

clerkandrec



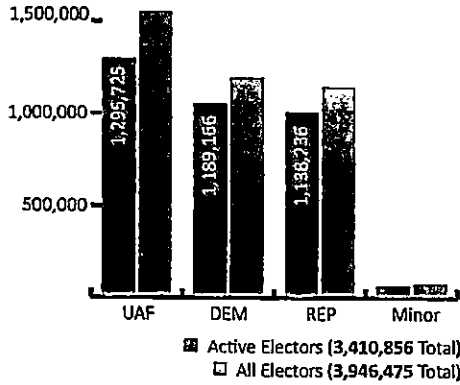
2018 Colorado Registration: #3 in the U.S.

TOTAL VOTERS
3,946,475

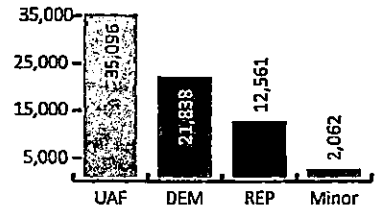
TOP 5 in Active Voters

- 1. Denver 484,843
- 2. El Paso 464,967
- 3. Jefferson 433,146
- 4. Arapahoe 423,146
- 5. Adams 280,083

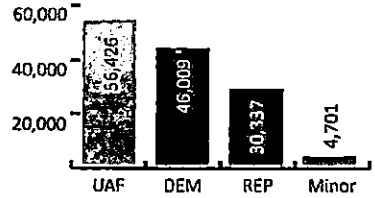
REGISTRATION BY PARTY



NEW REGISTRATIONS BY PARTY 10/6/18-11/6/18



CROSS COUNTY MOVES BY PARTY 10/6/18-11/6/18



96% of voting eligible population

2018 General Election Turnout: # 2 in the U.S.

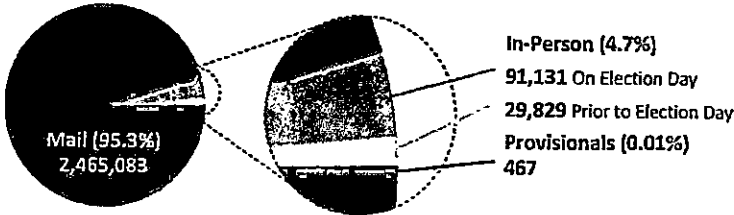
COLORADO
63%



NATIONAL AVERAGE
50.3%

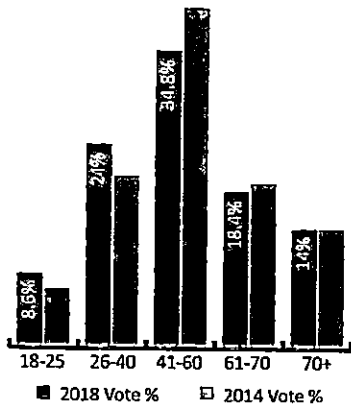
2,583,580 of 4,103,903 Eligible Voting Population
2,586,043 Votes Cast

RETURN METHOD

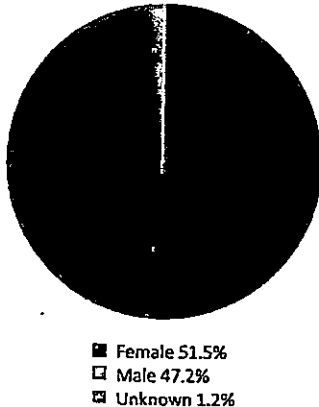


Year	Method	Percentage	Count
2016 Return Methods	Mail	92.8%	2,678,771
	In-Person	7%	200,696
	Provisionals	0.2%	5,910
2014 Return Methods	Mail	95.2%	1,977,453
	In-Person	4.8%	101,638
	Provisionals	0.04%	980

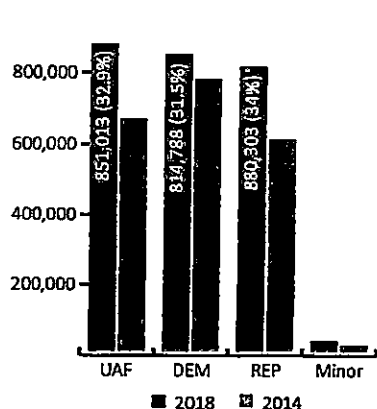
% TURNOUT BY AGE



% TURNOUT BY GENDER



TURNOUT BY PARTY



PITKIN COUNTY

CLERK & RECORDER

March 31, 2019

RE: HB19-1278

530 E. Main Street, Suite 101
Aspen, Colorado 81611-1948
phone (970) 920-5180
TTY (970) 429-2700
fax (970) 920-5196

Honorable House Representative:

Over the past decade, CO County Clerks, along with the Secretary of State, community members and interest groups have strived to create the best election model, based on Coloradans' voting patterns and concerns, and have attained national recognition. Colorado is the 2nd highest in voter turnout, 3rd highest in voter registration, and 4th lowest in voting wait times at polling centers in the US. Much to be proud of!

In reference to HB19-1278, Pitkin County will struggle with ineffective funding mandates, operational challenges, and shortage of human resources capital to service the additional hours request for Polling Centers. By expanding VSPC hours, our community, whereas 10% vote at polling centers, will continue to comment on ineffective use of their taxpayer money. In the 2018 election, only 6% of the population used the first week of early voting, .2% the first Saturday, 1% the second Saturday, 14% the week before the election, 8% the day before the election, and 70% on elections day. Pitkin County does not experience lines, unless the Secretary of State SCORE system goes down. We do experience lines on Election Day after 5pm, the after work traffic, and the lines become a social hour for community members waiting their turn. There are no lines at 7pm.

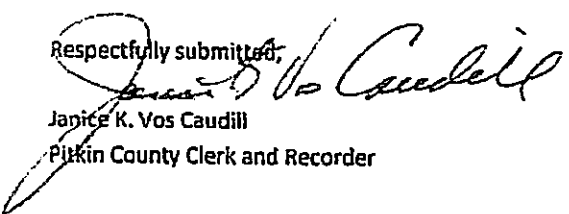
Approximately 90% of Pitkin County voters vote by mail, and 73% use drop boxes. Although one drop box is required, Pitkin County provides three, each in a strategic location.

I think you will find that over 54 counties in the state will express the same concerns regarding adding hours to VSPC's, ineffective use of county funds and of scarce human resource capital, and not needed.

I am also concerned with the section in the bill that addresses provisional ballot voting in cross-counties. The cost is upward of \$12 to \$15 per provisional ballot. The timeline to process the volume will be unattainable for clerks after each election while addressing other post-election mandates; i.e., cures, RLA's. Clerks experience skepticism from voters already who question the integrity of whether their provisional ballot will be counted. The process will also become confusing for judges in the VSPC, in addition to post-election operations when duplicating the appropriate races and measures onto the proper county ballots, within a constrained timeframe.

I am very proud and honored to have worked with the County Clerks of this State over the past decade in creating the best election model in the Nation. I am gratified to have brainstormed best practices, collaborated to address fiscally responsible operations and ways to maintain human resources capital to accomplish fair and accurate election with very, very limited county resources. Please work with County Clerks to assure the Colorado election model retains its national reputation, in adeptly servicing our communities effectively, and help us to incrementally address continuous improvements, using sound data and a pragmatic approach.

Respectfully submitted,


Janice K. Vos Caudill

Pitkin County Clerk and Recorder

LARIMER COUNTY | CLERK AND RECORDER | Angela Myers

200 West Oak Street, Suite 5100, P.O. Box 1547, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522, www.votelarimer.org

April 2, 2019

The Honorable Chris Kennedy
Chair
House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chair Kennedy:

I wish to thank the members of this committee for taking the time to hear important testimony from individuals across this great state who have the experience and actually serve the public to ensure Colorado's elections are safe, verifiable and conducted with a high degree of integrity and transparency.

Colorado has much to be proud of with respect to high-quality elections that are extremely convenient and provide many options for voters across the political spectrum. In Larimer County we are proud of the fact that Vote Centers originated here and I, as current Clerk & Recorder, am proud to have worked at the side of Scott Doyle as he created this "no wrong place to vote" option that became a requirement across our state in order for mail ballot legislation to successfully implement.

Election workers in Colorado, be they full-time staff or citizen election judges, take pride in the tremendous amount of dedicated effort made to ensure that all-mail ballot and same-day registration elections have become a successful role model for other states to aspire to.

This year's Elections Omnibus bill puts Colorado's reputation and those successes at risk. As the bill is written, it threatens our ability to successfully administer the mail ballot model, because it pushes voters back into polling places and takes an over-zealous one-size-fits-all approach. The cost of applying this bill in Larimer County – which will effectively be treated as a metro Tier 0 county – would be nearly \$6 million over five years. Implementation costs alone do not provide a clear picture, as many of the requirements of this bill will mean dramatically increased costs year-on-year. School Districts, Special Districts and Municipalities will realize dramatically increased election costs as well.



LARIMER COUNTY | CLERK AND RECORDER | Angela Myers

200 West Oak Street, Suite 5100, P.O. Box 1547, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522, www.votelarimer.org

Larimer's reputation for quality elections has been stellar, voter wait times in the 2018 election were nearly non-existent. We have a reputation for providing a vote center in the CSU Lory Student Center where students make it a "social event" while they are waiting and where wait times reached 30 minutes during three, one-hour windows and the wait time never exceeded 36 minutes overall on Election Day.

Special interest groups and activists have manned election help lines for voters across Colorado for many years. I have requested follow-up from them after the elections, in case there were any issues raised by callers with respect to Larimer. No concerns have ever been raised with operations in Larimer, nor do I receive complaints from citizens in my county regarding elections operations.

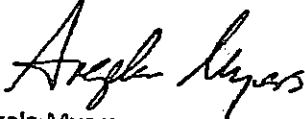
However, every year I do have Election Judges from both sides of the isle (we do everything in bi-partisan teams in Larimer County) working at Voter Service and Polling Centers who cannot believe the taxpayer dollars wasted on these sites where there are no voters or barely a trickle of voters. They can see that the mail ballot model in Colorado doesn't warrant as many sites for as many days as we are currently required to man each election.

This bill will significantly complicate information for voters and dramatically add to the required sites, further adding to that government waste, and solving nothing.

Aside from the fiscal impacts, the requirements of this bill will not solve the perceived issues. There are actions I and the staff have already outlined can be taken to do so that would cost less than \$250,000 to accomplish in Larimer. (The millions in savings that allowing me as the elected Larimer County Clerk to appropriately solve any issues we have could, I know, be much better spent on Human Services, Roads and other important priorities for our Larimer County citizens.) The correct solutions for Larimer are unique to Larimer, and I know that other county clerks have solutions planned that would be unique to their counties. The extreme one-size-fits-all approach of this bill is counterproductive and will exacerbate wait times and other concerns, rather than help them. This bill, in its current form, puts Colorado elections at risk...it will create failure.

Let's ensure Colorado's nationally respected and inspiring elections processes are not irreparably damaged. I ask that you respect the knowledge and expertise of County Clerks and Election Officials across this great state and vote NO on this bill.

Respectfully,



Angela Myers
Larimer County Clerk & Recorder





GRAND COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

Grand County
Clerk and Recorder
308 Byers Ave - PO Box 120
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451

Clerk and Recorder
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srosene@co.grand.co.us

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grandclerk@co.grand.co.us

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Colorado Elections are a model for the rest of the nation because we are voter-centric and efficient.

Grand County provides five 24-hour drop-off locations and of the 7,908 Grand County voters in the 2018 General Election over 95 percent took advantage of one of the five locations or returned their ballot by mail. Of the 7,597 voters who did not vote in person, 71 percent used one of the five convenient 24-hour drop boxes over returning their ballot by mail.

Grand County has more 24-hour drop-off locations than are required because we have had the opportunity to work with our communities to find locations that best serve our voters. I would dare to say that most counties exceed the required number of ballot return locations as we all work to recognize the needs of our communities.

The portion of House Bill 19-1278 that addresses the hours of the Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC) makes operations difficult and more expensive. The changes would require longer hours for the 15 days before the election, add VSPC locations on the day before the Election, and additional hours on Election Day. Those longer hours makes it necessary for us to schedule our judges in shifts. With those shifts, we will need to hire additional judges. In 2018, it was extremely difficult to find a sufficient number of judges to serve in our various judge positions. The additional hours will cost Grand County citizens more than \$16,000.

The increased hours of operation fails to recognize that over 95 percent of our voters take advantage of voting from home. A ballot in a voter's hands more than two weeks before the election allows them time to review and understand their choices. Colorado voters have embraced our exceptional election model. By their actions, our voters demonstrate that there is little or no need for extended hours at the VSPCs.

Though I find the increased VSPC hours the most concerning for my county, I am also concerned over the section of the bill that allows voters to vote a provisional ballot in a county other than their own and then have the ballot counted in their home county. This will add costs to the host county (providing the provisional ballot) and to the home county when the ballot is received.

The host county will be responsible for processing the provisional ballot and sending the ballot in a secure manner (such as a carrier service) to the home county in a very short time frame. The home county will have the cost of replicating the ballot for the allowable races.

In a county where over 60 percent of our property owners are not residents, I believe that we will see an increase in the number of people voting provisional ballots in our county. We currently receive a number of ballots in our 24-hour drop boxes for voters from other counties.

Colorado's Model of elections has been successful as proven in 2018 with the second highest voter turnout in the nation. House Bill 19-1278 in its current form does not improve our system and I urge a "no" vote.

Thank you.
Sara L. Rosene, Grand County Clerk and Recorder



OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK and RECORDER

Susan L. Bailey, County Clerk

231 Ensign Street · P.O. Box 1399 · Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701 Telephone (970) 542-3521 Fax (970) 542-3525

I would ask you to please oppose, as drafted, the omnibus bill, HB 19-1278. As Morgan County Clerk, I find this bill very concerning given its unfunded mandates in the amount of \$5-6 million statewide. It will cripple our operations as they are currently conducted making the law unattainable, and more expensive. As you know, Colorado stands proud in being top in the nation when it comes to elections and I do not find this bill making us better, it will only require excessive resources and make it difficult for clerks to continue running elections efficiently and effectively for our constituents. Even if this bill would be fully funded the requirements are unachievable and create risk to Colorado's election model in advance of the 2020 Presidential Election.

In response to requiring additional business hours at the Voter Service Polling Centers, currently Morgan County is required to be open and available four hours the two Saturdays prior to Election Day. Historical data indicates that our constituents do not actively engage in this benefit, and to reference specific data, our County had a total of 2 (two) voters appear in person, to vote on Saturday, November 3, 2018, so to require Morgan County to open for additional hours, is truly not fiscally practical and I do not believe my constituents would see that as money well spent. As County Clerks, I believe we do a great job of enfranchising our voters, and to be honest, that is one of the reasons I became a Clerk, to be sure that everyone who is eligible to vote is provided the right to vote. I feel very strongly about requiring that our VSPC's are open for additional proposed hours as given our County's data, it does not appear to be a practical and fiscally responsible way of providing these services for our County.

If you should have questions regarding additional specific details, please feel free to reach out to me and I would be happy to provide you with any information you may need. I would appreciate any and all support you can give to the clerks in Colorado as we stand in opposition to this bill in its current drafted form. Please vote no on HB 19-1278 and urge the proponents to work with Colorado election officials to propose voter-centric solutions.



Tressa Guynes
Montrose Clerk & Recorder
320 South First Street
Montrose, CO 8141
970.252.4586

Thank you for your consideration of concerns from Clerk and Recorder's across the state. We are the Front Lines who are in constant and direct communication with our active electors.

Following are concerns from Montrose County surrounding HB19-1278:

As a recently inducted Tier 1 County, Montrose County has just over 25,000 active electors. For several years, we have had more than the required number of VSPCs and 24/7 video surveillance drop boxes. As such, the increased hours open to the public would substantially impact us in detrimental ways considering the nominal benefit of the extended hours for public access. Colorado already provides more in-person access than other states. Since voting is made so convenient with mail ballot, we have very few in-person voters on the Saturday prior to Election Day and have very little, if any, wait times.

1-One of our VSPCs is located about 2.5 hours away from the main office. The ballots are transported via Deputy Sheriff. In November elections, the weather becomes a factor as the night progresses. With the VSPCs open to the public later, it's likely the transporting of the ballots could not occur until the next morning. Due to delays from transporting or being forced to process and count those ballots the day after Election Day, this delay would most likely impact the outcome of the unofficial results of the Election announced on Election Night. It's possible this would change the outcome of a race for a local Candidate or local Issue when these ballots are added to the unofficial election results.

2- Issues resulting through stress and exhaustion of staff and election judges. As you know, people experiencing stress, fatigue and exhaustion make more mistakes.

Staff: Montrose County has 1.8 staff dedicated to Elections. Please remember medium and smaller county Clerk Office staff are required to be cross-trained and conduct other Clerk responsibilities that don't subside during election cycles. All other staff are pulled from the other areas of the Clerk Office to support the election.

Election Judges: All of our election judges are retired persons, unable and/or unwilling to work the additional hours mandated in this Bill. This would require additional election judges to be hired and trained. We currently experience a hardship finding and maintaining adequate bi-partisan and efficient judges who are willing to dedicate the long hours required to run an election.

The additional hours in staff overtime and election judges will cost the counties considerably, financially and efficiently.

Please remember Colorado's reputation as The Model as the best voting system in the nation - "It ain't broke".

Thank you for your consideration of concerns from the Front Lines who are in constant and direct communication with our active electors.

Tressa Guynes



MESA COUNTY
CLERK & RECORDER

ELECTIONS DIVISION
Tina Peters, Clerk & Recorder
200 S. Spruce St.
Dept. 5009, PO Box 20,000
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5001
Phone (970) 244-1662

My name is Tina Peters Mesa County Clerk and Recorder

My apologies for not attending in person as I am conducting a Municipal election in Grand Junction today.

Please consider my concerns and those of my Commissioners and Citizens.

This bill is very disturbing. The problems HB19-1278 will cause far outweigh any benefit that may be imagined. This bill will break our election systems in our counties statewide.

Our wait times in my county are never more than 10 minutes with most all the ballots mailed in or dropped off at our existing centers with 95% overall in the State and we have never had a problem.

Since we are a "Mail Ballot State", we don't have the problems other States have and are proud that Colorado is the envy of the country in Elections. Please do not try to fix what is not broken.

This Bill is such an over reach. The costs will be unattainable by our budgets.

Specifically:

Page 27 lines 20-22 increases Election Eve and Election Day to have 1-drop box for every 12,000 people. Which means we will need 9 more than we have ever had before. If this expensive measure was needed, I could understand but everything has run smoothly and efficiently with past elections.

Each extra drop box is at a cost of \$4-6,000 thousand dollars each- NOT including the extra costs of 2 person teams to retrieve, of van rental, and the personnel costs for the proposed length of time this bill wants the boxes to be open.

With the increase on Monday and Tuesday of Election Day, I will need to train and pay an additional set of Election Judges above what we have now. Election judges are already hard to find in our County and now this makes it even more difficult and expensive.

Page 28 lines 17 to 21 is **not** a change for location as we have had a VSPC at the College but we used to only stand that one up for the 5 days prior to Election, which has always been sufficient to meet the needs of our students and community. So now, this one has to be one of our 15-day centers. We will have to pay rent to the college where previously we used county owned buildings at no charge for our 15-day centers. That will be a cost that we have never had to incur and is unattainable.

Page 30 lines 22 to 27 add additional business hours to my 15-day centers. The added expense when you figure the cost of training 2 extra sets of election judges for these locations and implementing split shifts since the day is too long for one set of judges is egregious.

Page 31 lines 1-3 adds two additional business hours to all of our centers. We would also have to figure the cost by training 2 sets of election judges and the additional hourly salary and overtime for office staff to implement split shifts and pay additional hours.

Page 31 lines 1-3 will guarantee election results will not be released on Election Night. With a 7 p.m. close and a large portion of mail ballots coming in on those last two days it was impossible for most of the large counties to complete the count on Election Day. This will add more time before the public has timely results.



MESA COUNTY
CLERK & RECORDER

ELECTIONS DIVISION
Tina Peters, Clerk & Recorder
200 S. Spruce St.
Dept. 5009, PO Box 20,000
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5001
Phone (970) 244-1662

Page 32 lines 24-27 and page 33 lines 1-2 will cause us to add one 24-hour ballot box on CMU campus. The boxes cost \$4-6K, as stated IF we will even be able as a State to get the vast amounts called for in this bill statewide plus the unbudgeted installation of data, cameras, and Election Judges to go retrieve the additional drop box/es will be an added expense possibly as high as \$118,000 dollars.

On page 45 where they are describing a system to verify signatures for people who do not have a signature in the system I am having a hard time envisioning this. Currently if this happens, the ballot envelope is pulled for verification until we get the registration forms back from the Voter Service Poling Center (VSPC) and scanned into the system and then we process them. It is not a problem. I do not understand the need for this section at all.

Information Technology (IT) will need to give my office and the County costs on data, cameras (for an additional 24-hour box on campus) and video to the County.

It is really the extension and cost of the hours, additional unneeded drop boxes, and the extended college location days from 2 to 15 that really make this an expensive and proposed, unfunded mandate for our County.

If the State wants this added expense and unnecessary addition, then it makes sense that the State will fund these unnecessary changes so as not to put unreasonable expense on the Counties, Clerk Budgets (which are already very tight) and the taxpayers. This Bill is making a problem where there is not a problem and as such should be killed or the costs paid to the Counties to comply with this unnecessary and burdensome proposal.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on the impact to our State, Counties and citizens. Once again, please do not try to fix the best election system in the US. It is not broken but stands to be - if this Bill is passed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina M. Peters".

Tina Peters
Mesa County Clerk and Recorder

Bent County Clerk & Recorder

Lynda G. Moss
P O Box 350
Las Animas CO 81054

Tobe A. Wright, Deputy

Telephone (719) 456-2009

Fax (719) 456-0375

Dear Honorable Representatives

RE: HB 19-1278 Omnibus Election Bill, modifications to "Uniform Election Code of 1992"

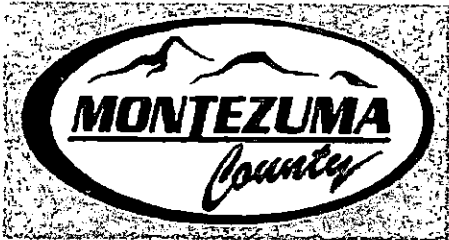
My name is Lynda G. Moss and I am the Bent County Clerk and Recorder. Although the Omnibus Election bill has some appropriate changes, it has serious, expensive, and unnecessary increases in days, and hours a VSPC must be open.

- Colorado has the best voting system in the nation and is a model for the rest of the nation.
- In 2018 95% of the ballots in Colorado were returned by mail.
- Colorado was 2nd in the nation for voter turnout in 2018.
- The bill as proposed makes operations unattainable, more expensive and the bill requires more work.
- The bill as proposed is a \$5 to \$6 million-dollar unfunded mandate.
- Even if the bill is fully-funded, the requirements are unachievable and create risks to Colorado's election model in advance of the 2020 Presidential Election.

As a small rural county, our specific needs differ from those of a larger county. My office consists of myself and 2 employees. My office runs our VSPC while also performing our regular duties in the Motor Vehicle and Recording departments. To require our office to be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the 1st 15 days before the election and 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the Monday before Election Day and Election Day would be a financial and mental strain on my office and my employees. The majority of our voters use our 24 hour drop box or mail in their ballots. Please consider the County Clerks expertise and their knowledge of their communities and citizenry. This bill as proposed is risky and costly and will hinder our ability to perform our jobs effectively.

I ask that you please **Vote No on HB 19-1278** and urge the proponents to work with Colorado elections officials to propose voter-centric solutions.

Sincerely,
Lynda G. Moss
Bent County Clerk and Recorder
719-456-2009



Montezuma County Clerk and Recorder

KIM PERCELL

140 West Main Street, Suite 1 • Cortez, CO 81321
Ph. (970) 565-3728 • Fax (970) 564-0215

Re: HB 19-1278

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in opposition the HB 19-1278. If this bill should pass the economic impacts to Colorado counties would include:

- **EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION:** Overtime Compensation for employees and election judges for extended hours. Extending the hours of operation would require counties an added expense in overtime and create more opportunities for errors. If required during most elections, county employees work extended hours for catch up. When would counties have time for the catch up work? Election Day starting at 6:00a.m. would require judges to be at the VSPC by 5:00a.m. Keeping them open till 8:00p.m. would actually be making the judges stay to 9:00p.m. or later. Giving them a 16 hour Election Day or longer for a presidential elections. Most of our judges are elderly. It would be hard to find judges willing to work these hours. The hours of operation should remain 7:00a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The voters know these hours and changing them would just add more confusion to the process for the voter.
- **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DROP BOXES:** There would be additional expenses to purchase required drop boxes. Along with additional expense to purchase the surveillance equipment for the drop box, not to mention with connectivity issues for the required surveillance equipment or additional compensation for the election judges.
- **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED VOTE SERVICE POLLING CENTERS:** AGAIN there would be additional expenses for the required Vote Service Polling Centers. This would require even more election judges. I use five judges per VSPC in my county but larger counties would be required to have many more. There is an additional expense for the purchase of additional equipment required for the VSPC and there would be more mileage expense for ballot pick up runs required to be done several times during the day.

Most counties have been proactive in vote service polling center placements and / or additional drop boxes within their counties. The economic impact of this bill will be felt by all counties.

I urge you to **vote no on HB 19-1278** and propose that you consider the expertise of your elected County Clerks. I hope you would trust them to do all that they can for all elections, to provide for their communities, without additional **expensive** rules and regulations.

Respectfully,

Montezuma County Clerk & Recorder

*"Baca County, Colorado
in the*

Ports to Plains Corridor Connecting Mexico to Canada"



Baca County Clerk and Recorder
Sharon Dubois

741 Main Street, Suite 3
Springfield, CO 81073

Telephone: (719) 523-4372 ~ Fax: (719) 523-4881

Sharon Dubois, Clerk and Recorder
bacaclerk@bacacountyco.gov

Penny Self, Recording Deputy
pself@bacacountyco.gov

Deputies:
Diana Baxter
Billie Brown
Jessica Dickey
Cheryl Rutherford

April 1, 2019

Greetings!

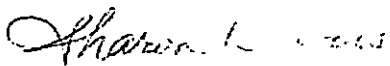
I appreciate the opportunity make Baca County's voice heard. House Bill 19-1278 includes some changes that will be expensive for our County and unwanted by our constituency. Specifically, the change to have voter polling and service centers open for two Sundays prior to the election. For most, this is a day of worship; voters will not appreciate the courthouse being open. Election judges, difficult to hire currently, will not want to work on a Sunday. The past four or five elections, our VSPC has not been used other than a drop box by voters on any Saturday, even though having the courthouse open is giving those that work during the week an opportunity to come in to the VSPC. I do not think that further voter opportunities will be gained by opening up the VSPC on Sundays and may anger some voters because we are open.

Longer hours for VSPC's will put undue burden on our courthouse security that is funded through State grants that were not written to accommodate longer hours other than when our courthouse is open (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). It will put our small staff on overtime pay and they will be exhausted workers. We currently work 6:00 a.m. to after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day and being open at six will extend our hours to 5:00 a.m. to after 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. then staff must report to work the next morning. Not only is this proposition hard for large counties but a strain for medium and smaller counties that will feel the pain financially and physically but have no measurable gain in voting activities.

I also feel that mandating the use of public buildings is unnecessary. All Colorado clerks want to give every voter the best opportunity to be able to vote and will accommodate these opportunities where funds allow. Each community has differing needs for its college community and should be allowed to explore those needs through "best practices" rather than mandates.

To close, voters must understand their privilege, right, and duty to vote. This law change may not give them better opportunities but just lessen our guilt when they still do not come to the polls. An election should be an exciting time and not one that causes dread upon those of us who conduct the election.

Thank you again,



Sharon Dubois
Baca County Clerk and Recorder

Colorado Representatives:

I am Debra Green and the Park County Clerk & Recorder. I am here today to support the Colorado County Clerks. Colorado has the best voting system in the nation and is a model for the rest of the nation. The bill as proposed makes operations unattainable, more expensive and the bill will require more work. Colorado will have 3 elections in 2020, already an added expense to our election budget. The bill as proposed is a \$5 to \$6 million-dollar unfunded mandate. Even if the bill is fully-funded, the requirements are unachievable and increase risks to Colorado's election model in advance of the 2020 Presidential Election. In the 2018 National Ranking, Colorado was number 2 in voter turnout, number 3 in Voter registration, and number 4 in lowest wait time. In the November 2018 election, voting by mail ballot was 95% and voting in person was 5%.

In medium counties we have to do it all! Judges are required to perform intake, signature verification and counting. Park County has a minimal amount of population to draw from and judges and staff are already spread thin. Keep in mind, medium counties are required to maintain and manage other areas not specific to Elections. Additional hours at Election time will cost counties considerably, financially and emotionally. Park County's work schedule is 44 hours Monday thru Thursday. Since the county is closed on Fridays, the Clerk's office is open the Friday before the election for 9 hours and open on Saturday 4 hours. With longer hours at the VSPCs, Clerk's will lose judges late into the evening as they are tired and that's when errors are made.

Park County is requires to have "3 VSPC" for elections. I have a VSPC in my Fairplay Clerk's Office and my Bailey Motor Vehicle only office that is also in the Park County Sheriff's substation, which would be disallowed if this bill passes. The 3rd VSPC is less than 5 miles from the Bailey office. Park County only needs 2VSPC, if Park County could have 2 VSPC this would help with added election judge's expenses.

Colorado has the Best election in the nation, let's not break it. I urge a "NO" vote on House Bill 19-1278 as written. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

A L A M O S A C O U N T Y



April 1, 2019

To whom it may concern,

My name is Melanie Woodward and I am Alamosa County Clerk. Unfortunately I was unable to travel to Denver to testify, however I would like my voice heard.

Adams State University is located 2.5 miles from my office which is currently a VSPC with a drop box. If HB19-1278 passes, I would be required to have a VSPC along with a drop box at Adams State. I estimated the cost to Alamosa County to add another location to be approximately \$16,000. Along with the added VSPC is more judges. Right now it is a constant battle to find qualified, experienced judges.

Currently Colorado has one of the best election models in the nation. Colorado has the highest voter participation rate of voter age adults in the country at more than 75%. Why are we trying to fix something that is not broke?

This bill is a waste of taxpayer's money. I ask you to please kill this bill!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Melanie Woodward'.

Melanie Woodward
Alamosa County Clerk & Recorder

Clerk & Recorder - Melanie Woodward
P.O. Box 630 • 8999 Independence Way
Alamosa, CO 81101

Phone: 719-589-6681
Fax: 719-589-6118
www.alamosacounty.org



TRISH GILBERT
SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

501 4TH ST PO BOX 176
SAGUACHE, COLORADO 81149
TELEPHONE: 719 655 2512 FAX 719 655 2730
tgilbert@saguachecounty-co.gov

DATE: 04/01/2019
TO: Representatives
From: Trish Gilbert
RE: Letter of Testimony **Vote no on HB 19-1278**

The role of the County Clerk & Recorder becomes more complex each year, and the issues we face more numerous and technical. As more and more responsibilities are mandated to us and as we provide more services to our citizens, our ability to be good stewards becomes a challenge. Stewardship is a political process that involves balancing competing influences and demands. It includes maintaining the strategic direction of policy development and implementation; more importantly, detecting and correcting undesirable trends and distortions. State and Federal laws and regulations continue to impact counties, and we must be ready to respond appropriately. Saguache County is an economically depressed county that struggles daily with facing the issues affecting society, which includes the election process. We oppose HB 10-1278, as proposed, for the following reasons:

- Colorado has the best voting system in the nation and is a model for the rest of the nation.
- The bill as proposed makes operations unattainable, more expensive, and the bill requires more work.
- The bill as proposed is a \$5 to \$6 million-dollar unfunded mandate.
- Even if the bill is fully-funded, the requirements are unachievable and creates risks to Colorado's election model in advance of the 2020 Presidential Election.
- Hard to find election judges

Please consider the County Clerks expertise and their knowledge of their communities and citizenry. As a member of the Colorado County Clerk's Association, I urge you to **Vote no on HB 19-1278**. I appreciate your time and careful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trish Gilbert
County Clerk and Recorder

OTERO COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

13 W. 3RD ST. ROOM 210

LA JUNTA, CO 81050

(719)383-3020

(719)383-3026 FAX

LYNDA K SCOTT, CLERK

SHANNON CASILLAS, CHIEF

April 1, 2019

Letter of Testimony from Otero County Clerk's Office, La Junta, CO 81050

In regards to the Proposed OMNIBUS Bill....HB19-1278

We would like to take a moment and add our thoughts to this bill. Currently, the system we have in place for Elections in our State is very good. In 2018 we ranked in the top 5 for Voter turnout, for registration and for lowest wait times and we are a State that other States look to, to set up their election rules/laws.

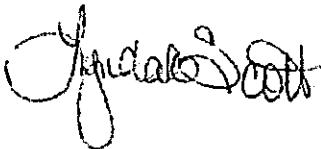
Because we do have mail ballot Elections in which every active voter receives a ballot in the mail, as well as being able to go to a VSPC, we see no reason to make it harder for County Clerks to do their jobs. This bill as written will have cost increases that are not at this time funded by State. It will increase overtime costs in office as well as with judges. We are currently open on Saturday's from 8am to noon, and we have 1 or 2 voters that come in, so at this time we would say that the 8am to 5pm proposal would be a waste of time and money.

There is no reason in our opinion to be open from 6am to 8pm on the day before Election Day and on Election Day, this would add stress to an already stressful time. Normal business hours on the day before and 7am to 7pm on Election Day is more than sufficient as we get most of our ballots returned by mail or in person to ballot boxes.

In conclusion, we feel that we have the best system now for Elections and that We the Clerks and our Commissioners know what we need to be able to do our job for our Voters. Adding more mandates and rules will only make it harder to do our jobs sufficiently and in tune to our needs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lynda K Scott
Otero County Clerk & Recorder

Colorado has a very proactive and successful model of mailing ballots, accommodating voters at all levels. Increasing VSPC's, drop boxes and hours seem counter intuitive to the mail ballot process. Statistically, the changes in this bill seem excessive.

Ouray County has less than four thousand voters and while some of the new formulas for VSPC's and Drop Boxes do not affect the smallest counties, ALL counties are impacted greatly by the numerous changes proposed in HB 19-1278.

I recognize the concerns of all Clerks regarding the increased number of VSPC's in larger counties, including adding VSPC's to colleges. The increased cost for man power, equipment and supplies without secured funding is cost prohibitive. With a higher than average voter turnout in Colorado, with minimal wait times, are these changes justified? The implementation of these requirements to be effective this year will be nearly impossible for larger counties to complete. I believe most counties have gone the "extra mile", even in excess of the current statute requirements to accommodate our voters. I have not had complaints of insufficient numbers of VSPC's or drop boxes in Ouray County, only compliments for having drop boxes in both communities.

One of Ouray County's biggest concerns is the proposed increase in hours of operations during the early voting period, the day before and Election Day. Most of my judges are retired persons, over sixty plus years old. While they are available to work (on their schedule), they likely are not willing to work ten hour days. Anything in excess of a typical eight hour day involves additional pay and a real commitment from Judges and Staff. Currently, on Election Day, Ouray County does a split shift utilizing all my trained judges. This would not be possible to do for an extended period of time, requiring Ouray County to recruit even more judges to serve. Not only would costs increase but the exhaustion factor would need to be considered. Election judges are cross trained to accommodate all aspects of the election processes, not only servicing voters at the VSPC.

In small counties we have to do it all! Judges are required to perform intake, signature verification and counting. Ouray County has a minimal amount of population to draw from and judges and staff are already spread thin. Keep in mind, small counties are required to maintain and manage other areas not specific to Elections. Additional hours at Election time will cost counties considerably, financially and emotionally. Thank you for your consideration.

Michelle Nauer – Ouray County Clerk & Recorder

OFFICE OF
YUMA COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
310 S. ASH STREET, SUITE F -- WRAY, CO 80758

BEVERLY A. WENGER
YUMA COUNTY CLERK
AND RECORDER

PHONE (970) 332-5809

PAMELA E. ZUEGE
HEAD DEPUTY

MOTOR VEHICLE, PHONE (970) 332-5897

April 1, 2019

Committee Hearing Members:

RE: HB19-1278 Omnibus Elections Bill

I, Beverly A Wenger, Yuma County Clerk and Recorder, would like to address a few issues in SB19-1278.

1. Extended hours will increase Yuma County Election Budget by a minimum of \$3000.00
2. Extended hours will make acquiring judges more difficult than it already is in the smaller counties
3. 8 hours on Saturday is a waste of resources as historically in Yuma County, we have 0 to 2 voters in our VSPC during the current 4 hours of operation.
4. Adding a Sunday will only add expense to Counties and not see an increase in voters participating.
 - a. This was tried several years ago and had extreme low to zero turnout
5. Confusion with voters as historically Election Day has been 7:00 to 7:00
6. Changing hours and days of operations creates confusion amongst voters if we continue to change them year after year.

Please carefully consider voting to remove this bill.

Thank you.
Beverly A Wenger

Jana Coen
Prowers County Clerk & Recorder
301 S. Main St., Ste. 210
Lamar, Co 81052
(719)336-8011
(719)336-5306 Fax #

April 1, 2019

Committee Hearing Members:

RE: HB19-1278 Omnibus Elections Bill

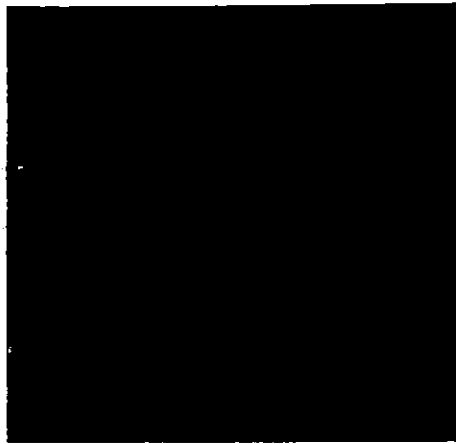
I, Jana Coen, Prowers County Clerk and Recorder have some concerns with proposed HB19-1278 associated with the following:

- Increasing VSPC hours of operation during the election (15 Days prior) will be a big financial impact to our county (smaller county) for those additional hours leading up to and including Election Day causing several dollars in overtime expenses.
- We will have difficulty securing election judges for the proposed additional hours of operation because our local bipartisan' s parties have limited party members which equates to not enough party members are willing to be judges and are barely serving as judges with our current hours of operations in the election rule. So, by adding additional hours this could be very difficult for our VSPC's to be in compliance with the proposed rule.
- This bill will be very costly to our County to try to fund several dollars in unfunded mandates.

Please consider removing this proposed bill.

Thank you,
Jana Coen
Prowers County Clerk

NANCY C. CRUZ
HUERFANO COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
401 MAIN STREET, SUITE 204
WALSENBURG, COLORADO 81089
(719) 738-2380 FAX: (719) 738-2060



RE: HB 19-1278

April 1, 2019

Huerfano County **DOES NOT SUPPORT HB 19-1278**, (Modifications to Uniform Election Code). The proposed bill is risky and costly to every county and especially small counties. As an experienced Election Official who has been in the County Clerk's office for 23 years, I know and understand what it takes to successfully run an election in our small county. Huerfano County does not have the budget to spend more on elections and we do not have a large pool of people to pull election judges from. We struggle every election to find people who will work elections. Our office is a small office of five (5) employees and we struggle to do all that is required of us now. Please consider the County Clerks expertise and our knowledge of our communities and citizenry in making your decision.

Respectfully yours,

Nancy C. Cruz
Huerfano county Clerk & Recorder
719-738-2380 X-220



From the Office of
Rio Blanco County Clerk and Recorder
Boots M. Campbell, County Clerk

Rio Blanco County Courthouse, PO Box 1067, Meeker, Colorado 81641
(970) 878-9460 Fax: (970) 878-3587
Western Annex, 17497 Hwy 64, Rangely, Colorado 81648
(970) 878-9465 Fax (970) 675-5211
www.rbc.us

March 31, 2019

Re: HB19-1278

The Rio Blanco County Clerk's office and election department as well as the Rio Blanco County Commissioners are against many of the proposals included in HB19-1278. No one under age 18 should be eligible to vote in any election! The proponents have not involved the County Clerks who are the designated election officials. The laws, rules, policies and procedures we all follow now are working in Colorado. This proposed bill requires a lot more thought and input from knowledgeable people before being considered for approval. Colorado electors vote by mail, use 24 hour drop boxes and no need has been shown for this excessive number of VSPC's and the extremely long hours for in-person voting.

Passage of this bill would be very costly and does not take into consideration that Colorado already has a higher rate of voter turnout than most other states. Changes to elections should involve the Colorado County Clerk's Association. This bill seems to be getting rushed through the process without listening to the people who know how to conduct elections and what is needed to do so. Consideration was not given to the ultimate cost of the changes proposed, and that is a very serious problem for the counties.

I agree completely with the position of the CCCA as follows:

- Colorado has the best voting system in the nation and is a model for the rest of the nation.
- The bill as proposed makes operations unattainable, more expensive, and the bill requires more work.
- The bill as proposed is a \$5 to \$6 million-dollar unfunded mandate.
- Even if the bill is fully-funded, the requirements are unachievable and creates risks to Colorado's election model in advance of the 2020 Presidential Election.

Colorado County Clerks support the Colorado Model of elections because it is voter-centric, efficient and sustainable. The bill as proposed is risky and costly. Experienced election officials know and understand their administration and what it takes to ensure successful elections with integrity. Please consider the County Clerks expertise and their knowledge of their communities and citizenry.

Vote no on HB 10-1278 and urge the proponents to work with Colorado election officials to propose voter-centric solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of my remarks.

Boots M. Campbell
Rio Blanco County Clerk & Recorder



DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

TERI A. STEPHENSON, COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

COUNTY COURTHOUSE - 501 PALMER STREET - SUITE 211 - DELTA - COLORADO - 81416

PHONE: (970) 874-2150 FAX: (970) 874-2161

www.deltacounty.com

April 1, 2019

Re: HB19 1278 Omnibus Election Bill, modifications to "Uniform Election Code of 1992"

Dear Michelle:

Delta County believes that Colorado already has in place the best voting system in the nation and is a model for the rest of the nation. House Bill 19 1278 does not enhance the already existing voting capabilities.

Our county will see an increase in expenses, find it more difficult to find election judges and adds additional work to all involved. Delta County potentially would have to add a 24-hour stand-alone drop box in an area that is not geographically necessary due to current placement of stand-alone boxes. The cost for our county to meet this requirement would be approximately \$3,837.00 in an area that it would not be necessary to place a stand-alone drop box. In 2018 the primary voting method for Delta County was by mail ballot. With only 4% of our voter turnout voting in person, the added hours and addition VSPC's would not increase the in person voter turn out to justify the related costs.

The increased cost of being open for the proposed one Saturday and Sunday would increase our budget by approximately \$1,900.00 for two days for staff, elections judges and cost for security during those days. In the past the Saturday voting in our county has been minimal and not utilized by voters. We do not believe our constituents will take advantage of the proposed extended days.

The proposed hours for a general election would add confusion to voters in our county since our office conducts various elections during the year which has already set precedence for specific hours that voting can occur. The voters in our county are accommodated by mail ballot, early voting, 24-hour stand-alone drop boxes and currently two Saturdays leading up to the election. We do not believe that increasing voting hours will draw a higher turnout.

Delta County is concerned that the allowance for 17 year old voting will increase costs for educating the public about the specifics of this bill. There will be uncertainty as to when a 17 year old will and will not receive a ballot.

Each county in Colorado has their own specific needs and are more diverse in geography and population. Clerk's know their counties needs and do provide adequate ballot access to their voters. Delta County has not failed to accommodate the voters with the current drop off locations and VSPC placement and hours.

Delta County does not believe that the costs to the taxpayers for these changes will increase voter turnout when Colorado already provides mail ballots 22 days prior to an election, strategically placed 24-hour stand-alone drop boxes and VSPC's where the needs of the voters are already being met.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri A. Stephenson".

Teri A. Stephenson
Delta County Clerk and Recorder

Please consider this my official opposition to HB1278 in its current form. It will add additional expense as well as additional hours and days of in person voting defeating the purpose of an all mail ballot election. We are extremely accommodating currently. We have lost a great deal of election judges as this process gets more and more demanding. This bill is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Berger
Lake County Clerk & Recorder