

**ACCESO OPPOSITION STATEMENT REGARDING
COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE
4,000 VOTERS PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP**

DENVER, CO – August 29, 2012 – On behalf of ACCESO--Denver's Spanish Language Voters Advisory Board to the Denver Clerk and Recorder and Elections Director, we are writing to express opposition to the recent letter campaign by Secretary of State Scott Gessler.

ACCESO takes voter access, rights and eligibility very seriously. We are actively engaged with the Denver Elections Division on this issue. We do not believe, however, that the 4,000 letters recently mailed to suspected ineligible voters is an accurate method of addressing potential voter eligibility or citizenship nor is it a responsible avenue or use of tax payer dollars.

We have been contacted by several individuals who erroneously received the voter eligibility letter who are in fact citizens and eligible voters. That their status would be questioned without proof or substantiation is unseemly and undemocratic.

The Secretary of State did not work with County Clerks to arrive at his list when they know their county best and would be in a far better position to responsibly assist in addressing voter eligibility.

ACCESO further emphasizes its support of the rights of all registered voters in the City and County of Denver by sending mail ballots to voters who are both 'active' and 'inactive/failed to vote' (IFTV). In the 2011 Municipal election cycle, approximately 15% of IFTV voters cast ballots. Denver's fair and accessible policy ensures all registered voters can participate in the civic process. Denver does not undermine or limit the rights of voters simply because they did not participate in the last general election and we will not be a City that does so in the future.

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ABOUT ACCESO: [ACCESO](#) Denver Spanish Language Advisory Board was established by [Denver city council ordinance](#) January 2010 to advise and recommend to the Denver Clerk and Recorder and the Denver Elections Division (DED) necessary policy and initiatives designed to assist and inform the DED of methods to maintain an effective and efficient Spanish language assistance program in accordance with the language assistance provision of Section 203 of the Voting Right Act of 1965, as amended. For more information go to www.denvergov.org/acceso

