

CAMBER

Citizens for Accurate Mail Ballot Election Results
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Boulder, CO 80305
303-494-1540
AlKolwicz@qwest.net

August 13, 2003

Linda Salas
Boulder County Clerk
1750 33rd St.
Boulder, CO 80301

RE: 2003 Mail Ballot Election Plan

As you can see from the attached e-mail, on June 18 and on August 4 we politely asked to be included in the planning for Boulder County's 2003 Mail Ballot Election. Since the plan must be approved by September 10, and having received no response from you, we now demand that the public be included in the planning for the 2003 Mail Ballot Election. Furthermore, the problems reported in CAMBER's critique of the 2001 Mail Ballot Election Plan must be addressed. This critique is published on the following web page: <http://www.users.qwest.net/~alkolwicz/Review%20Procedures.ZIP> .

On September 17, 2001, well before the November 2001 Mail Ballot Election, we brought these concerns to the attention of both the Boulder County Clerk and the Secretary of State. To our knowledge neither the Clerk nor the Secretary of State has done anything to resolve these known weaknesses in order to prevent them from re-occurring in the 2003 election. Many of the problems identified in the CAMBER critique accurately anticipated problems that did in fact occur in the 2001 election.

As the elected official with the statutory duty to oversee and conduct the best possible election, it is imperative that you take advantage of the contents of the report, and the combined expertise of CAMBER members/Boulder voters.

By copy of this letter to Attorney General Ken Salazar, we are requesting that he intervene in order to: protect the rights of the people of Colorado under our state constitution and their right to vote; to protect the integrity of the election process; and to protect voters. As quoted in the Rocky Mountain News on May 15, 2003,

"My duty to the people of Colorado is to protect their rights under our state constitution and their right to vote," Salazar said after taking an action that he conceded was unlike anything done in almost a century.

Salazar was adamant about his authority to bring suit "to protect the integrity of the election process" and "to protect voters."

By copy of this letter to District Attorney Mary Keenan, we are requesting that she intervene in order to ensure that the 2003 Mail Ballot Plan will include the protections needed to prevent re-occurrence of the failures of the 2001 election. Voter ID's are available for 18,263 ballots that were mailed to people with questionable eligibility, 526 ballots that were counted for these questionably eligible electors, and 596 ballots that were not counted for eligible electors. In addition, thousands of voters were mailed the wrong ballot, and vital election records were not maintained and/or were manipulated by election officials after the election.

It is an affront to the people of Colorado whenever elected officials treat citizens as outsiders and public records and systems as though they are personal playthings of the officials.

We have always tried to be professional and courteous with elected election officials, but this has failed to be met by similar respect. The time has come to put the integrity of our electoral process ahead of the egos of election officials.

We expect a full and public response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Al Kolwicz
Executive Director, CAMBER

Attachments: E-mail, Kolwicz to Salas dated June 18, 2003 and August 4, 2003

CC: Attorney General Ken Salazar
District Attorney Mary Keenan
Commissioner Paul Danish
Secretary of State Donetta Davidson
Robert J. Corry, Jr., Esq., Law firm of Corry and Fellows, LLP
Sheila Horton
Bob Greenlee
Steve Hatfield
Susan Kolwicz
Barbara Chalmers
PRESS

-----Original Message-----

From: Al Kolwicz [mailto:AlKolwicz@qwest.net]
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2003 9:14 AM
To: Linda Salas (lsalas@co.boulder.co.us)
Cc: Sheila Horton (sheila.horton@att.net); Ben Scott (scottb@dailycamera.com); Paul Danish
Subject: RE: Boulder County Plan for Mail Ballot Election 2003

Linda,

Having received no response to our June 18 e-mail, I'm retransmitting it to you.

It is imperative that we have an opportunity to comment on the mail ballot election plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Al

-----Original Message-----

From: Al Kolwicz [mailto:AlKolwicz@qwest.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2003 10:17 AM
To: Linda Salas (county.clerk@co.boulder.co.us)
Cc: Commissioner Danish (commissioners@co.boulder.co.us); Sheila Horton (sheila.horton@att.net); Ben Scott (scottb@dailycamera.com)
Subject: Boulder County Plan for Mail Ballot Election 2003

Linda,

It is our understanding from the press that Boulder County intends to conduct the November 2003 Election by Mail Ballot. From the Secretary of State's Election Calendar, we see the following:

10-Sep	Last day to notify the Secretary of State and submit a plan for a mail ballot election. (No later than 55 days prior to the election.)	1-7.5-105 (1) Rule 6.2.2
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Your predecessor conducted a mail ballot election for the November 2001 election. Our poll watchers filed many protests and documented many concerns before during and after this election. Most of these issues have not been resolved.

One of the areas that we addressed was Boulder County's "plan for a mail ballot election". We raised many issues regarding this plan.

1. We ask that you commit to address these open issues, and any additional issues that arise with your mail ballot plan.
2. We ask that the plan be developed using an open process with public hearings and formal responses to public comment.
3. We ask that the plan not be forwarded to the Secretary of State until Boulder County voters have had a chance to participate fully in its formation.

I have attached a copy of our comments regarding the November 2001 mail ballot election.

Will you commit to our three requests, above?

Al