

PRESS RELEASE
2012 Mail Ballot Primary Election

Pursuant to 1-7.5-105(1.5) (b) C.R.S. and Secretary of State Rule 12.3.4, Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder Corinne M. Lengel is seeking written comments from residents of Lincoln County as to whether or not the June 26, 2012 Primary Election should be conducted as a mail ballot election.

House Bill 1015 gives the Clerk and Recorder authority to conduct a Primary Election as a mail ballot election with a few additional requirements.

A mail ballot election would mean that all Democrat and Republican voters in Lincoln County would receive their ballot in the mail approximately three weeks prior to the Primary Election, which selects party nominees. Registered, unaffiliated electors must affiliate with either major political party by June 22, 2012 in order to hand carry a mail-in ballot from the Clerk's office. Otherwise, if declaring a party after that deadline, voting equipment at the County Clerk's office would be the only option for voting.

Under a mail ballot system, voters will have until 7:00 p.m. on June 26, 2012, to return their voted Primary ballot by mail or by dropping it off at the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder's Office, 103 3rd Avenue, Hugo, CO 80821. (All ballots must be returned to the Clerk and Recorder's office by 7:00 p.m. - postmarks do not count.)

Clerk Lengel is considering a mail ballot Primary Election for the following reasons:

1. Mail ballot elections tend to see a higher voter turnout
2. People like the convenience of voting by mail. In fact, the August 10, 2010, Primary Election was conducted as a Mail Ballot election
3. Only 1 comment was received against holding the 2010 Primary as a mail ballot election
4. 66% of the active registered voters in Lincoln County have requested to be permanent mail ballot or military mail ballot voters
5. Mail ballot elections are proven to be much more cost effective than polling place elections. Lincoln County citizens spent over \$30,000 for the 2010 polling place election and approximately \$12,000 for the 2011 mail ballot election
6. Mail ballot elections provide convenient access to a ballot for every registered voter in Lincoln County

Residents may submit written comments to: Corinne M. Lengel, Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder, P.O. Box 67, Hugo, CO 80821, until February 24, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. Comments can also be made at lcclerk@lincolncountyco.us.