

Changing our elections is bad for democracy

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Letters to the Editor

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Kent Thiry, the money and man behind Proposition 131, didn't consult with election administrators on the feasibility of his jungle primary and top-4 Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) general election proposal.

County Clerks, who would have to turn Prop 131 from an idea into a viable voting system, are warning that this proposition's rollout date of 2026 is much too soon for them to enact properly and is a recipe for disaster. Election reform should happen thoughtfully, with historically disenfranchised communities and robust voter education in mind. Prop 131 lacks in that regard. Studies suggest the proposed system is confusing, which will lead to more ballot spoilage. A confusing election system can also lead to less participation and decreased confidence in our election system. I am a proponent of Ranked Choice Voting, but Prop 131 uses RCV's good name to destabilize Colorado's elections.

Asking candidates to run in a crowded jungle primary and against 3 more candidates in the general election only tilts the system in favor of the wealthiest candidate. In our current system, even in districts that are overwhelmingly Democrat or Republican the minority party is guaranteed to get a candidate on the ballot. Under Proposition 131's system, the majority party could push any non-majority candidate off the ballot with enough spending. This will surely open the door to more dark money in politics and contribute to more polarization in our state politics. Kent Thiry, one of just twelve billionaires in Colorado, wants a system that allows his money to speak louder than our votes. I urge voters to reject Prop 131 on the ballot this November. The consequences are too grave and our democracy is too important.

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