

Support Improvements to Colorado's Election System
 HB26-1113 Sponsored by Reps Sirota, Willford, and Senator Wallace

HB26-1113 is a clean up bill for elections and voting. Colorado is a national role model for administering secure, safe, accessible, and fair elections. Each year, Colorado's 64 County Clerks, the Secretary of State, and other stakeholders identify clarifications, adjustments, and improvements that are needed to make our election system even better.

Key provisions:

Expands student access to voting by...

- ...prohibiting limits on the amount of signage a County Clerk and post on higher education campuses
- ...requiring higher education institutions to send out two additional Get Out the Vote (GOTV) emails to students; one on the day ballots drop and another on the Monday before each statewide election.
- ...allowing fifteen year old students to serve as election judges (previously the age requirement was sixteen)

Requires the Governor to appoint someone of the same party as the vacating member in the case of a U.S. Senate vacancy.

Creates flexibility for County Clerks and County Sheriffs in fulfilling their requirement to provide confined eligible voters an opportunity to vote through the mandated 6 hours of in-person voting in each county jail by...

- ... creating a tiered system of required in-person voting hours ranging from 3-6 hours based on jail bed counts.

Requires County Clerks to address long lines at their Voting Services and Polling Centers (VSPCs) by...

- ... triggering a reporting requirement produced by the County Clerks if their VSPC lines exceed 1 hour. The report must be sent to the Secretary of State (SOS) and include logistical details on staffing, equipment, and other key information about the VSPC location and possible causes for the long lines. Additionally, the report must include a remediation plan for preventing long lines in future elections.

Clarifies when a candidate may run for more than one office by...

- ... prohibiting candidates from running for more than one office that will be voted on in the same election at one time.

Expands access to voting by

- ... requiring ballots to be mailed out a week earlier. Currently ballots are required to be mailed to voters between 22-18 days before the election. The bill changes the requirement to 29-25 days before the election.

... expands when a voter may leave work to vote from the day of election to any day during the early voting period

Cure letters

... requires a county clerk to send the cure letter and form that the voter must return to cure their ballot by overnight mail or hand delivery if the county fails to timely send cure letters to voters.

Drop boxes

...adds drop boxes and buildings containing vote centers to the "interference with voting" election offense and makes clear that any person who interferes with a voter who is within 100 feet of a drop box or building containing a vote center commits an election offense.