

NANCY A. DOTY

Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80166-0211
303/795-4511 (phone)
303/794-4625 (fax)
www.co.arapahoe.co.us



November 12, 2009

Arapahoe County Elections

Comments on Proposed Rules for Hearing on November 10, 2009
Nancy A. Doty, Clerk and Recorder

Arapahoe County appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules, and we offer the following comments for your consideration.

Arapahoe County's primary concern is proposed rule 2.18.2 which adds two new statuses to our voter registration process: Inactive—NCOA in county and Inactive—NCOA out of county. Those who are marked "Inactive—NCOA in county" are not subject to having their record canceled if they fail to vote in 2 general elections.

Creating two different categories appears to us to be unnecessary because if a voter moves, doesn't update their address AND fails to vote in 2 general elections, it should not matter where they move or how we get that information (NCOA, regular returned mail, etc.) Voters who do not move outside the county always have the opportunity for reinstatement as their "fail safe" if they really haven't moved out of the county.

Furthermore, Arapahoe County sends out thousands of NCOA letters each year. Thousands of those come back undeliverable. In a county like Arapahoe, determining "in county" or "out of county" is not as easy as just looking at the return address and easily identifying if the address is in our county. We share borders with several other metro counties where borders "zig zag" between cities, streets and even apartment complexes. When addresses are not obviously in our county, our staff will have to look all of these addresses up to determine if they are in county or out of county. This will be a very time consuming project and it will slow down the process significantly. We are not convinced that there is a good enough reason to create these new statuses when the amount of time it takes to manage the return mail will only increase.

We also would like to lend our support to the compilation of comments from various County Clerks and Election Officials which were presented by the ESRC.

We specifically want to reinforce our support for the comments relating to proposed changes to rules 2.2.3, 12.4.4 and 12.4.5.

We have previously submitted comments on the proposed changes to rules 30 and 40.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.