accessibility to ballots is a detriment and only serves to marginalize disadvantaged communities. Our process already includes voter list maintenance procedures that every county must follow to ensure a clean and accurate voter registration database. Furthermore, this bill requires that ballot counting cease on election night – disenfranchising hundreds of military and overseas voters who have 8 days after Election Day for their ballot to arrive at our office to be counted. An artificial deadline of election night would actually undermine the integrity and accuracy of our ballot processing procedures causing an undue rush to meet an arbitrary deadline.

This bill does nothing to promote public confidence in the validity of elections. Instead it is a roundabout attack on the mail ballot voting model and an attempt to "create a solution" for a non-existent issue. In a Colorado Sun online news article this past December, Colorado Republican Party spokesman Joe Jackson said, "we've been clear from the state party on our confidence in the Colorado election system." In addition to Republican state party confidence in the validity of elections, as the Boulder County Clerk, I consistently hear directly from my constituents that their experience with our mail ballot model is excellent and our ability to provide notifications when their mail ballot has been received and counted should serve as a model to the nation. Voters love that our model provides a secure method of voting, increases voter turnout, and partially this last year during the pandemic, provided them with a safe method of voting.

In summary, this bill seizes an opportunity to create uncertainty and doubt using a false narrative. We vehemently opposed this bill and urge you to vote no on SB-7.

Thank you for your service,

Molly Fitzpatrick  
Boulder County Clerk and Recorder

**Motor Vehicle Division**  
1750 33rd Street, Suite 100  
Boulder, CO 80301-2534  
303.413.7710

**Elections Division**  
1750 33rd Street, Suite 200  
Boulder, CO 80301-2546  
303.413.7740

**Recording Division**  
1750 33rd Street, Suite 201  
Boulder, CO 80301-2549  
303.413.7770

**Longmont Branch Office**  
529 Coffman Street, Suite 110  
Longmont, CO 80501-5450  
303.413.7710

**Lafayette Branch Office**  
1376 Miners Drive, Suite 105  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
303.413.7710