

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Dear Governor Polis,

Clemency for Tina Peters would be a massive victory for those urging President Trump to seize control of the 2026 elections.

This moment, and your ultimate decision, is a democracy stress test — one of many that will surely continue to come from this administration.

This issue isn't a matter of politics. This is about protecting Colorado's authority to run its own judicial system and elections. It's about whether our democracy can withstand demands from an authoritarian leader to reward his political allies for attacking elections and undermining the will of the people. It's about how seriously Colorado takes free, fair, secure elections, whether we will fight to defend the rights of Colorado voters, and how we will respond to threats against our dedicated county clerks and election workers.

Granting clemency to Tina Peters would only serve to reward election denialism and send a clear message to President Trump: Colorado's elections are up for grabs, consequence-free.

Tina Peters was entrusted to be a steward of the people and of our elections as a county clerk. Yet she willfully abused her position as an election official to help compromise the very systems she took an oath to protect. This violation of the public's trust has left a permanent stain on our elections, and it remains an affront to our democratic institutions.

In his *Letter from Birmingham Jail* in 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." The same is true for this moment — and for the future of Colorado's democracy.

Can our elections and the will of the people remain standing when the state capitulates to demands from convicted insurrectionists and those who explicitly sought to overturn our democracy?

Our democratic institutions, our court systems, and our forms of checks and balances cannot survive without stewards like you to protect and preserve the rule of law. A position the people of Colorado entrusted to you.

Ms. Peters was convicted by a jury of her peers on multiple felony charges for her role in breaching secure election equipment and allowing unauthorized access to Colorado's voting systems. A Republican district attorney prosecuted the case. Upholding that verdict now falls to you.

No one is above the law. We urge you to stand with the people of Colorado and uphold the jury's verdict. Anything less would further erode public trust in government and pave the way for more illegal interference in our elections.

American democracy faces real threats from those willing to undermine the rule of law for political power. Your decision here will either cosign democracy or cosign tyranny.

It's not too late to change course. The right choice is clear. The question that now remains is if you will choose to do what is right.

Respectfully,

America Votes Colorado
Colorado Common Cause
The Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable
League of Women Voters of Colorado
Indivisible Colorado



