



**CCCA**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: COUNTY CLERKS' OPEN LETTER TO VOTERS**

Wheat Ridge, CO- Interest peaks in a Presidential Election cycle, sometimes in a frenzied manner of soundbites without context, attention to detail or factual data to support utterly wild assertions. This is part and parcel of a democratic process where speech and a free press is as precious as the access to the vote. As the election nears, it is appropriate to remind voters that our system is the best in the world and will achieve meaningful and credible outcomes.

Election officials will continue to educate about how we vote in Colorado. The election is administered by the citizens of Colorado. They are your neighbors that are elected, appointed and trained to represent the voters. Starting early in the year, election officials begin to recruit for civic-minded citizens to participate in administering the election. Election judges are appointed by the interested parties on the ballot and election officials that collect lists of citizens that wish to serve. That election is held with transparency, security and oversight, in a completely open and public process. It is worth noting, attempts by voters to commit fraud exist; however, they are rare and referred to the authorities for investigation. There are numerous checks and balances for access and integrity.

Voting Service and Polling locations are staffed by citizen judges trained to help voters update and register to vote, cast or drop off their ballot in an environment that is efficient, neutral and insulated from rhetoric or political influence. Poll watchers, election observers and media representatives that are legally appointed and trained in the federal and state laws are welcomed to respectfully observe all points of the process. Any attempts to disrupt the election are illegal and are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Mail ballots are sent to every voter with an updated registration, that may be voted in the privacy of your own home and returned where they are processed, signatures verified, and securely counted by the citizen judges in politically diverse teams.

How do you cut through the rhetoric? Election officials everywhere invite voters to go to the source for information on how your election is run. Go to your county clerk's website or the CCCA's website [www.mycoloradovote.org](http://www.mycoloradovote.org) to understand the facts about how your vote counts. Take a tour of your local elections office. Ask your neighbor that has served as an election judge about their experience, or better yet- become an election judge in the next election! Surveys conducted every cycle show that the voters of Colorado have the highest confidence in their elections. In a [2016 Pew Survey Issue Brief](#), ninety-five percent (95%) of voters were "highly satisfied or satisfied" with their voting experience. Any effort to intentionally undermine that confidence should be scrutinized. The old saying is still true. All elections are local, and ours are run by you.

Mission Statement:

*"Create an organizational structure that supports best practices, use of technology and appropriate legislation through teamwork, communication and mutual respect."*