

The Legal Center for People  
with Disabilities  and Older People

*Colorado's Protection & Advocacy System*

November 10, 2009

The Honorable Bernie Buescher, Secretary of State  
Colorado Department of State  
1700 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80290

### Testimony Regarding Proposed Election Rules

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the elections rulemaking process. The Legal Center is Colorado's designated Protection and Advocacy System, charged with protecting the civil and human rights of Coloradans with disabilities. We administer the Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access Program, federally authorized and funded under the Help America Vote Act.

**New Rule 30.11.3** (Regarding polling place ID requirement exemption for residents of group residential facilities)

The proposed rule as written is acceptable. It places the burden of identifying all of the county's group residential facilities on each county clerk's election staffs, but I understand that this is not a new requirement. The change in 1-1-104(18.5) C.R.S. clarifies the definition of a "group residential facility" which should ease the burden, particularly for larger population counties.

This new rule should facilitate uniform compliance across Colorado. I do regard this as more of a training issue for election staff and election judges and urge the Secretary and county and local election officials to ensure that it is included in the appropriate curricula.

I have found that very few residents of group residential facilities actually vote at a precinct polling place or vote center, so do not anticipate any significant problems with this new rule.

**Rule 30.1.6(g)(V)** A valid identification card issued by a federally recognized tribal government certifying tribal membership.

As a member of the Colorado Lawyers Committee Election Task Force, I am very pleased to see this addition to the list of acceptable Identification. I also note that according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the rate of disability in the American Indian and Alaska Native communities is among the highest of any subpopulation. I believe that expanding the list of acceptable ID will facilitate greater participation by historically disenfranchised citizens.

**Rule 44.2 Training (for Voter Registration Drives)**

As a VRD organizer and agent, I agree with the changes to the mandatory training requirement. I have noticed that the election laws and rules are changed every year and annual training is helpful in keeping up with changes and staying in compliance. Adding an online option for the training will make it more accessible. I am pleased to see that there is an option for viewing the training session at the Secretary of State's Office.

Will Elections Division staff be available to answer questions or assist organizers taking the training in the office or remotely online?

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Gross  
VOTE! Coordinator