

Andrea Gyger

From: Russ [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2013 8:36 PM
To: SoS Rulemaking
Cc: Suzanne Staiert; George Leing; Joel T. Champion; Ralph Shnelvar
Subject: HB1303 Comments & Feedback

Secretary Gessler,

I find it hard to believe that our state legislators could seriously draft such a preposterous bill as HB 1303.

After my experience on the Boulder County Canvass Board through a Primary and a General Election as well as two Logic & Accuracy Test panels I could hardly believe the lengths to which the Clerk was willing to go to circumvent the efforts of citizens to understand the process and assure themselves that Boulder County elections were transparent and above reproach. In many cases it seemed like a Clerk sponsored exercise in trying to make the process look corrupt in order to bait election judges and canvass board members into making accusations that could later be disproved and used to embarrass them. The 2012 Canvass Board was faced with misprinted ballots, dismissed precinct over-voting without verification of cause, opening of conditional ballots with no visible receipts, false claims to the press on the actions of canvass board members, derogatory remarks about citizen involvement followed by a refusal of indemnification or right to county representation in the face of potential lawsuits for violations of the sunshine act. These are not the actions of a responsible elected official attempting to uphold Colorado statutes.

Although your jurisdiction did not empower you to challenge the Boulder County Clerk regarding several violations of the statutes during the General Election, I'm certain you would agree that the lesson taken from the nine pages of documented infractions sent you by the majority of Canvass Board members, would demand stronger citizen oversight by representatives selected by the parties and not a watered down version wordsmithed in a manner that gives county clerks, who have a vested interest in the outcome, total control of the process.

I respectfully and strongly request that you veto this bill on the grounds that the history of Colorado has been and must continue to be a quest for open and transparent elections in which the loser can feel confident that their defeat was based on the people's decision and not on any politicians ability to manipulate the process or the votes. And, that to that end, citizens must be the final arbiter of the Abstract certification, polling place conduct and records and the end-to-end process of ballot counting.

Respectfully yours for government "...of the people, by the people and for the people..."

RW Boehm
Longmont, Colorado