

**From:** Bennett Rutledge  
**To:** [SoS Rulemaking](#)  
**Cc:** [Officers](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on proposed election rules  
**Date:** Sunday, January 21, 2018 10:01:15 PM

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Mr. Williams,

I have been working closely with your Campaign and Political Finance rules for several years now. I appreciate the work that you and your staff put into them, and into Electoral regulations generally.

I have felt for an even longer time that its necessary change the current situation, where we in Colorado often have ballots with only one candidate in a particular race, and qualified electors must choose to vote for that one candidate, or not to vote at all in that race.

Among the changes you are making to the way elections are handled, would you please have a requirement that the write-in option be available in every race on every ballot? This way the write-in could at least be imaged, and recorded in the final election report, even if it could not be counted in the totals. It would be a big step back toward freedom for the voters so that "All elections shall be free and open; and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage."

-(Colo. Const. Art. II, Section 5.)

Thank you for supporting the voters of Arapahoe County, and of Colorado.

Bennett Rutledge  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@LPArapahoe.org](mailto:treasurer@LPArapahoe.org)  
P. O. Box 3492  
Littleton, CO 80161

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Secretary Williams invites you to comment on proposed election rules

From: SoS Rulemaking <[SoS.Rulemaking@SOS.STATE.CO.US](mailto:SoS.Rulemaking@SOS.STATE.CO.US)>

Date: Tue, January 16, 2018 11:14 am

To:

### **Help Shape Colorado's Election Rules**

Topic: Rules Concerning Elections

#### **What is this about?**

Secretary Williams is considering amendments to Colorado's Rules Concerning Elections (8 CCR 1505-1). The changes are intended to improve the administration and enforcement of Colorado election law and to increase transparency and security in the election process. The main goals of the proposed rulemaking are to:

- Establish uniformity in the administration of current law;
- Organize existing rules for clarity;
- Eliminate obsolete provisions;
- Simplify the language of existing rules; and
- Remove language that is duplicative of statute.

We invite you to share your thoughts and recommendations as we develop a preliminary draft of the proposed rules. Please review the attached working draft and proposals.

**Why does the Secretary need my help?**

The Secretary values your feedback and we would very much like to hear your thoughts. We need your help to identify necessary revisions or additional guidance in order to propose a constructive and comprehensive draft rule for consideration during the rulemaking proceedings. Overall, we invite your opinions and recommendations to help shape Colorado's Election Rules.

**How do I submit my comments and what is the deadline?**

You may email your comments to [SOS.Rulemaking@sos.state.co.us](mailto:SOS.Rulemaking@sos.state.co.us). To ensure consideration of your comments before we issue the proposed draft, we must receive your comments by 5:00 p.m. on January 23, 2018.

**Will my comments become part of the official record for the anticipated rulemaking?**

Yes, we will incorporate your comments into the official record when we commence with formal rulemaking. Our office will identify your comments as information received in anticipation of rulemaking to support the development of the proposed draft rule. Please note that you will have an additional opportunity to provide testimony and/or written comments regarding the proposed rule during the rulemaking proceeding.

To promote transparency and to help generate discussion, our office will post a copy of your comments on the Secretary of State's website. We appreciate privacy concerns and will redact apparent personal contact information from your comments prior to posting (including your home address, personal email address, and telephone number). To view the comments that we receive, please

visit: [http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/rule\\_making/ruleComments.html](http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/rule_making/ruleComments.html).