

August 14, 2013

The Honorable Scott Gessler  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
1700 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80290

Re: Working Draft of Proposed Rules on Residency

Dear Secretary Gessler:

New Era Colorado Foundation is a nonpartisan, non-profit that engages, educates, and trains a new generation of active citizens and young leaders in Colorado. Traditionally, we have participated in voter registration, voter education and mobilization, and policy advocacy aimed at increasing civic participation among young voters in Colorado.

Vet Voice Foundation's mission is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through the civic and democratic process. We seek to harness the energy and drive of dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in our communities on important issues they face.

Together we have reviewed the proposed emergency rules and would like to offer comment on them as they are currently drafted.

Proposed Rule 2.10.4(B)(C):

We believe that this new addition creates a new standard that has no basis in statute, that is separate and more stringent than the standard set for all other voters in Colorado, and that this standard is discriminatory to students as well as members of the military and their families by requiring an intention not required of other eligible electors. We should not force students or member of the military and their families to comply with a residency requirement created by this rule that is different from every other voter. Like any other Coloradan, if a student or military member or family of a military member lives in Colorado now, has been a resident of the state for 22 days, and meets all other legal requirements including age and citizenship, they should be able to vote just like anybody else. This new rule is vague, confusing, and could potentially having a chilling effect on students and members of the military and their families that otherwise would register and participate in our elections. For this reason, we ask you to remove the language regarding permanent intent after completing school or service and not discriminate between eligible voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed emergency rule.

Sincerely,

Stephen Fenberg  
New Era Colorado Foundation

Garett Reppenhagen  
Vet Voice Foundation