



## **Oppose Prop 131: Jungle Primary/Ranked-Choice Voting**

**Overly Complicated, Too Much Change, Too Fast**

### **What Initiative Jungle Primary/Ranked-Choice Voting Does:**

131 will make Colorado's elections much more complicated, more expensive for candidates and taxpayers and it will not result in more moderate or diverse elected officials. Only about half of candidates are covered by 131: federal, statewide and legislative races. The other half - US President, district attorneys, county officials, city officials and other local races are not included and will be elected under current election laws. That means voters will vote two different ways on the primary ballot and two different ways on the general election ballot.

The "jungle" primary would have one ballot that includes all candidates who qualify. Voters would cast one vote per race, with the top four candidates advancing to the general, regardless of affiliation, advancing to the general election.

In the general election voters would rank their candidate preferences from first to fourth in each race. If no candidate is successful in gaining more than 50%, a computerized system begins eliminating candidates according to voters' rankings until one candidate in each race achieves a majority.

### **Why Oppose the Jungle Primary/Final Four?**

#### **Voter Confusion Leads to Less Participation and Ballots Invalidated**

Research shows confusing and complex ballots can mean fewer people will vote and more ballot errors are made, disqualifying votes without the voters' knowledge. Colorado currently is #2 in the country for voter participation and has been in the top few states for the last decade. That will likely change under Jungle Primary/Final Four.

Numerous studies in states/cities that have adopted this system indicate that the complicated ballots decrease voter participation, particularly among minority and marginalized voters. Colorado has worked hard to include all eligible voters and this would be a step backward. Votes cast in ranked-choice elections are 10 times more likely to have a mistake that would invalidate the vote.

### **Prop 131 Tilts Our Election System Towards More Dark Money In Politics**

This measure is pushed by millionaires and billionaires who want to control elections with money. The jungle primary/ranked-choice model tilts the playing field toward candidates with more money and can be easily manipulated. In Colorado, candidates are limited to \$1100 in donations in the primary and general election, limiting candidates' ability to differentiate themselves from the rest of the pack. Expanding the candidate field means outside, unreported special interest money will be increasingly important to getting elected.

### **Implementation & Practical Issues**

County Clerks are responsible for conducting our elections yet they were not consulted by the proponents of this measure. They have raised red flags about whether this proposal can be implemented in the tight time frame.

Election results will take longer under the ranked-choice voting model. In the 2022 Alaska congressional election, results were not made public for two weeks.

Colorado has the only statewide post-election audit to ensure the accuracy of the vote count and the voting equipment. There is no current method to audit the jungle primary/ranked choice model statewide.

Non-partisan analysis estimates Colorado taxpayers will spend \$21 million state and local taxpayer dollars in the first two to three years alone to implement this election model.

### **Who's Behind the Proposal?**

Kent Thiry, one of Colorado's wealthiest citizens, is the driving force behind the proposal. He and other billionaires, through an organization called Unite America, are trying to insert their self-serving system in Colorado, Nevada, Idaho and Montana.

Thiry spent \$1.1 million in the final days of Colorado's June legislative primary races to influence districts to his liking, showing that he is not interested in voters, but instead attempting to elect candidates that can be controlled through corporate, special interests and secret funding.