



FRUITA

COLORADO

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly
State Capitol Building
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

We as the City of Fruita respectfully submit this letter to request amendments to Senate Bill 25-001, the Colorado Voting Rights Act, due to the undue burden it would place on our small city and its limited staff. While we understand and support the intent of the bill to ensure fair and accessible elections, we are deeply concerned about the potential financial, operational, and legal challenges it would create for municipalities like Fruita, which has a very small staff dedicated to clerk functions and elections.

As a city with a population around 14,000, Fruita operates with a lean team. The requirements imposed by SB25-001, particularly those related to potential litigation, reporting, and enforcement, would place a disproportionate burden on our already limited capacity. Our city does not have the personnel or financial resources to comply with these extensive new obligations without detracting from our other critical functions and services for residents.

Moreover, the bill's language surrounding litigation risks is particularly concerning. The possibility of lawsuits regarding alleged voter suppression or dilution, particularly in a small town where elections are nonpartisan and typically free from systemic barriers, could expose our city to costly legal proceedings. This will divert our focus and taxpayer funds away from essential services and force us into a defensive position against unfounded claims.

Given the challenges of small municipalities, we urge you to reconsider the applicability of this bill to local governments like Fruita. We believe

Honor the Past – Envision the Future **FRUITA**

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that the state's intervention in municipal elections under SB25-001, with its lack of additional funding and resources, would lead to substantial legal and financial strain, while not addressing any specific or demonstrated need for change in our local election processes.

We respectfully request that you amend the bill to exclude municipalities from its provisions, ensuring that the new regulations apply only to state and coordinated elections, where the scale and resources are more appropriate for such requirements. This amendment would allow us to maintain control over our municipal elections and avoid unnecessary burdens that could negatively impact our ability to serve our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We appreciate your attention to the concerns of small municipalities like Fruita, and we are hopeful that we can work together to find a solution that ensures fair and accessible elections without creating undue burdens for our local governments.

Thank you,

Matthew Breman,
Mayor, City of Fruita