

## Vote No on Proposition 131 - Concerning the Conduct of Elections

At Western Colorado Alliance, our mission is to create healthy, just, and self-reliant communities through grassroots organizing and leadership development. **We want our members to feel empowered to lead and participate in democracy.** While Proposition 131 may seem like a good step for our elections, we see concerning outcomes baked into this measure.

Proposition 131 proposes a major change to Colorado's election process by creating a "jungle primary" and a ranked-choice voting system for certain offices, including U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and state legislature. This means all candidates would appear on a single non-partisan primary ballot, with the top four moving to the general election, where ranked-choice voting would be used. **So why are we opposed?**

This measure seems designed to make ranked-choice voting as confusing as its opponents claim it is. By limiting ranked-choice voting to certain offices, it creates a mess of rules that would confuse voters rather than simplify the process. Worse, **it keeps the two-party system strong for the high-profile offices where we'd like to break that binary, while stripping protections that the party system offers for smaller candidates down-ballot.** Currently, small candidates with limited funding might still secure a place on the ballot as the nominee, but under Proposition 131, that same small candidate would have to go up against the four biggest fundraisers for a shot at the general election.

The Colorado County Clerks Association has raised concerns that implementing these changes as soon as 2026 could overwhelm election offices, leading to errors, increased voter confusion, and a **projected tenfold rise in spoiled ballots.** And unlike our current system, **there wouldn't be an opportunity for voters to fix their mistakes through ballot curing.** Younger and marginalized voters, in particular, would be disproportionately impacted by these complications.

Studies from other states that have adopted **similar systems show a decrease in voter participation, especially among minority communities.** Having one set of rules for certain offices and a different set for others makes the process more complicated, discouraging voters and reducing turnout.

Proponents argue that this system would weaken party control, but it could do just the opposite. The jungle primary might lead to only one party's candidates advancing, shutting out other voices. **Without campaign finance reform, elections could become "pay-to-play,"** favoring wealthy, self-funded candidates over grassroots candidates who struggle to raise sufficient funds.

So, who's behind this measure? Proposition 131 is being driven by one of Colorado's wealthiest residents, who poured millions into recent primary elections this year. **This measure caters to those who don't like how we vote now—and can afford to change the system.**

Colorado has made significant progress in voter participation, ranking second in the nation. Our success is due to the strong, accessible voting system we've built. **Proposition 131 threatens to undo that progress. We strongly oppose this measure, and encourage a NO vote.**