



March 3, 2022

Colorado General Assembly

**RE: HB22-1204 Election Systems - OPPOSE**

Thank you, Chairman Kennedy and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Holly Monkman and today I'm representing the League of Women Voters of Colorado. I am testifying in opposition to House Bill 1204.

Since its inception in 1920, the League of Women Voters has remained nonpartisan. We believe issues and legislation remain above partisan politics and promote inclusion for greater citizen involvement. The League envisions a democracy where every citizen has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado supported the expansion of voting options such as returning ballots by mail or drop-box. Requiring in-person ballot return at only polling places on only election day upends the voting system that has worked so well for Colorado. As evidence, Colorado consistently has high voter turnout, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for the 2020 & 2018 federal elections and ranking 4<sup>th</sup> in the 2016 & 2014 federal elections. Additional evidence is recorded in testimony for a similar bill from last year, SB21-007, which was presented in the Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee. In this testimony:

- the representative from the Secretary of State's office confirmed that 94% of votes cast were mailed ballots and of those mailed ballots, over 70% were returned via drop-box.
- two County Clerks testified that 89% of their mailed ballots were returned via drop-box, while the remainder were either mailed or dropped off at a Voter Service Polling Center.

Expanding the number of days to return ballots and offering drop-boxes has been a big part of Colorado's voter turnout success.

While there are many additional parts of this bill that the League of Women Voters of Colorado takes issue with, I will mention just one more. The requirement to include an identifiable sequence marking that allows a voter to receive a uniquely marked or numbered ballot. This contradicts the secrecy of the ballot that is essential to any election system. Secret ballots ensure that a vote is anonymous and cannot be traced back to an individual in order to prevent intimidation, blackmail and vote-buying.

The League strongly opposes House Bill 1204 and I ask you to please vote no. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Holly Monkman, Volunteer Lobbyist  
Legislative Action Committee  
League of Women Voters of Colorado  
1410 Grant Street, Suite B-204  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-863-0437