



# COUNTY OF ELBERT

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## Press Release – For Immediate Release – October 20, 2022

### Re: Election Order 2022-12

The Elbert County Clerk and Recorder's office was notified yesterday afternoon of an appointment of an Elections Supervisor for the 2022 General Election. As this office has seen from previous press releases from the SOS, does not give a complete picture of the events. This follows the appointment of an observer for the 2022 Primary Elections from which the Clerk's office is yet to receive the final report and recommendation from her observations. The report was provided to our office from a citizen who obtained the report via an Open Records Request. The summary from the observer was that the Secretary rescind the Election Order in sending a watcher as Elbert County Elections are well prepared to conduct elections. This order is in direct conflict of the recommendation of that report.

The first reason given for the appointment is the SOS position that the Clerk gave unauthorized individuals copies of the images of the Elbert County voting system. These were in possession of the Clerk's attorneys and both have signed affidavits attesting to the security of the drives. There was no "breach" as the clerk is the Chief Custodian of Election records and according the Department of Justice, those records include "all paper and electronic records". Why is she upset that the Elbert Clerk followed the law?

The second reason given is our discovery of 37 ballots that were retrieved from the Post Office in a locked bag, but were then pushed to the side in our opening room and missed. The Secretary of State's office was immediately notified and a remediation plan submitted. We were grateful to the staff at the Secretary of State's office who worked with us to make sure those ballots were part of our final numbers. That was always our desire in this unfortunate situation.

Absent from the press release, but included in the Election Order is a reference to a public event in which the Clerk gave a presentation on the events that led him to the decision to create the drives from the Elbert County voting system. The order specifically states the presentation undermined voter's confidence in the elections process. This is egregious as it is an effort to monitor free speech. Here is the link to that presentation for viewers to determine for themselves if what was said warrants an attack on free speech of a duly elected county official.

[https://elbertcounty.granicus.com/player/clip/142?view\\_id=1&redirect=true&h=d29917a9a6f5838999b0af368bd432eb](https://elbertcounty.granicus.com/player/clip/142?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=d29917a9a6f5838999b0af368bd432eb)

An election supervisor was also appointed in Pueblo County. The Elbert Clerk stands in agreement with Democratic Clerk Ortiz from Pueblo County who recently stated, "She's turned our system (from) one where we're teammates, to 'if you make a mistake I'm going to appoint a supervisor an you're going to have to pay for it.'".

Clerk Schroeder stated, "It is obvious to anyone familiar with the situation that is a political move and retaliation to my questioning her in anything, whether it be rules, transparency or calling her out form being partisan in her official duties. Her over reaching orders are insulting not only to my colleague in Pueblo, but the hard working staff and election judges in both parties. As Clerk Ortiz stated, 'She (Secretary Griswold) wanted press for this. It's all politics, not governance.'"

Clerk Schroeder also pointed out that these appointments of supervisors is intended to remove the spotlight from her own glaring mistake of sending roughly 31,000 postcards to individuals who are not US citizens, instructing them how to register to vote.

Elbert County Elections will deliver an election that all our citizens can have confidence in, despite the Secretary injecting politics into the process.

Please contact the Elbert County Clerk for more information. Contact numbers are listed above and questions may be emailed to [dallas.schroeder@elbertcounty-co.gov](mailto:dallas.schroeder@elbertcounty-co.gov).