

**From:** Akhil Rao  
**To:** [SoS Rulemaking](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on proposed changes to election rules  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2017 1:48:06 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I wish to express my concerns with recent proposed election rule changes. Given my understanding of the changes (which may be mistaken), I have 3 specific concerns with proposed changes:

1. Proposed changes to 2.13.2: the proposed changes seem to limit the communication between election judges and election watchers. This seems counter-productive to the purpose of an election watcher. Allowing communication between judges and watchers seems more in line with ensuring the integrity and transparency of election processes.
2. Cross-county voting: I believe this is a move in the right direction broadly, but I am concerned with potential responses by counties. In particular, I'm concerned that some counties may choose to reduce the number of polling stations since voters can go to another county. While this could be a reasonable cost-reducing move from the county's perspective, it would place a disproportionate burden on voters without access to cars and voters unable to take time off work to travel across county lines. I would feel much better about this proposal if it was coupled with a requirement that the total number and distribution of polling stations in a county not decrease from current levels.
3. Disclosure of electors' voting designations: I don't understand why electors' voting designations should be disclosed on the outside of the ballot.

I hope that these proposed changes are given more time for discussion and revision. If I am mistaken in my understanding, or missing pieces of the picture, I would greatly appreciate a communication from the Secretary of State's office explaining the purpose of these changes and their expected effects.

Thank you for your time,  
Akhil