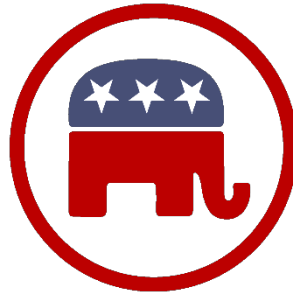


# Press Release [For Immediate Release]



Mesa County Republican Party

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## **The Mesa County Republican Party Supports Tina Peters:**

The Republican Party is our nation's strongest defender of secure, accurate, and trustable elections. The recent ballot retrieval and tabulation error committed by the Mesa County Clerk & Recorder's Office in the 2019 election was an unfortunate mistake, and should not be allowed to happen again. We are pleased that Clerk Tina Peters immediately took steps to inform the appropriate entities and the public of this error once it was discovered. Such honesty and transparency by elected officials today is rare, and highly commendable. We are confident that Clerk Peters will work tirelessly and diligently to ensure something like this never happens again.

We are disappointed that so many have attempted to politically capitalize on this issue through irresponsible sensationalism. We feel it imperative that the proper and measured response to this error should be made after a reasonable consideration of the facts and details of this unfortunate situation – a consideration which does not seem to have occurred thus far by Clerk Peters' major detractors. The facts are as follows:

- A. No ballots were tampered with or lost. The processes in place, despite the collection error, ensured that every voted ballot received by the Clerk's Office remained in the Clerk's secure custody.
- B. Nothing remotely close to illegal activity took place, and no fraud has occurred, or been alleged.
- C. At this point, it does not appear any election judge or Clerk employee intentionally neglected to remove the ballots from the drop box, which would mean this was nothing more than a completely unintentional mistake, and was not plotted or planned for the benefit of any political entity, candidate, or issue.
- D. No attempt to hide or cover up this discrepancy occurred once it was discovered. It was immediately reported by Clerk Tina Peters to the appropriate individuals, entities, and the public; it was investigated, and diligent work towards remedy and future prevention are being vigorously carried out.
- E. The error caused no outcome in any local or statewide election to come into doubt, and if it had, the strong security protocols and processes in place, along with the paper trail, would ensure that a remedy would be available to any affected election.

- F. No vote was changed or altered, and at the end of the investigative process, all voters will still receive credit for the ballots they cast in their voting history.

Without diminishing the significance of the error that occurred, it is helpful to point out that this particular ballot collection mistake would appear quite trivial when compared against the massive deficiencies and problems with other state voting systems where no paper trail exists, and that are far inferior overall to Colorado's excellent election infrastructure and processes, instituted incidentally by Republican Secretary of State, Wayne Williams. No process, no matter how excellent, will be free from error, particularly human error. Expectations of perfection, while noble and necessary, particularly when they come to elections, are not always attainable. The offense comes when mistakes are ignored, or not corrected. Tina Peters has not, and will not incur this offense.

Tina Peters has built a track record at the Clerk & Recorder's office of efficiency, customer service, and promises kept. Due to her efforts and smart budget management, previously closed satellite motor vehicle offices have been reopened in Clifton and Fruita. Wait times have been significantly reduced at all motor vehicle locations.

As to her ability to continue this success in her office, as well as continue to run future elections with reliability and competency, the Mesa County Republican Party has complete confidence. We support Tina Peters fully, and hope that this ballot issue can be quickly investigated, corrected, and put behind her and Mesa County.

*For further media inquiries, please contact Mesa County Republican Party Chairman, Kevin McCarney, at 970-250-5109.*