

Dear Governor Polis,

The moment facing American leaders today is of profound importance to the soul of our nation.

Right now, you are weighing a deeply impactful decision, put on the table by President Trump. He is demanding the transfer of former Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters from state to federal custody, in order to let her off the hook for attempting to subvert the legal conduct of the 2020 election in Mesa County.

Trump is threatening Colorado with real consequences, putting federal dollars on the table as a threat, should you refuse to give him what he wants. He is attempting to abuse his power to reward his political allies, without regard to the rule of Colorado state law. Meanwhile, his supporters are backing him up with a concentrated campaign of hateful, violent threats toward our dedicated election officials.

Your CBS interview on Thursday, January 8 indicated that you are giving serious consideration to granting clemency to Ms. Peters. While we recognize the gravity of Trump's threats, and the great responsibility you have to protect the livelihood of all Coloradans, our organizations strongly urge you to reject this request for the serious consequences that would result from such action.

**As an American governor, your words and actions in response to the Trump administration's persistent, corrupt, and unconstitutional demands will define how the State of Colorado responded when an authoritarian regime held control of the United States federal government.**

Ms. Peters was convicted by a jury of her peers, held to the standards of the state constitution that she swore to serve. Colorado must retain control over its own judicial system and elections. Colorado must stand unwaveringly beside our election officials, and continue to indiscriminately enforce the rules and responsibilities they take on to ensure the fair conduct of our elections.

**Granting clemency to Ms. Peters would represent an irrevocable betrayal of the public's trust, the safety of our elected officials, Colorado's state laws and judicial system, and the United States Constitution.**

As a result of Ms. Peters' attempt to subvert the legal conduct of the 2020 election in Mesa County and her wildfire dissemination of false narratives that sow distrust in the process, election officials have faced harassment, doxxing attempts, and threats of violence. Our state must affirm the sacred role these faithful public servants play in our democracy by holding unlawful conduct to account.

We respectfully ask that you continue defending our election officials and the independent conduct of Colorado's elections by remaining committed to accountability for Ms. Peters.

President Trump has placed American democracy under attack. He and his leagues of supporters led a violent insurrection to overthrow the legitimate results of the 2020 presidential election. Trump's active executive orders regarding elections are a blatant attempt to take over Colorado's administration of our own elections. The president's false narratives that Colorado's elections are compromised by unfounded accusations of widespread noncitizen voting are laying the groundwork for future attempts to reject legitimate election results in order to unfairly retain power against the will of the people.

Our organizations respectfully urge you to hold firm against authoritarianism by declining clemency for Ms. Peters and to continue rejecting the Administration's unlawful requests for her transfer to federal custody.

Respectfully,



