

July 25, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to Rule 12.4.1(d), amendments to Rule 12.11, and new Rule 13.19, which will clarify when a designated election official may mail ballots to an elector whose record is marked inactive. If the changes to Rules 12.4.1(d) and Rule 12.11 are upheld, it will have a great impact on the elderly, homebound clients that Volunteers of America serves through the Meals on Wheels program.

One of the largest constituents that are consistent voters, are seniors. For a homebound senior, the mail-in ballot is their best way to vote. A senior, who is homebound, often has difficulty arranging transportation to the polls. If they do get to the polls, there are other challenges they face, such as, vision impairment, unable to stand for long periods of time, and the lacking the stamina to complete the ballot in one setting.

Mail-in ballots allow a senior to vote from their home, taking their time to mark the ballot as they wish and doing it during the best part of the day for them. They can take a break from voting if they get tired and come back to the ballot when they are rested. They can sit in their own chair, without the pressure of feeling like they are taking too much time at the polls delaying other voters or delaying their transportation provider.

If a senior is registered to receive a mail-in ballot, but misses the election because they were in the hospital or in rehab, they may not remember to reactivate their status. In addition, many of Volunteers of America Meals on Wheels clients do not have access to the internet, and it may be difficult for them to reactivate their status, whether or not the process to do so is streamlined online.

Thank you for your consideration of some of Colorado's most vulnerable and civically engaged citizens when making your ruling.

Sincerely,



Dianna Kunz
President and CEO
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch