



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

Board Summary Report

Date: August 13, 2020
To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Clerk & Recorder Joan Lopez
Through: Peg Perl, Elections Director; Monica Kovaci, Sr. Asst. County Attorney
Subject: Authority to Accept SOS Grant for Election Ballot Drop Boxes

Background and Discussion

In June 2020 the Colorado Secretary of State (SOS) announced a program to provide funding for up to 100 additional ballot drop boxes throughout the state for the upcoming November 3 General Election. Through this grant program, counties apply for funding to install additional ballot drop boxes, with cost reimbursement for up to \$10,000 per drop box.

The Arapahoe County Election Division has engaged in conversation with RTD to install at least one, and possibly two, ballot drop boxes in the parking lots of RTD lightrail stations. The two potential locations are at the Mineral Station in Littleton and the Iliff Station in Aurora.

We believe placing a box near public transit hubs will help mitigate COVID-19 concerns because it will allow voters to drop off their ballot at the same place as their commute to necessary work or errands to support their family and avoid a separate trip to a vote center. Also, many of these same locations have transit orientated development with large multi-unit residential buildings in walking distance which would allow all those residents to have safe walkable access to a drop box without taking additional trips to a vote center or other drop off location. Some of these developments include units marketed to seniors, a particularly vulnerable population.

The Clerk and Recorder requests authority to accept the SOS grant funds for these drop boxes and approval for the requisite fixed assets.

Fiscal Impact

The \$10,000 cost per box reimbursement from the SOS will fully cover the cost of each drop box and will not have a fiscal impact for Arapahoe County. The cost estimate for each drop box is \$8,228, which includes purchase of the drop box and purchase/installation of camera equipment for statutorily required surveillance of each box. The remaining \$1,712 in the estimate would

cover the purchase of branding stickers, installation labor, materials, and possible concrete needed. There are no other associated on-going costs, aside from standard maintenance.