

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

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HB25-1193 Vote Transparency Protocol Act

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Steve Schleiker Against El Paso County Clerk and Recorder</p>	<p>March 3, 2025</p> <p>Colorado General Assembly Attn.: State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs C/O Representative Jenny Willford, Chair C/O Representative Chad Clifford, Vice Chair 200 E. Colfax Ave. Denver, CO 80203</p> <p>Subj: HB25-1193 (Vote Transparency Protocol Act)</p> <p>Prime Sponsor(s): Representative Larry Don Suckla Committee: State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee Date: 03/03/2025 Position: Oppose</p> <p>Dear Madam Chair and Members of the State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 25-1193, the "Vote Transparency Protocol Act." While transparency in elections is essential, the provisions outlined in this bill present operational and financial challenges for county election officials, particularly the Clerk and Recorder's Office.</p> <p>From an operational standpoint, HB25-1193 introduces several unnecessary and burdensome requirements. Assigning unique vote tracking numbers to each ballot and voter identifier numbers to each voter adds a level of complexity that will slow down election administration, increase the risk of administrative errors, and create confusion among voters. Additionally, maintaining and publishing multiple distributed ledgers with real-time updates on voter activity and ballot status will</p>

	<p>require sophisticated and expensive technological infrastructure that is not currently in place.</p> <p>The bill's requirement for annual voter registration purges further exacerbates the operational burden. The proposal to remove all voter registration data annually and require re-verification by an external entity will create significant inefficiencies, reduce voter participation, and introduce unnecessary hurdles for eligible voters. The proposed alternative verification methods, including submission through a utility bill payment, create inconsistencies in voter access and disproportionately affect those without digital access or utility accounts in their name.</p> <p>Financially, the costs associated with implementing HB25-1193 are prohibitive. The Clerk and Recorder's Office would require substantial funding to develop and maintain the required distributed ledger system, ensure data security, and hire additional staff to manage new verification and tracking processes. The need for additional election personnel, advanced software systems, and extensive voter outreach programs would divert critical resources from existing election integrity measures.</p> <p>Furthermore, limiting the mailing of ballots to within two weeks before an election creates logistical challenges and increased costs for expedited ballot printing and mailing. This restriction contradicts best practices for voter accessibility and fails to account for the diverse needs of Colorado's electorate, including military personnel and voters in rural areas.</p> <p>The "Vote Transparency Protocol Act" introduces unnecessary complications. The proposed measures do not enhance election security but instead place an undue burden on local election officials, increase administrative costs, and create confusion among voters.</p> <p>I urge the Committee to consider the significant operational and financial impacts this bill would impose and vote against HB25-1193. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Steve Schleiker, Clerk and Recorder El Paso County</p>
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