



925 S Niagara St Suite 600

Denver, Co 80224

***Representing >29,000 Coloradans***

RE: HB22-1204 - OPPOSE

Members of the House State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee

Representatives,

The Colorado Alliance for Retired Americans is in strong opposition to HB22-1204, titled as "Election Systems."

This is an attempt of voter suppression and needs to be Postponed Indefinitely.

Please oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

CARA Lobby Committee, Mona Moffatt, Sara Gagliardi, Sheila Lieder, Ed Augden

## HB22-1204 – Election Systems

Thank you Chairman Kennedy and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Holly Monkman and today I'm representing the League of Women Voters of Colorado. I am testifying in opposition to House Bill 1204.

Since its inception in 1920, the League of Women Voters has remained nonpartisan. We believe issues and legislation remain above partisan politics and promote inclusion for greater citizen involvement. The League envisions a democracy where every citizen has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado supported the expansion of voting options such as returning ballots by mail or drop-box. Requiring in-person ballot return at only polling places on only election day upends the voting system that has worked so well for Colorado. As evidence, Colorado consistently has high voter turnout, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for the 2020 & 2018 federal elections and ranking 4<sup>th</sup> in the 2016 & 2014 federal elections. Additional evidence is recorded in testimony for a similar bill from last year, SB21-007, which was presented in the Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee. In this testimony:

- the representative from the Secretary of State's office confirmed that 94% of votes cast were mailed ballots and of those mailed ballots, over 70% were returned via drop-box.
- two County Clerks testified that 89% of their mailed ballots were returned via drop-box, while the remainder were either mailed or dropped off at a Voter Service Polling Center.

Expanding the number of days to return ballots and offering drop-boxes has been a big part of Colorado's voter turnout success.

While there are many additional parts of this bill that the League of Women Voters of Colorado takes issue with, I will mention just one more. The requirement to include an identifiable sequence marking that allows a voter to receive a uniquely marked or numbered ballot. This contradicts the secrecy of the ballot that is essential to any election system. Secret ballots ensure that a vote is anonymous and cannot be traced back to an individual in order to prevent intimidation, blackmail and vote-buying.

The League strongly opposes House Bill 1204 and I ask you to please vote no. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

**TO: Members of the House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee**

**FROM: Curtis Chong, Voting Rights Coordinator  
National Federation of the Blind of Colorado  
Email: [chong.curtis@gmail.com](mailto:chong.curtis@gmail.com)**

**DATE: March 14, 2022**

**SUBJECT: HB22-1204: Concerning Election Systems**

**When Colorado first implemented its vote-by-mail system, the blind and other voters who could not read, hold, or mark the ballot mailed to them were confronted with two choices: ask someone to help them to mark the ballot (and thereby give up their right to vote privately and independently) or visit a voting services polling center and use “accessible” equipment to read and mark their ballot.**

**But when SB19-202 and SB21-188 were signed into law, Colorado established itself as a national leader in voting accessibility for people with disabilities, including people who are blind or print-disabled. Voters who were unable to read, hold, or mark the ballots mailed to them were now given the ability to receive, mark, and return their ballots in a truly secret and independent way.**

**If HB22-1204 becomes law, voting accessibility for the blind and people with other disabilities would be destroyed, and the community would be denied the ability to mark ballots with complete independence and privacy. Even worse, those of us who cannot drive would be forced to travel to voter polling service centers, not to mention having to use supposedly accessible but inferior voting systems with which we are not thoroughly familiar.**

**Please vote no on HB22-1204.**

**Thank you kindly for your attention to this matter.**

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