

Andrea Gyger

From: Lening - CCR, Debra <debra.lening@state.co.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:43 AM
To: SoS Rulemaking
Subject: Comments - working draft election rules

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

On Page 3, (E) This appears to mean that the county would have to purchase additional software (BOSS) to be able to make these changes. This would be yet another costly unfunded mandate! The ongoing software costs for the HART equipment are already cost prohibitive for equipment that hasn't been used but once every two years at the General Election and now, with mail ballot elections, probably won't be voted on at all. It is available, but not utilized, as my voters tend to prefer the mail ballot. This programming would also require someone with IT capabilities, which we do not have nor can we afford. My Commissioners are wanting me to CUT staffing, not increase staffing, and this person would be possible. In addition, if the counties are going to be required to purchase all new equipment when the state decides what the uniform voting system is going to be, then what?

As I have expressed to the SOS office in the past, what happens when small counties can no longer afford elections? County monies are not increasing annually (especially in rural, agricultural, draught stricken counties); they are decreasing, but the costs continually rise, especially where elections are concerned! What would an affordable alternative be for this rule? These increasing mandates are going to bankrupt the counties. As I'm sure you are aware, we have under 1,000 active voters, so the cost per voter is already cost prohibitive under the best of circumstances. Software costs for the equipmen right now is just under \$13,000, so costs for my voters for just the equipment software is over \$13 per voter. And yes, I'm in panic mode because I don't want the new clerk coming in to already be so stressed with costs that she won't finish out her term! Just something to consider. There are other issues with these rules that I know other counties are having problems with and they are addressing them. Again, I'm down to one DRE (DAU) being available for each election and the only voting it receives is for the County LAT and the public LAT. These costs are half of my election budget now. Additional costs would not be feasible.

Debra C. Lening
Kiowa County Clerk
1305 Goff St., PO Box 37
Eads, CO 81036

Phone: (719) 438-5421
Fax: (719) 438_5327
email: debra.lening@state.co.us

Keep a smile on your face and a kind word on your lips!