

**PRESS RELEASE for January 27, 2012**  
**Kiowa County Clerk and Recorder, Debra C. Lening**  
**Elections Division**

Pursuant to C.R.S. 1-7.5-105(1.5) (b) and Secretary of State Rule 12.3.4 Kiowa County Clerk and Recorder, Debra C. Lening is seeking written comments from residents of Kiowa County whether the June 26, 2012 Primary Election should be conducted by mail ballot only.

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 Kiowa County would receive their ballot in the mail about three weeks prior to the Primary Election, which selects party nominees. Unaffiliated electors must complete the change of affiliation form by the deadline of May 25, 2012 to have a ballot mailed to them. If the unaffiliated electors do not complete the change of affiliation form by the deadline, they 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.

Under a mail ballot system, voters will have until 7:00 p.m. on Primary Election Day, June 26, 2012 to return their voted Primary ballot by mail (PO Box 37) or drop off at the Kiowa County Clerk and Recorder's Office, 1305 Goff Street, Eads, CO 81036. (All ballots must be returned to the Clerk and Recorder's office by 7:00 p.m. Postmarks do not count.)

Clerk Lening is considering conducting the Primary by mail for the following reasons:

1. Mail ballot elections tend to see a higher voter turnout.
2. People like the convenience of voting by mail.
3. Over 54 percent of active registered voters in Kiowa County have requested to be permanent mail ballot voters.
4. Mail ballot elections are much more cost effective than polling place elections. Kiowa County citizens spent \$8,751.38 for the 2010 polling place election and \$4,717.51 for the 2011 mail ballot election. Mail ballot elections will save the citizens and Kiowa County approximately \$4,033.87.
5. Mail ballot elections provide convenient access to a ballot for every registered voter in Kiowa County.

**Residents may submit written comments to Debra C. Lening, Kiowa County Clerk and Recorder's Office, PO Box 37, Eads, CO 81036 until February 10, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. Comments can also be made at [kiowaclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:kiowaclerk@hotmail.com) .**