

PRESS RELEASE for January 27, 2010
Yuma County Clerk and Recorder, Beverly A. Wenger
Election Division

Pursuant to C.R.S. 1-7.5-105(1.5)(b) and Secretary of State Rule 12.3.4 Yuma County Clerk and Recorder, Beverly A. Wenger is seeking written comments from residents of Yuma County whether the August 10, 2010 Primary Election should be conducted by mail ballot only.

Recent Legislative changes have made it possible for the Clerk and Recorder to simplify the Primary Election by conducting 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 would mean that all Democrat and Republican voters in Yuma County would receive their ballot in the mail about three weeks prior to the Primary Election, which selects party nominees. Unaffiliated electors must affiliate with a political party in order to vote in the Primary Election. Unaffiliated electors will be able to declare their party affiliation and pick up a ballot at the Clerk and Recorder's Office as soon as ballots are available. Party affiliation changes must be completed prior to the deadline of July 12, 2010, in order for the ballot to be mailed.

Under a mail ballot system, voters will have until 7:00 p.m. August 10, 2010 to return their voted Primary Ballot by mail or drop off at the Yuma County Clerk and Recorder's Office, 310 Ash St. Suite, F, Wray, Colorado 80758. (All ballots must be returned to the Clerk and Recorder's Office by 7:00 p.m. Postmarks do not count.)

Wenger is considering conducting the Primary by mail for the following reasons:

1. Mail Ballot elections tend to see a higher volume in voter turnout.
2. People enjoy the convenience of voting by mail.
3. Over 40 percent of active registered voters in Yuma County have requested to be permanent mail ballot voters.
4. Mail ballot elections are much more cost effective with approximately ½ less cost than polling place elections. Cost of the 2008 Primary Election was \$29526.42 while the cost of the 2009 Mail \$14745.62
5. Mail ballot elections provide convenient access to a ballot for every registered voter in Yuma County.
6. Primary falls on Tuesday of the Yuma County Fair, by having a mail ballot all citizens of Yuma County will be able to attend the fair activities. In fact only 8 percent of Yuma County Voters voted in the 2008 Primary Election.

Residents may submit written comments to Beverly A. Wenger, Yuma County Clerk and Recorder's Office, 310 Ash Street, Suite F, Wray, CO 80758 until February 8th, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. Comments may also be submitted to yumacounty@plains.net.