

April 15, 2013

Dear Rep. Su Ryden, Chair (D-Aurora), Rep. Joe Salazar, Vice (D-Thornton),  
Rep. Jovan Melton (D-Aurora) , Rep. Jeanne Labuda (D-Denver), *(Rep. Levy)*,  
Rep. Michael Foote (D-Boulder) , Rep. Angela Williams (D-Denver),  
Rep. Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City), Rep. Tim Dore (R-SE Colorado),  
Rep. Dan Nordberg (R-Colo Springs), Rep. Ray Scott (R-Grand Junction), and  
Rep. Steven Humphrey (R-Greeley):

I am Mary Eberle, Boulder, and I have been involved in election integrity work in Boulder and at the state level since 2002. I want to make the point that signature verification is at best weak and vulnerable in the current system and increasing the volume of mail ballots only exacerbates the lack of integrity of the election. Please vote "NO" on HB13-1303.

I served on the Canvass Board for the Boulder County November General Election. The Canvass Board received many sharply negative watcher reports concerning the failure of the clerk's workers to actually verify mail ballot signatures. As a watcher and canvass board member, I also observed the signature so-called "verification," and I was appalled at the process. Four pairs of signatures flashed by on monitors at the measured and documented rate of 2 seconds per screen. I saw many signatures I would have looked at more closely before approving. Therefore, I joined a majority of the Boulder County Canvass Board in not certifying the November election.

The Canvass Board must reconcile the data showing how many ballots were cast. That was impossible primarily because of the failed signature verification process for mail ballots. The Secretary of State accepted the statewide race results from Boulder County, but the local races and issues have never been certified. (If anyone says differently, ask that person for the statute that allows local certification if a canvass board does not certify.) If canvass boards in other counties had the benefit of watcher reports about signature verification, the November election in many other counties might not have been certified. Language in 1303 could be used to prevent watchers from verifying signatures and also prevent candidates in a recount from viewing signatures. How will future canvass boards know if the number of ballots cast is correct and thus the Abstract of Votes Cast is certifiable?

Please vote NO on this bill because of the many opportunities it presents for decreasing election integrity.

Respectfully,

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