

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

04/24/2023 Upon Adjournment

SB23-276 Modifications To Laws Regarding Elections

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Neal McBurnett Amend themselves	<p>I support the general thrust of the bill. Thank you.</p> <p>But I urge the committee to adopt all of the common-sense amendments offered by the League of Women Voters.</p> <p>I note that the experience of actually watching election processes in action is widely acknowledged to help the public in trusting elections. Clerks with whom I work regularly urge the public to learn more about the process, and see how that causes misconceptions to fall away and confidence to improve.</p> <p>So I support the league's proposal for making it easy for all members of the public to be watchers, rather than restricting appointment of watchers to just candidates and political parties. In fact I think their original proposal can be simplified to eliminate the text in two places starting "IF MORE NAMES ARE SUBMITTED THAN AVAILABLE ELECTION WATCHER SLOTS..." since the clerks will surely have better and simpler ways to deal with that situation when it arises, just as they do for other categories of watchers.</p>
Stephen Schleiker For themselves	<p>Good afternoon, Chairman Woodrow, Vice Chair Ortiz, and distinguished committee members. My name is Steve Schleiker, the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder. I write to you today to testify with many of my County Clerk colleagues in support of SB23-276, Modifications to Laws Regarding Elections.</p> <p>El Paso County has always been and continues to be a fiscally conservative County. We remain committed to doing more with less; however, the modernization of Election funding is critical, and I feel this Bill is a step in the right direction to address the deficiencies in our present and outdated, election funding reimbursement structure.</p> <p>In 2013, the implementation of HB-1303, what we know today as our current election model, drastically changed the conduct of elections in Colorado, resulting in greater cost. Many requirements implemented with HB-1303, including but not limited to; voter service and polling centers,</p>

	<p>ballot drop box requirements, mail ballot processes, same day voter registration, automatic voter registration, increased cyber and physical security infrastructure, and unaffiliated voters' participation in state primary elections have all contributed to increased cost for counties, municipalities, and other participating entities such as our local school and fire districts.</p> <p>Under the new proposed structure, counties would receive 45% of reimbursable election costs for general and coordinated elections where statewide content is on the ballot in addition to 50% of reimbursable election costs for state primary elections.</p> <p>In closing, I find it important to reiterate elections in Colorado have been under funded for ten plus years and too much of our election costs fall to the counties, municipalities, fire districts, and school districts. A percentage-based reimbursement proposed in SB23-276, is a smart path forward that will foster reimbursement automatic growth as expenses grow, naturally over time. This additional state investment in our elections shows Colorado's commitment to continuing to conduct accessible and secure elections for our citizens.</p> <p>I thank Senator Fenberg, and Representative Sirota for sponsoring this proposed legislation and I thank the committee for your time and consideration. I strongly urge a yes vote.</p>
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