



## COLORADO

### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 1 - John Justman 970-244-1605  
 District 2 - Scott McInnis 970-244-1604  
 District 3 - Rose Pugliese 970-244-1606

P.O. Box 20,000 544 Rood Avenue Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5010 mcbocc@mesacounty.us Fax (970) 244-1639

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Chris Kennedy, Chair  
 House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee  
 200 E. Colfax Ave.  
 Denver, CO 80203

Re: House Bill 19-1278 — Modifications to Uniform Election Coded

Dear Representative Kennedy and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Mesa County Commissioners and Mesa County Clerk and Recorder submit this letter in strong opposition to House Bill 1278, concerning modifications to miscellaneous provisions of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992".

Passage of HB19-1278 will have massive unmandated fiscal impacts on Mesa County. This bill modifies the formulas in the statute that mandate how many Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPCs) and 24-hour drop boxes must be provided during an election, expanding hours of operation closer to the election and requiring that they be open on Sunday before the election.

Establishing new VSPCs includes a myriad of unfunded mandates, such as the rental cost for space, purchasing additional laptops, scanners and voting machines and paying for security and additional election judges. The County Clerks Association estimates that this bill will cost all the counties approximately \$5 million to implement, without any state financial assistance.

Colorado is second in the nation in voter turnout and fourth in the nation for lowest wait times. Only a small handful of counties had wait times on election day that were greater than an hour – this bill goes way too far and puts expensive mandates on numerous counties in an attempt to address election day wait times in just a few urban counties.

Mesa County strongly urges this committee vote "no" on HB19-1278.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Rose Pugliese, Chair  
 Board of Mesa County Commissioners

Tina Peters  
 Mesa County Clerk & Recorder