

March 30, 2020

To: La Plata County Commissioners
1101 East 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

From: Jack Turner

RE: Public Health and Safety – Candidate Petition Process

Attached is a letter to the Jena Griswold, Colorado Secretary of State, requesting modification of the process for Independent (unaffiliated) candidates to petition onto the November ballot.

I formally request that the La Plata County Board of Commissioners write a letter of support to the Secretary of State and Governor Polis for the request. Any other actions to make such change would be appreciated and in the best interest of La Plata County voters.

Given the danger and uncertainty of COVID-19, the ballot petition process for the November 2020 election must be changed so that voter signatures may be collected online or by mail.

Such technology and procedures are already in place to allow Colorado residents to [register to vote online](#) or by [mailing in a voter registration document](#).

Such change would not be without precedent. Please note that [Utah Gov. Gary Herbert issued an executive order allowing political campaigns to collect voter signatures](#).

If the ballot petition process is not modified for the 2020 election, unreasonable hardship and risk are placed on Independent candidates, petition carriers, and voters that wish to place candidates on the ballot. The fairness of the election process will be compromised without such change.

Action is required immediately so that Independent candidates have the opportunity to prepare accordingly. The time period when signature collection is permitted is only six weeks away.

Thank you for your service and good work.

Cc: Chuck Stevens, La Plata County Manager
Tiffany Parker, La Plata County Clerk and Recorder

Transmitted by email and USPS Registered Mail – March 24, 2020

Ms. Jena Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State
1700 Broadway - Suite 200
Denver, CO 80290

RE: Ballot petition process for Independent (unaffiliated) candidates

Ms. Griswold,

I am an Independent candidate for La Plata County Commissioner (District #2). As such, I am required to collect more than 600 signatures from registered La Plata County Voters to be included on the ballot for the November 2020 election.

Under current regulations and policy, **voter signatures may only be collected from May 14 to July 9, 2020.**

Given the danger and uncertainty of the COVID-19, I request that your office (and the Legislature if required) modify the ballot petition process for the November 2020 election so that voter signatures may be collected online or by mail.

Such technology and procedures are already in place to allow Colorado residents to [register to vote online](#) or by [mailing in a voter registration document](#).

If the ballot petition process is not modified for the 2020 election, unreasonable hardship and risk could be placed on Independent candidates, petition carriers, and voters that wish to place candidates on the ballot.

Collecting ballot petition signatures is scheduled to begin in seven weeks. **A decision is required as soon as possible** so that Independent candidates can plan accordingly for the highest benefit and least risk to themselves and the public. Fair and safe elections are an integral element of the American experience. These times require adaptation to protect those rights.

I understand that you and other state and local officials are focused (and perhaps overwhelmed) with many issues related to COVID-19. I thank you for your service, hard work, and foresight to help us through these times.



Jack (John R.) Turner
Independent Candidate, La Plata County Commissioner (District 2)
Box 1151; Durango, CO 81302
Jack@ElectJackTurner.com

Email CC: Tiffany Parker, La Plata County Clerk & Recorder
CO Representative Barbara McLachlan
CO Senator Don Coram
Governor Jared Polis