Mesa County Rule Comment Submission 10-1-2013

Page 3 – Lines 10 – 11, requires every paper ballot would be visually inspected before being tabulated for what might be as tiny as symbol somewhere on the ballot that could possibly be a mark which could disclose a voter's identity, costing the larger counties labor hours during the abbreviated timeframe of conducting an election. Voters who sign their name to the write-in lines or other messages in the write-in are currently automatically sorted out. Also, this would be a subjective sort rather than the objective version where ballots are sorted out because the optical ballot scanner truly cannot process them. **Suggest omitting this requirement.** For a CORA request, the ballots will need to be inspected by election officials beforehand regardless, post election would be the appropriate time for an inspection to ensure all identifying information is redacted. Costs should not be incurred for a hand inspection and duplication effort unnecessarily.

Page 4, lines 22 – 30, previous practice accommodated other emergency situations other than medical emergencies. Suggest adding **(A)(3) To an elector displaced because of a natural disaster** and **(A)(4) To an elector who is unable to receive and return a ballot because of an administrative error.**

Page 18 lines 20-28, When a county can continue to update records under statute it seems contradictory to continue to send a ballot to a known bad address. Request reconsideration of purposely sending ballots to outdated addresses and request that when the statute does not prohibit address updates the clerks are allowed to continue to use the data. C.R.S. 1-2-302.5(3). If the elector moves out of county we believe statute says you do not inactivate them but do send a confirmation card. C.R.S. 1-2-302.5(2)(II)(A). By canceling the record, the receiving county may not see the canceled record as readily for moving them into the voter's new county.

Page 43, lines 12—15, It has historically not worked well to compare the property owners list to the voter registration list and accurately construct a list of active, eligible voters outside the county voter registration list. It is a better system to allow property owners to apply for a ballot if they want to vote and allow verification via the property owner's list obtained by the Assessor.

Page 44, lines 14-15, If an elector is having trouble retrieving a ballot, why require the application up front? Also why is it now only a replacement? Possibly the elector is inactive and it is original. Administrative emergency should be reinstated.

Page 47, lines 2-7, High volume ballot processing with a workable auditing system needs staging to ensure each ballot makes its way through the several processes and is accounted for. To require immediate entry into SCORE would compromise the auditing process in that the mail ballot staff and tabulation staff would never have a hard total to balance to. Suggestion: Must date stamp and receive the returned ballot envelopes in SCORE **within one business day** upon receipt **and immediately after each balancing point on Election Day**.

Page 57, line 6, Signature verification shows the voter's signature which is considered confidential information provided by CDOR or SCORE. Watchers do not take an oath that speaks to viewing a voter's confidential information, only to not disclose the results.

Page 85, lines 19-21, Further definition of what constitutes as a "creditable report" should be added, such as a report of equipment malfunction in writing, with documented events and not sent anonymously.

Page 94, line 32, Sharing of equipment between counties may be necessary in a disaster or emergency situation, or a municipality may need extra equipment and may not have the budget. What will be the criteria for approval or denial of this collaboration between political subdivisions?

Page 126, lines 4-8, Suggestion: Omit district. Residency is held under Title 1 by Intergovernmental Agreement between district and county. Elections judges will not have the capacity to verify several different registration dates.