

Date: Feb. 4 2015

Subject: support Neville HB 1051

Representative

I will not be driving through snow to Denver 3 hours today and three hours back but please do support HB 1051 that adds quality to special district and municipal elections through a mechanism for signature verification and a means of oversight and capture of complaints.

The SDA certainly does not want the oversight but have lived with it since their inception with the exception of the previous year.

The citizens deserve SOS oversight on their local elections. We deserve an eligibility check for local elections too.

This bill is a no brainer other than the details. Once I learn the contents of any amendment I would be happy to discuss details. I hope this will be possible in preparation for second reading.

Harvie Branscomb

(attempting to listen in from western Colorado)

Madam Chair and members of the House Veterans and State Affairs Committee:

HB15-1051 Open Letter

Madam Chair and members of the House Veterans and State Affairs Committee:

The Colorado Union of Taxpayers urges your support for HB15-1051, a much needed bill to restore basic controls to local elections. CUT recognizes that the vast majority of property taxes in Colorado are levied by special districts and local government. Many times the elections to impose the taxes and debt of those districts are conducted in questionable conditions with little transparency or oversight. Restoring Secretary of State oversight to special district elections is unquestionably needed. In 2014, CUT spent tens of thousands of dollars attempting to challenge election irregularities in court in the West Metro Fire District major tax increase, although the tax measure was defeated. CUT was concerned beyond the short term "win" for the taxpayers. The system itself was in danger.

Voter privacy was being openly violated and without Secretary of State oversight, District officials refused to stop the violations, or the poor security in handling the ballots. If there had been basic Secretary of State oversight, the voters could have filed simple complaints with the Secretary who could have stepped in to solve that problem that was not resolved. The voters confidence is lowered, and they have little trust in the system. Mail ballots were handled like grocery coupons-no signature verification, election workers with easy access to see how people voted, and unauthorized firemen allowed to handle the ballots. Without SOS oversight and required controls, there is little that citizens can do to stop this degrading of the basic tool of our self-governance.

Please support Colorado voters' desire for fair, secure local elections. Please vote to pass HB15-1051.

Thank you,

Gregory Golyansky, President,

Colorado Union of Taxpayers.

(720) 201-8789