

Subject: [Colorado Voter].4095 Please repair or withdraw HB13-1041.
From: Al Kolwicz <Al@alkolwicz.net>
Date: 1/25/2013 4:12 PM
To: "Hd28staff@gmail.com" <Hd28staff@gmail.com>, "brittany.pettersen.house@state.co.us" <brittany.pettersen.house@state.co.us>, "john.kefalas.senate@state.co.us" <john.kefalas.senate@state.co.us>
CC: "Colorado Voter Group (ColoradoVoter@googlegroups.com)" <ColoradoVoter@googlegroups.com>

Senator Kefalas and Representative Pettersen,

Unfortunately I will be out of town next week and unable to attend the hearing where your HB13-1041 will be discussed.

Colorado Voter Group and its members routinely make important use of CORA for major public policy issue work focused on election quality. We are very disappointed to see that your bill proposes that "all other costs" of production of the records be paid to custodians, although this is the essence of the public record keeping duties of clerks and recorders and other record custodians. The public is already paying for the staffing for such record keeping and production as the departments are funded.

We have considerable experience with custodians who have attempted to charge unaffordable amounts, including many indirect and overhead costs of their offices, making public access to records affordable to only large organizations or citizens with considerable financial means. Our experience makes clear that in many cases, the more sensitive the record, the more unaffordable it becomes when left to the discretion of the custodian. That has never been, in the history of the Colorado Open Records Act since 1967, Colorado's public policy--to effectively create access only for the financially strong organizations or the wealthy.

We are discouraged to see your bill legitimize far higher cost for the average citizen or non-profit to access basic public records. If passed as is, the bill would likely cause harm to the work of Colorado Voter Group in that we would not have the funding to pursue many of the election related investigations that we have historically undertaken over the years.

As a result, Colorado Voter Group will prepare a statement to be read at the hearing by one of our members to recommend against passage of the bill given that it contains the clause that encourages increased cost of public records access. I hope that you and your colleagues will reconsider the harmful public policy and transparency impacts of this particular clause of your bill that otherwise seems to have the intention of making records more accessible.

Thank you for considering our requests and concerns.

Al Kolwicz

Colorado Voter Group

<http://www.ColoradoVoterGroup.org>

2867 Tincup Circle

Boulder, CO 80305

303-499-9527

Al@alkolwicz.net

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Colorado Voter Group" group.

To post to this group, send email to coloradovoter@googlegroups.com.