



Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Office of the Secretary of State
Election Rules
8 CCR 1505-1

February 14, 2020

I. Hearing Notice

As required by the State Administrative Procedure Act,¹ the Secretary of State gives notice of proposed rulemaking. The hearing is scheduled for **March 23, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Aspen Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Secretary of State's Office at 1700 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80290.

II. Subject

The Secretary is considering amendments to the election rules² to improve the administration and enforcement of Colorado election law.³

Specifically, the Secretary proposes permanent adoption of temporary rules, adopted on February 3, 2020. The Secretary is also considering rule revisions necessary to ensure the proper administration of elections and risk-limiting audits statewide; certify elections equipment; eliminate obsolete provisions; organize existing rules for clarity; simplify the language of existing rules; and ensure consistency with Department rulemaking standards. The Secretary may consider additional rule amendments.

A detailed Statement of Basis, Purpose, and Specific Statutory Authority follows this notice and is incorporated by reference.

III. Statutory authority

The Secretary proposes the rule revisions and amendments in accordance with the following statutory provisions:

¹ Section 24-4-103(3)(a), C.R.S. (2019).

² 8 CCR 1505-CCR 1.

³ Article VII of the Colorado Constitution, Title 1 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 ("HAVA"), P.L. No. 107-252.

- Section 1-1-107(2)(a), C.R.S., (2019), which authorizes the Secretary of State “[t]o promulgate, publish and distribute...such rules as the secretary finds necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of the election laws.”
- Section 1-1.5-104(1)(e), C.R.S., (2019), which gives the Secretary of State the power to “[p]romulgate rules...as the secretary finds necessary for the proper administration, implementation, and enforcement of HAVA.”
- Section 1-5-601.5, C.R.S., (2019), which allows the Secretary of State to “require by rule that voting systems and voting equipment satisfy voting systems standards promulgated after January 1, 2008, by the federal election assistance commission as long as such standards meet or exceed those promulgated in 2002.”
- Section 1-5-613(1), C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to “adopt uniform rules...for the purchase and sale of voting equipment in the state.”
- Section 1-5-616, C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to adopt rules “that establish minimum standards for electronic and electromechanical voting systems.”
- Section 1-7-510(6), C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to promulgate rules to implement the section regarding election setup records.
- Section 1-7-515 (4), C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to promulgate rules “necessary to implement and administer,” risk-limiting audits.
- Section 1-7.5-106(2), C.R.S., (2019), which allows the Secretary of State to adopt rules governing procedures and forms necessary to implement” mail ballot elections.
- Section 1-8.5-112, C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to adopt rules governing the issuance of provisional ballots statewide.

IV. Copies of draft rules

A preliminary draft of the proposed rules is posted on the Secretary of State’s rules and notices of rulemaking website at:

www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/rule_making/hearings/2020/ElectionsRulesHearing20200323.html.

You may also contact our office to request a paper or editable electronic copy of the draft rules.

As required by the State Administrative Procedures Act,⁴ if changes are made before the hearing, revised proposed draft rules will be available to the public and posted on the website by March 18, 2020.

V. Opportunity to testify and submit written comments

⁴ Section 24-4-103(3)(a), C.R.S. (2019). “Any proposed rule or revised proposed rule by an agency which is to be considered at the public hearing...shall be made available to any person at least five days prior to said hearing.”

The Secretary values your feedback in our rulemaking process and we would very much like to hear your thoughts on the proposed amendments. Please review and consider the attached proposed draft rules.

Everyone will have the opportunity to testify and provide written comment concerning the rule amendments. To ensure that the hearing is prompt and efficient, oral testimony may be time-limited.

You may submit written comments by mail, email, or in person to our office any time before the hearing. If you attend the hearing, you may submit written comments to the hearing panel as well. Additional opportunity to comment in writing may be announced at the conclusion of the hearing.

All written comments will be posted online at the Secretary of State website: www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/rule_making/hearings/2020/ElectionsRulesHearing20200323.html.

We will redact contact information, including home address, email address, and telephone number(s), from submissions before posting the information online, unless otherwise directed by the contributor.

VI. Broadcast and audio recording of hearing

If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may listen to the live broadcast from the Blue Spruce Conference Room online at www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/info_center/audioBroadcasts.html. After the hearing, visit the same website and click on “archived recordings” to access an audio recording of the hearing.

VII. Office contact

If you have any questions or would like to submit written comments, please contact Andrea Gyger with the Administration Division at SoS.Rulemaking@sos.state.co.us or (303) 894-2200 ext. 6329.

Dated this 14th Day of February, 2020.



Jenny Flanagan
Deputy Secretary of State

For

Jena Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State



Draft Statement of Basis, Purpose, and Specific Statutory Authority

**Office of the Secretary of State
Election Rules
8 CCR 1505-1**

February 14, 2020

I. Basis and Purpose

This statement explains proposed amendments to the Colorado Secretary of State Election Rules. The Secretary is considering other amendments to ensure uniform and proper administration, implementation, and enforcement of Federal and Colorado election laws,¹ improve elections administration in Colorado, and increase the transparency and security of the election process.

Specific proposed changes include:

- New Rule 1.1.17 to establish minimum standards for the certification of electronic voting systems in the state.
- Amendments to Rule 6.4.1 to clarify existing rules regarding signature verification.
- Amendments to Rule 7.2.3 to ensure proper administration of mail ballot elections statewide.
- New Rule 7.2.17 to ensure proper administration of mail ballot elections statewide.
- New Rule 7.9.11 to implement and ensure proper administration of HB 19-1278 and mail ballot elections statewide.
- New Rule 7.17 to ensure proper administration of mail ballot elections statewide, specifically in regards to the operation of voter service and polling centers.
- Amendments to Rule 11.3.2 further prescribing the manner of performing logic and accuracy testing.

¹ Article VII of the Colorado Constitution, Title 1 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (“HAVA”), P.L. No. 107-252.

- Amendments to Rule 17.1.2 to further implement HB 19-1278 and to ensure that the HAVA requirement that provisional ballots be issued to voter’s whose eligibility cannot be immediately determined is followed.
- New Rule 21.1.1(c) to further establish minimum standards for the certification of electronic voting systems in the state.
- Amendments to Rule 25.2.2 further prescribing the manner of performing risk-limiting audits statewide.

Other changes to rules not specifically listed are non-substantive and necessary for consistency with Department rulemaking format and style. Cross-references in rules are also corrected or updated.

II. Rulemaking Authority

The statutory and constitutional authority is as follows:

- Section 1-1-107(2)(a), C.R.S., (2019), which authorizes the Secretary of State “[t]o promulgate, publish and distribute...such rules as the secretary finds necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of the election laws.”
- Section 1-1.5-104(1)(e), C.R.S., (2019), which gives the Secretary of State the power to “[p]romulgate rules...as the secretary finds necessary for the proper administration, implementation, and enforcement of HAVA.”
- Section 1-5-601.5, C.R.S., (2019), which allows the Secretary of State to “require by rule that voting systems and voting equipment satisfy voting systems standards promulgated after January 1, 2008, by the federal election assistance commission as long as such standards meet or exceed those promulgated in 2002.”
- Section 1-5-613(1), C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to “adopt uniform rules...for the purchase and sale of voting equipment in the state.”
- Section 1-5-616, C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to adopt rules “that establish minimum standards for electronic and electromechanical voting systems.”
- Section 1-7-510(6), C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to promulgate rules to implement the section regarding election setup records.
- Section 1-7-515 (4), C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to promulgate rules “necessary to implement and administer,” risk-limiting audits.
- Section 1-7.5-106(2), C.R.S., (2019), which allows the Secretary of State to adopt rules governing procedures and forms necessary to implement” mail ballot elections.

- Section 1-8.5-112, C.R.S., (2019), which requires the Secretary of State to adopt rules governing the issuance of provisional ballots statewide.