

Dear Secretary Gessler:

I am writing to offer comments for the upcoming election rule-making session on August 14.

I am running for County Clerk as the Libertarian Party candidate in Boulder County.

I want you, the Secretary, to make rules that will make the use of mail ballots at least somewhat more secure. In particular:

- If a voter authorizes a third party to deliver a ballot, the third party must sign an authorization form. The form must include the last 4 digits of the third-party's voter id (social security number, etc.). This form must be placed inside the envelope (but outside the secrecy sleeve). All ballot envelopes not delivered by an individual voter or the U.S. Postal Service must be segregated so that such permission can be validated.
- I am very concerned about ballots being removed from their secrecy sleeves early. Those election officials and workers who remove the ballots early in an election cycle have the ability to count votes in their head and get a sense of how a race(s) is/are doing. Knowing how a race is going is a vast advantage to any political party or candidate. An election worker or judge being sworn to secrecy is a very thin reed to lean on in order to maintain election integrity.
- Please implement procedures that maintain voter privacy. It should never be the case that the contents of a ballot and the voter's name (or any other identifying mark, e.g., serial number) should be visible at the same time to anyone other than the voter.
- Please require that each signature and the corresponding voter name and address be clearly visible to watchers and judges for no less than 10 seconds per signature, thus enhancing the probability that the signature verifiers actually verify signatures rather than bounce on the accept key. This will also give watchers the ability to record the names of suspicious signatures to be forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed rules.

Ralph Shnelvar

