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# Building a Stronger Colorado: Defending Democracy and Supporting the Middle Class

## **DEFENDING COLORADO'S DEMOCRACY**

Across the country, threats are increasing to democracy and the right to vote. Secretary of State Jena Griswold's 2022 Colorado Legislative Session priorities will fortify Colorado's election infrastructure, better protect election workers, ensure voters have access to the ballot box without fear of intimidation, and fight political corruption.

### **PROTECTING COLORADO'S ELECTIONS**

#### ✓ **Securing Voting Systems and Election Infrastructure**

- Colorado leads the way in election security and must continue to innovate to ensure the integrity of elections.
- This legislation will increase safeguards against potential threats to elections by strengthening laws that protect voting equipment and key elections systems, improving the security around voting systems equipment, while also increasing protections for whistleblowers.

#### ✓ **Protecting Election Officials and Workers**

- Election workers in Colorado and around the nation are receiving increased threats for doing their jobs. One in three U.S. election officials has felt unsafe on the job and one in six reported being threatened because of their work. We cannot allow dedicated election workers from all parties to be forced out of their jobs because they feel unsafe and unprotected.
- The Election Official Protection Act will provide additional protections for Colorado election workers against doxing, intimidation, and threats.

#### ✓ **Closing the State Patrol Loophole**

- Currently, Colorado State Patrol (CSP) has the statutory authority to provide protection to the Governor, Lt. Governor and members of the legislature, but not for other statewide elected officials. This legislation would close that loophole and enable the statewide constitutional executive elected officials to request and receive security, which is important due to the unprecedented spike in threats.

### **UPHOLDING COLORADANS' VOTING RIGHTS**

#### ✓ **The Vote Without Fear Act**

- Coloradans have the right to cast a ballot and make their voices heard without fear or intimidation.
- This legislation would prohibit openly carrying a firearm within 100 feet of a Voter Service & Polling Center or drop box to safeguard a person's right to vote without intimidation.

## **MAKING GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS TRANSPARENT**

### ✓ **A Modern Money-in-Politics Disclosure System**

- The current campaign finance and lobbyist systems are outdated. To provide greater transparency into how money flows into and affects Colorado politics, the office seeks to create one modern disclosure system that reports how lobbyists, candidates, issue committees, campaigns, and other entities receive and spend money on politics.
- Transparency in political spending is a tool to combat corruption. The new system will provide greater transparency for the public and the press by making it easier to explore financial reporting around Colorado politics and government.

## **SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE MIDDLE CLASS**

While Colorado's economy continues to recover, businesses throughout the state are still experiencing the effects of the pandemic. Secretary of State Griswold's 2022 Colorado legislative priorities will help keep resources in the pockets of business owners by waiving fees, protecting against fraud, and preventing deceptive business filing solicitations.

### ✓ **Cutting Business Fees**

- While businesses across sectors have struggled in these uncertain times, Secretary of State Griswold is advancing a proposal to cut business fees by \$17 Million to keep money in the pockets of just about every small business in the state
- The business fee waiver package aims to drastically reduce filing fees to just one dollar for five of the most common business filings that the vast majority of small businesses here in Colorado pay to register and stay in good standing with the state.

### ✓ **Preventing Fraudulent Filings and Business Identity Theft**

- During the pandemic, business fraud has increased and bad actors commit fraud using the information of Colorado businesses and residents.
- In response, the Secretary of State's office is setting up a process to provide victims pathways for relief in coordination with the Attorney General's Office.

### ✓ **Preventing Deceptive Solicitations**

- Third parties send deceptive solicitations to Colorado businesses to mislead them into using unnecessary and costly services for business filings.
- This legislation protects Colorado business owners by:
  - Requiring these solicitations to include clear disclaimer language of a specific font size and location stating that they are not an official form from a state agency or local government.
  - Prohibiting language and due dates that makes the solicitation appear to be issued by a state agency or local government or appear to impose a legal duty.