

HB19-1278 Testimony
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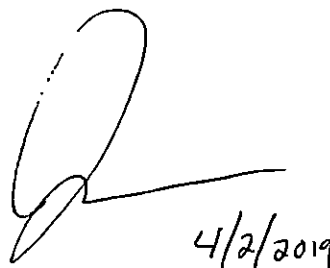
April 2nd, 2019

My name is Jacob Martin and I am submitting written testimony because I could not be with you in committee today. I am a Denver voter. Since 2014, I have regularly chosen to vote in-person at Voter Service and Polling Locations in Denver. My schedule has often allowed me to do so well in advance of Election Day. In 2018, though, I went to vote in person on Election Day at 6 p.m. at the Carla Madison Rec Center in Denver. When I arrived, I would estimate I was the 50th person in line outside of the room where voting was taking place. Over the next 65 minutes, I inched toward the voting booth. Around me were people excited to vote but confused and complaining because of the long line.

At 7:00 p.m. the line closed and I was then the third person in line from the voting room. Since I was closer to the check-in table, I could finally see what the hold up was: almost every person who was voting had some sort of issue that needed to be addressed. Some voters were registering for the first time, others needed to change their address and some had multiple forms of ID they needed to reconcile.

When I approached the check-in table, I was quickly directed to a tablet and able to vote. Inside the voting room, half of the dozen electronic machines were vacant and there were several open seats for people to vote on paper ballots. In my opinion, one of the problems at this voting location was a lack of staff capacity at the check-in to address the needs of each voter as well as the volume of voters who needed service. With more staff and more locations nearby that voters could have accessed, I believe none of us would've been forced to wait more than an hour to vote.

HB19-1278 would alleviate these problems because in a dense area like the City Park neighborhood, voters need more opportunities to register, vote and address other issues. Carla Madison Rec Center was not able to accommodate the demand and more VSPPCs in the vicinity in the future is needed. The ability of voters to have access to these services is critical. I hope that you will support this bill so that for elections to come, voters like me and those who waited in line with me last year won't face the same challenges in the future. Please support this bill and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony about my experience.



4/2/2019