

Jefferson County Democratic Party
8725 W. 14th Ave, Ste 130 • Lakewood, CO 80215

July 23, 2012

Office of the Colorado Secretary of State
1700 Broadway #200
Denver, CO 80290

Re: Proposed Rulemaking on July 23, 2012

To whom it may concern,

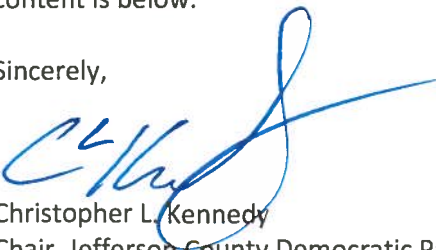
Our election process should be impartial and the integrity in election administration should be beyond reproach. Coloradans should always have the utmost confidence that their vote will be counted, without the taint of bias or impropriety.

These proposed rule changes fail to maintain a system removed from partisan interference. In particular, proposed rule 41.14.3(b), creating a new power of the Secretary to perform a mandatory investigation and help correct inaccuracies, violates the balanced, bipartisan authority of the Canvass Board. Reviewing an election at that juncture is not intended to have the weight of the Secretary's thumb affecting the election results. The Canvass Board is positioned best to determine the official results of an election through consideration and consensus. The current Secretary of State has demonstrated time and again the desire to execute his position in a way to "further the conservative view point"¹ and these rules are obviously designed to advance that goal.

I am enclosing a disk that contains several items that highlight the Secretary's strongly stated partisan preferences. In one article he exulted to fellow Republicans, "we stopped the Obama train."² A state's chief election officer should set aside all partisan objectives. When he does not, and instead grants himself more authority to substantively intervene in to what has been a historically bipartisan process, that expanded role becomes truly problematic.

I urge you to reject these rules, especially those referencing Canvass Board operations and the rule referenced above. Coloradans deserve to know that their elections are being administered fairly, particularly in such a crucial election year. Thank you for the consideration of this testimony. A complete list of the compact disk's content is below.

Sincerely,



Christopher L. Kennedy
Chair, Jefferson County Democratic Party

Compact Disk Contents:

- "We stopped the Obama train" (The Colorado Statesman, 2/20/2012)
- "Further the conservative viewpoint" (Greeley Tribune, 3/13/2011)
- "Dunk Tank fundraiser" stories (Multiple Sources)
- "A good election...Republicans win" (Huffington Post story and video clip, 6/25/2012)

¹ Miller, Nate A (2011, March 3). Weld Republicans reflect on past year, look to future. The Greeley Times.

² Strogoff, Jody Hope (2012, February 20). Scott Gessler, in his own words... The Colorado Statesman.