



VIA FACSIMILIE
(303) 866-2003

May 18, 2017

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Office of the Governor
136 State Capitol Bldg
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

We write on behalf of unaffiliated voters in Colorado. One of us (Ballard) is the founder of the Coalition of Independent Voters in Colorado (“CIVIC”), and the other (Salit) is the President of Independent Voting, a national organization of independent voters.

The Colorado legislature’s recent codification (Senate Bill 17-305) of the voters’ decision to grant full access to primary elections for unaffiliated voters is of grave concern to us.

Specifically, by adding provisions to the enabling legislation for Proposition 108 which require public disclosure of which party primary an unaffiliated voter chooses to participate in, the legislature has turned the proposition on its head. The point of Proposition 108 was to open access to the primary process to nonaligned voters, while allowing them to maintain their independence. If Senate Bill 17-305 is signed into law, unaffiliated voters will have to “pay a price” for entry: they will forfeit the privacy of their choice of ballot and subject themselves to having their voting data mined by the parties.

The legislature has attempted to curtail the privacy rights of unaffiliated voters and give to the political parties ownership of these voters. The entire reason for Proposition 108 was to give unaffiliated voters the proper standing in primary elections, not to tee them up to be converted, absorbed or recruited, at taxpayer expense, by the Democratic or Republican parties.

We strongly supported Proposition 108, along with Proposition 107. These were important wins for independents and for democracy. Colorado broke ground in establishing an open presidential primary as a matter of law and in guaranteeing that no voter should be required to join a political party as a condition of voting in any election. In so doing, Colorado provided a beacon for the rest of the country.

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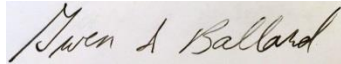
If the bill is vetoed, the legislature will be forced to go back to the table to implement the will of the citizens of Colorado—38 percent of whom are registered as unaffiliated with any political party. We urge you to exercise your power to veto on these grounds.

We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Salit
President, Independent Voting



Gwen Ballard
Founder, Coalition of Independent Voters in Colorado