

Chelsea Meenan
515 S. Harrison Ave.
Lafayette, CO 80026

April 3rd, 2019

Thank you to the members of the committee for allowing me to submit this testimony as I'm unable to be there in person.

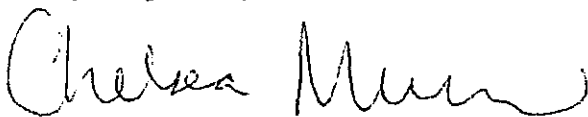
Last summer I moved to Lafayette after having lived in Denver for several years. I didn't want to miss my chance to vote in the 2018 election, so one of the first tasks I completed after the move was updating my voter registration. I knew the election was approaching and I began hearing my peers discuss their own plans while I waited excitedly for my ballot to arrive. After several days of checking the mail with no luck, I looked online and found that the ballot had been sent but never arrived.

I realized that I would have to make a trip to a Voter Service and Polling Center to pick up a replacement ballot in person. Ideally, I could have completed this errand on a weekend, but other Saturday appointments limited when I could make the trip and I was unable to find time during the narrow hours that VSPCs located near me in Lafayette were open. Instead, I scrambled to schedule time during the workday to leave the office and pick up my ballot.

We all have busy lives, and it is a lot to ask of Colorado residents to leave work to exercise their right to vote. For me, this presented a real obstacle that I'm sure others in similar situations aren't able to overcome. Expansion of VSPC hours on Saturday or outside of traditional working hours would have been a huge help, as I could have fit this errand into my schedule rather than arranging my day around it.

I'm asking for the support of the members of the committee to pass HB19-1278, the Colorado Votes Act, to reduce the friction required for Colorado residents to vote.

Thank you again for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsea Meenan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chelsea Meenan