



Office of the Clerk & Recorder

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Molly Fitzpatrick, Boulder County Clerk & Recorder

To: House Committee – State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs
From: Molly Fitzpatrick, Boulder County Clerk and Recorder
Date: March 8, 2021
Subject: HB 1053

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

I am writing to express our office's opposition to advancing HB 1053. Our office is committed to implementing elections centered on transparency, accountability, and accuracy, and we remain committed to supporting processes and legislative changes that enhance these values. HB 1053 does not enhance these values in our elections processes.

A manual recount is a time-intensive and resource-heavy process and must have a timeline structure designed to support accuracy. The timeline for counties to be able to conduct a successful manual recount would need to be expanded well beyond the current timelines in order to maintain accuracy.

Additionally, there is already a process put in place to trigger a recount. An automatic recount is required if the margin of victory in an election is less than or equal to 0.5% of the winner's vote. Moreover, a procedure to request a recount is already in place. In this case, the recount must be requested by an interested party within 28 days after the election and completed no later than 37 days after the election.

Existing statute provides a strong mechanism to ensure elections are conducted properly and receive additional review in closely contested races and, in the view of this office, provides ample opportunity to request a recount in cases where it would not be automatically triggered.

Thank you,

Molly Fitzpatrick

Molly Fitzpatrick | **County Clerk & Recorder**
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