

From: [Curtis Chong](#)
To: [SoS Rulemaking](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support Of Proposed Rule Changes Requiring Audio Demonstrations of Accessible Voting Systems
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023 2:28:42 PM

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND
of Colorado
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July 20, 2023

Jena Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State
1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, Colorado 80290
Email: SoS.RuleMaking@coloradosos.gov

RE: In Support Of Proposed Rule Changes Requiring Audio Demonstrations of Accessible Voting Systems

Greetings and salutations:

The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado, the largest organization of the blind in the state, supports [proposed amendments to Colorado Elections rules](#) requiring providers of voting systems to demonstrate the accessibility features of their voting equipment, including the audio that a voter who is blind would hear when marking a ballot using the nonvisually-accessible interface. In previous demonstrations of voting systems in Colorado, the nonvisual access features available to the blind were mentioned but rarely demonstrated. This rule change is essential if blind voters are to gain a clear understanding of the nonvisual access features of the voting system--including (but not limited to):

- the clarity and responsiveness of generated speech;
- the ability of the system accurately to pronounce candidate names on the ballot;
- the voter's ability to adjust the speed of generated speech to suit his/her unique needs;
- the ability of the nonvisual interface to enable voters to correct unintended mistakes that might have been made when selecting candidates for specific contests; and
- the procedure that a nonvisual voter would use to enter the names of write-in candidates.

From the perspective of a voter who is blind, simply hearing how a talking voting system functions can hardly be considered sufficient to judge the effectiveness of what is being demonstrated. Just as sighted individuals need actually to see what is being demonstrated, we who are blind need to hear how a voting system will behave when a voter uses the nonvisual interface to mark a ballot.

The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado applauds the Secretary of State for

proposing these changes to Election rules and looks forward to a speedy implementation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Chong", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Curtis Chong, Voting Rights Coordinator
National Federation of the Blind of Colorado