

COLORADO COUNTY CLERKS ASSOCIATION

Q & A - Colorado Voter Access & Modernized Elections Act

Why is this change needed?

Clerks in Colorado strive to serve our voters. We have a sound election system, but it is no longer meeting the needs of our voters. Nearly 72% of Colorado voters cast mail ballots, but many more are confused when they do not receive a ballot in a general election after all-mail local & primary elections. Improvements in technology allow us to offer a voting experience that is more secure, convenient, consistent and less complicated all while saving taxpayer dollars.

Updated voter registration

- Unlike other states with this model, Colorado will be using a “live” poll book in SCORE. For the first time, every polling place on Election Day will be able to verify in “real time” when voters cast their ballots giving our state unprecedented security.
- We are already doing a form of registration included in this bill because voters can currently (1) update their address via a mail ballot request until 8 days prior to the election (2) can show up and check a box that they tried to register prior to the deadline and (after signing an affirmation) will be given a regular ballot at the Clerks Office or early voting (3) can update their registration on a provisional ballot affidavit and the ballot will count after provisional verification.
- Registration dates have always been a balance of serving voter convenience against Clerks’ ability to process information. This bill creates a graduated registration system that serves voters based on our modern abilities, and it eliminates our current dependence on Election Day provisional ballots.

Mail ballot Delivery with All Options

- County Clerks have a comprehensive signature verification system, which validates every voter’s signature and other built-in safeguards to maintain high integrity in the election.
- Colorado has administered several successful elections using mail ballots.
- With this bill, our lists will be more current and accurate utilizing the National Change of Address database and updates with the Department of Corrections & Colorado Vital Statistics.

Will voters be required to vote by mail?

No. All options will still be available to voters. Because of technology that tracks when voters cast ballots in “real time”, we are able to securely offer voters options to (1) mail-in ballots (2) drop-off ballots at a Voter Service & Polling Center or drop-off location (3) vote in-person days before and on Election Day.

Will it save taxpayers money?

Yes. The taxpayers will save money through fewer mailings, reduced printing & postage, fewer location rentals, provisional ballots, etc. Additionally, significant savings will be realized in future equipment purchases.

Why are the Clerks supporting this legislation? Is this a partisan issue?

This bill acknowledges how Coloradans are casting ballots and modernizes our election system to simpler and more convenient for citizens. And a bipartisan commission will monitor and support the implementation of the changes in the bill. We have a chance this session to address real concerns and make needed updates. We hope that with the pressures and partisanship of a presidential election behind us, we can come together to make improvements in the interests of the voters and the people of Colorado – regardless of their party.

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