



Office of the Clerk & Recorder

1750 33rd Street · Boulder, CO 80301 · www.BoulderCounty.org

Molly Fitzpatrick, Boulder County Clerk & Recorder

February 22, 2021

RE: HB 1071

To: House Committee - State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs

Dear House State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee:

I am writing to express my office's support in advancing HB 1071. While there are still outstanding clarifications and contingencies we need to see incorporated in to offer support in the Senate, we believe the substance of this bill is moving in the right direction for Boulder County and the City of Boulder's purposes.

As the jurisdiction who would likely be responsible for the first implementation of an Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) election in Colorado under the new standards, we appreciate Representative Kennedy's effort to ensure many of our requirements are reflected in this piece of legislation, and we remain committed to ensuring this legislation continues improving as it moves through the process. Our outstanding concerns that we would need to see resolved in the Senate include auditing, contingencies around licensing, and timelines.

Our office approaches this bill from an administrative and technical perspective for Boulder County and all of Colorado. We recognize that there will be substantial impacts to the Secretary of State's office as well as other Colorado counties should their municipalities pursue IRV. For that reason, our office first reviews this bill from the purview of how it will help support fulfilling the outcome of the 2020 ballot question in the City of Boulder.

Additionally, our office also recognizes that this legislation will create the framework on which IRV is based in Colorado, and we remain committed to ensuring our election community proceeds with a great deal of care and intention. Colorado is a national leader in elections, and the framework for IRV elections must ensure that voters can expect the same high standards in IRV as they have come to expect from our plurality elections.

An individual county simply does not have the resources or authority to effectively implement IRV – including voting system certification and establishing conditions of use. This bill mandates that the Secretary of State to do this work; as well as promulgate rules and standards around how these types of elections are run at a larger scale both wholly within a county and with districts that cross county boundaries; and how to incorporate ranked choice voting into our risk-limiting audit system. With this mandate written in the legislation, as this bill moves into the Senate, we need to continue examining the specifics of contingencies, timelines, resources, and costs to ensure our state is set up to be successful.

Thank you for your service,

Molly Fitzpatrick
Boulder County Clerk and Recorder