

SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO 101 West Colfax Avenue, Suite 800 Denver, Colorado 80202	
Original Proceeding Pursuant to the Colorado Rules of Reapportionment Proceedings.	
IN REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Supreme Court Case No. 2011SA282
New Era Colorado 1648 Spruce Street, Office Unit Boulder, CO 80302	
New Era Colorado's Statement Supporting the Reapportionment Commission's Final House and Senate Plans	

Pursuant to the Court's order, New Era Colorado hereby submits a statement in support of the Commission's proposed final plans.

New Era Colorado is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that is committed to engaging, educating, and training a new generation of active citizens and young leaders in Colorado. Our organization works to engage young people in the political process and helps these new active citizens find their voice in the democratic process. Our main office is in Boulder, Colorado and we have a

statewide membership of about 20,000, about half of which reside in the Boulder area.

New Era Colorado writes in support of the Colorado reapportionment plans currently under consideration by the State Supreme Court.

We support the plans for their fair and logical treatment of Boulder County, for the fair and transparent manner in which they were created, and for the increased number of competitive seats that resulted from the commission members' revisions per the Supreme Court's direction. The plans minimize the division of city and county boundaries across district lines. Local governments are often the primary implementers of policies that affect people's daily lives, such as the City of Boulder's recent ballot initiative to create a municipal power utility, a campaign on which New Era Colorado played a strong supporting role. Preserving local government boundaries allows for more consistent applications of law and policies that affect our members.

Allowing state house and state senate districts to largely overlap with local city and county boundaries gives citizens the best possible representation.

We also support the plans for their fair approach to Boulder County, which has two seats fully within the county boundaries, as required under the 2001 reapportionment decision. Superior, which spans the Boulder/Jefferson County line, is now whole. Boulder residents get the best of both worlds with reapportionment. It has two whole districts in its boundaries, plus a third senator, Sen. Nicholson, with which they can communicate. Boulder County has been paired with Gilpin for the last decade and it has been a logical match, as the rural regions of Boulder County have much in common with Gilpin County.

These plans also promote competitiveness. There were 33 competitive seats between the House and Senate in the maps rejected by the Court. The redistricting plan creates 38 total competitive seats, which is good for both parties and for all Coloradans, particularly young voters who are often reluctant to engage with a political system that too often yields predictable, inevitable results. These young voters are much more likely to be active citizens for the rest of their lives if they are engaged and courted by both political parties early in their political lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Fenberg", is positioned above the typed name.

Steve Fenberg
Executive Director
New Era Colorado
1648 Spruce Street, Office Unit
Boulder, CO 80302