

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

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**2012 Jeffco Primary Election to be conducted by mail ballot**

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Contact: Pam Anderson, County Clerk and Recorder (303) 271-8186

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(Golden) – In a public hearing yesterday, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution presented by the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder to conduct the June 26, 2012 Primary Election as a mail ballot election. Although Jefferson County has conducted mail ballot elections in every odd-numbered year since 1993, this will be the second time the county will coordinate an even-year election by mail ballot. The 2010 mail ballot Primary Election cost the county nearly half a million dollars less than the 2008 polling place primary, and had a voter turnout that was more than 10 percent higher.

“We showed in 2010 that a mail ballot election is a very successful model for a primary and our voters responded positively,” said Clerk and Recorder Pam Anderson. “Many of the comments we received requested all elections to be mail ballot elections,” she added.

Between January 17 and 31, the Jefferson County Clerk & Recorder received public comment on whether to conduct the Primary Election by mail ballot. Eighty-eight percent of public feedback submitted to the Clerk and Recorder’s Office was in support of this election model.

“Ninety-four percent of the people who voted in the 2008 Primary Election chose to cast their ballot by mail, even when polling places were available,” said Anderson. “Based on that information, the potential cost savings to the county’s taxpayers and the public comments we’ve received during the last few weeks, we are very pleased to be able to use this model for our Primary Election.”

Mail ballot elections provide a convenient means for voters to participate and have been shown to increase turnout. Eighty percent of active registered voters in Jefferson County have already declared a preference to permanently vote by mail ballot.

Ballots for the 2012 Primary Election will be mailed to voters the week beginning June 4 in advance of the June 26 Primary. While voters will receive ballots by mail, service centers will be open throughout the county from June 4 through Election Day for voters to obtain a replacement ballot, vote in person, or handle any other election related matter.

Please visit [www.votejeffco.com](http://www.votejeffco.com) for more information.