

**From:** [Steve Schleiker](#)  
**To:** [Matt Crane](#); [Susan Corliss](#); [Annie Kuntz](#); [Kevin Strauch](#); [Corinne Lengel](#); [Candace Rivera](#); [Jenny Thomas](#); [Carly Koppes <ckoppes@weld.gov>](#); [Haylie Johnson](#); [Sheri Davis](#); [Bobbie Gross](#); [Josh Zygielbaum](#); [Jackie Harmon](#); [Justin Grantham](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Resignation as CCCA Vice President and El Paso County Membership  
**Date:** Friday, March 6, 2026 9:46:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Members of the CCCA Executive Committee,

It is with sincere regret that I have made the decision to resign as Vice President of the Colorado County Clerks Association, effective immediately. Additionally, El Paso County will be withdrawing as an active member of the CCCA.

This decision has not been made lightly. I believe it is important to share the concerns that have led me to this conclusion.

Since my election as your CCCA Vice President, I have not been permitted to participate in executive leadership meetings with the Secretary of State's Office. I was informed by both Matt and Carly that this was due to a lack of trust from the Secretary of State's Office regarding my participation. I was told that relationships are important and that efforts would be made to include me once others felt more comfortable.

As a duly elected officer of the Association, I find it deeply concerning that participation in leadership meetings appears to be influenced or dictated by individuals or entities outside of the CCCA. The CCCA is an independent organization, governed by the rules and bylaws established by (us) its membership. The Secretary of State is not a member of this Association, and it is troubling to me that an external office would have de facto authority over which of our elected officers may engage in discussions on behalf of the organization.

I previously shared my concerns about effectively being asked to "sit on the bench" since my election and requested clarification. That email was sent over a week and a half ago, and I have not received a response. The lack of communication has only compounded my concern.

I also had a candid conversation with Clerk Justin Grantham, who shared that he experienced similar exclusion from executive leadership meetings during his time in CCCA leadership. Notably, those meetings resumed once Clerk Molly Fitzgerald became President. I hold both Justin and Molly in high regard and respect their leadership and professionalism. The only material difference between them is their party affiliation. It is difficult for me not to conclude that party affiliation plays a role in these decisions, and that I am experiencing the same dynamic.

When I was elected as El Paso County Clerk & Recorder and attended New Clerks Training, it was emphasized repeatedly that the Association is non-partisan. Unfortunately, my experience has led me to believe that this has not been the case in

practice. Here in El Paso County, as in many of your offices, partisanship is not permitted in my office. My staff and the citizens we serve find that refreshing. We focus on professionalism, service, and the rule of law, not party labels. I believe strongly that our Association should reflect that same standard and stand firm to it.

It has become clear to me that my vision for this Association is different from that of some within its leadership. I believe leadership is not about preserving access, protecting relationships at the expense of principle, or acquiescing to external pressures. Leadership is about standing on the foundation of our bylaws, ensuring every duly elected officer has a seat at the table, fostering transparency, encouraging diverse viewpoints, and advocating for sound policy, even when doing so is uncomfortable. Leadership requires independence, courage, and a commitment to representing all clerks, not just those whose perspectives align with prevailing political dynamics.

Additionally, I must be candid about my growing frustration with the legislative process and the Association's posture within it. I feel that many of us do not have a meaningful voice. It has been difficult to watch what appears to be one individual in Denver, Martha Tierney, attorney for the Colorado Democratic Party, exert significant influence over election-related legislation, directing caucus positions and outcomes. This dynamic has persisted for some time, and I struggle with the notion that we are simply to accept "that's the way it is." In my view, that is not leadership; it is acquiescence.

As one example, HB26-1113 is largely a policy bill rather than an operational one, and it has already accumulated more than 23 amendments. That volume of amendments alone signals serious underlying issues. Rather than rushing it through and attempting to fix problems in future sessions, I believe legislation of this magnitude should be halted and substantially reworked before moving forward. Pushing flawed policy forward with the promise of addressing consequences later places clerks and our offices in untenable positions. Sadly, this is not the only bill that we all have seen this.

I remain committed to serving the voters and citizens of El Paso County with integrity, transparency, and professionalism. While I regret that I cannot continue in my role or my office with the CCCA under these circumstances, I believe this decision is in the best interest of both my office and the citizens I serve.

I appreciate the relationships with you all.

Best, Steve

[Book time with Steve](#)

[Schleiker](#)

**Steve Schleiker, Clerk & Recorder**



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