



Please vote **NO** on **SB 14-84**

Electing County Commissioners by District

Sponsor: Sen. Roberts

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 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 84 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 region. Decisions on siting a landfill, for example, could be driven by NIMBYism instead of factors like long range land use and environmental quality concerns.

A home rule option already exists for counties in Colorado statute, and this home rule provision features options for increasing the number of county commissioners and electing them by district. To date, only one county with a population less than 70,000 (Pitkin County) has moved to home rule.

CCI is also concerned that putting this measure on the ballot simultaneously with a commissioner election would make campaigning for county commissioner confusing and expensive, since a candidate would not know if they should be targeting the entire county or just the district.

The current system in Colorado promotes sound decision-making by elected officials that is in the interest of all the citizens of the county. SB 84 would open the door to petty boundary disputes and an “us versus them” mentality that is the exact opposite of sound governing.

We respectfully ask for your NO vote on SB 14-84