



Please vote **NO** on SB 18-221

Altering County Commissioner Election Methods

Sponsors: Sen. Coram/Rep. Catlin

Under the current system in Colorado, county commissioners in counties smaller than 70,000 in population are elected from one of three districts (each of which must be roughly proportional in population) but are voted on by the **entire** electorate of the county. This creates a high level of cooperation and collaboration among the board of county commissioners, since each is working toward the good of the entire county and is accountable to **all** of the voters.

SB 221 would allow the voters to create a new system wherein each commissioner is elected **only** by the voters in their district. CCI is concerned that such a system would result in a more fractured and parochial board of county commissioners and create the potential for decision-making that is driven by partisan and provincial interests instead of the well-being of the entire county. Decisions on siting a landfill, for example, could be driven by NIMBYism instead of factors like responsible long-range planning and environmental quality. This system would also drive additional county costs as unique ballot designs would be necessary for each commissioner district.

A home rule option already exists for counties in Colorado statute, and this home rule provision allows for increasing the number of county commissioners and electing them by district. To date, only two of the 64 counties in Colorado (Pitkin County and Weld County) have opted to go to this alternative election style.

The current county election system in Colorado promotes sound decision-making by elected officials that is in the interest of **all** the citizens of the county. SB 221 could open the door to boundary disputes, decisions motivated by self-interest and an “us versus them” policy mentality that runs counter to the established model of sound governance at the local level.

We respectfully ask for your **NO vote on SB 18-221**

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