

Please Support HB18-1033:
Valuing Opportunities To Elect Representation (VOTER) Act of 2018

Purpose

- Update time off to vote law to make it easier for Coloradans to participate in elections — because voting is not limited to Election Day in Colorado.

Reasons to support the bill

- Voting has changed considerably in the last 25 years since existing statute was enacted.
- Scheduling of work has become more uncertain for many workers; even under current mail ballot law, some workers don't know when they will / will not be required to work so it may be hard to plan a trip to the county clerk office / Voter Service & Polling Center.
- Only 1 Voter Service & Polling Center in many smaller counties, requiring a longer drive for rural residents who need to register / update registration / obtain a ballot / etc.
- U.S. Supreme Court recognized over 100 years ago that voting is a "fundamental political right, because preservative of all rights" (Yick Wo v. Hopkins, 1886).
- Across the political spectrum, voters are frustrated and wonder whether their participation matters. Let's make clear that it does, by making participation easier.

What the VOTER Act does / does not do

Detail	Currently	Under VOTER Act
Length of leave	2 hours maximum	Same
Advance notice	Application to employer required prior to leave	Same
Time of leave	Employer may specify, but must be at start/end of shift if employee requests	Same
Purposes of leave	Voting	Voting, obtaining ballot, obtaining ID/documentation
When is leave allowed	Election Day	Voting period (8/15 days prior to/including Election Day)
Exceptions to leave	If employee has 3 hours not required to be at work on Election Day	If employee has 3 consecutive hours not required to be at work on day on which leave requested