

Restoring Colorado to continue petition drive

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

After halting last week, proponents persuaded to proceed with efforts to realign Colorado House districts for equal representation

Due to strong feedback from volunteer petition circulators statewide, Randy Schafer and Joe Kinnie, proponents of Restoring Colorado (Ballot Initiative No. 111) are reinstating the push for 100,000 signatures by Aug. 1.

Just last week, the duo announced that they had suspended the petition drive as the goal seemed insurmountable.

However, hearing from petition circulators that they're seeing burgeoning bipartisan interest in the ballot initiative to realign districts for Colorado's House of Representatives, the petition drive has been reinstated.

The proposal would realign Colorado House districts to coincide with county boundaries and give each county one representative in the House of Representatives while leaving the Senate based on population.

The Colorado House of Representatives would mirror the U.S. Senate, wherein states have equal representation, with Wyoming and Vermont having the same voice as California and Texas. The Colorado Senate would remain parallel to the U.S. House of Representatives, which is based on population.

Schafer and Kinnie emphasize that the Founding Fathers created both the People's House of Representatives and the States' Senate to make a constitutional republic for fair representation for big and little states alike.

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They point out that the Restoring Colorado initiative would do the same for Colorado, but for counties instead of states.

The Restoring Colorado ballot initiative grew out of last year's secession movement by some counties in response to legislation threatening traditional Colorado rights and freedoms. It focuses, however, on the more pragmatic approach of changing representation.

Since there are 65 representatives in the Colorado House of Representatives and 64 counties, the House is the logical body to change. Changing the Colorado Senate would mean adding 29 senators for a cost-prohibitive addition in salaries as well as a remodeling outlay.

For more information, visit www.RestoringColorado.org .

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