



# Office of the Clerk & Recorder

1750 33rd Street · Boulder, CO 80301 · [www.BoulderCounty.org](http://www.BoulderCounty.org)

**Molly Fitzpatrick, Boulder County Clerk & Recorder**

February 23, 2021

RE: SB 21-007

To: Senate Committee – State Veterans and Military Affairs

Dear Senate State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee:

I am writing to express my office's opposition to SB 21-007. This legislation undermines the validity of our election model and seeks to disenfranchise the millions of voters who want to participate in our elections.

Our mail ballot election model is safe, secure, and considered the "gold standard" of election administration across the nation for its voter-centric approach layered with security protocols. Every election is conducted with scores of bi-partisan election judges at nearly every stage of the process. Additionally, the certification, public testing, and audit process on our voting systems and numerous other policies and procedures already built into the election process are the foundation of our strong election model. The leadership, integrity, and commitment by all Colorado county clerks and their staffs to fulfill the statutory requirements already spelled out in election law should give comfort to this Committee and the citizens of Colorado that our election process is already secure.

In fact, Boulder County was the first county in Colorado to conduct a risk limiting audit to ensure that the tabulated results matched the voted paper ballots. Actions such as this promote public confidence in the validity of elections. Other security considerations include pre-election testing of ballots and equipment, a continually improving signature verification process, strict voter privacy procedures, and carefully documented chain-of-custody procedures. Election security is an aspect we continue to improve upon with each election, but this bill would be a step backwards and has no technical attributes to improve election security or bolster public confidence in the validity of our elections.

Additionally, the bill requires voters to affirm for each general election that they would like to receive a mail ballot. This places undue hardship on voters to receive a ballot in the mail. Already, when voters register, they are tacitly confirming they would like to receive a mail ballot. Restricting accessibility to ballots is a detriment and only serves to marginalize disadvantaged communities. Our process already includes voter list maintenance procedures that every county must follow to ensure a clean and accurate voter registration database. Furthermore, this bill requires that ballot counting cease on election night – disenfranchising hundreds of military and overseas voters who have 8 days after Election Day for their ballot to arrive at our office to be counted. An artificial deadline of election night would actually undermine the integrity and accuracy of our ballot processing procedures causing an undue rush to meet an arbitrary deadline.

This bill does nothing to promote public confidence in the validity of elections. Instead it is a roundabout attack on the mail ballot voting model and an attempt to "create a solution" for a non-existent issue. In a Colorado Sun online news article this past December, Colorado Republican Party spokesman Joe Jackson said, "we've been clear from the state party on our confidence in the Colorado election system." In addition to Republican state party confidence in the validity of elections, as the Boulder County Clerk, I consistently hear directly from my constituents that their experience with our mail ballot model is excellent and our ability to provide notifications when their mail ballot has been received and counted should serve as a model to the nation. Voters love that our model provides a secure method of voting, increases voter turnout, and partially this last year during the pandemic, provided them with a safe method of voting.

In summary, this bill seizes an opportunity to create uncertainty and doubt using a false narrative. We vehemently opposed this bill and urge you to vote no on SB-7.

Thank you for your service,

Molly Fitzpatrick  
Boulder County Clerk and Recorder

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