



1675 BROADWAY, SUITE 1850
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

(303) 534-5409 VOICE
(303) 534-3322 FAX

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For More Information Contact:

Drew Kramer
(303) 534-5409 ext. 113
dkramer@intermountainca.com

**ARAPAHOE COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE RECEIVES PETITION
CHALLENGES FROM BOTH SIDES OF BAKER RECALL ISSUE**

– Baker Wants More Signatures Struck, Recall Committee Wants More Reinstated –

LITTLETON, CO (Nov. 12, 2003) – Arapahoe County Assessor Ed Bosier today received formal challenges to his recent determination that petitions seeking the recall of Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder Tracy Baker contained enough signatures to trigger a recall election. Challenges came both from Baker and from the group driving the recall effort.

On Oct. 28, Bosier announced that The Committee to Recall Tracy Baker had successfully gathered 37,464 valid signatures, more than enough to place the question of recall before County voters. The Committee actually collected 45,027 signatures, but 7,563 were rejected because they were not from registered voters or failed to meet some other statutory requirement.

In his challenge issued today, Baker claims that discrepancies in the report of accepted signatures call into credibility the entire petition process. He notes, for example, that one accepted signature was in fact a duplicate and therefore should have been rejected. Among other arguments, Baker further claims that a number of signature lines were accepted with missing information, such as a city name or zip code; that accepted signatures were illegible or came from ineligible voters; that petitions were accepted even though the circulator was not a registered voter; and that some circulators may have used “inaccurate and false statements” to improperly influence signers. His protest does not cite specific signatures by name or provide a numerical count of the signatures he believes should be disqualified.

Baker also claims that he “received unequal treatment and access in regard to the petition protest process.” Specifically, he takes issue with the fact that he was restricted in the number of people he could use to review the petitions, creating “an undue hardship.”

Because he will be conducting a formal hearing into the matters of protest next week, Bosier declined to address Baker’s specific concerns regarding the signatures. The County Assessor did say, however, that the guidelines under which Baker was allowed to review the petitions applied equally to anyone wishing to question their legitimacy. “I’ve said from the beginning of this process that the burden of proof for refuting the validity of the collected signatures is on the protestor,” explained Bosier. “Mr. Baker was provided the same access to the relevant documentation that the Committee to Recall was given – or that any citizen wishing to challenge the petition process would have been given.”

In a separate challenge, The Committee to Recall Tracy Baker refuted the rejection of several thousand signatures and provided arguments for reinstating those signatures and adding them to the 37,464 that Bosier certified on Oct. 28.

By statute, Bosier must now hold hearings into the challenges and issue rulings within 30 days. A hearing into Baker’s protest is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19. The following day, beginning at 1 p.m., Bosier will convene a hearing into the Committee to Recall’s challenge. Both hearings will take place in Room 4C of the Arapahoe County Administration Building at 5334 S. Prince Street in Littleton. Mr. Bosier’s rulings can be appealed to the district court.

Should Mr. Baker’s challenge ultimately be denied, Mr. Bosier will certify the petitions to the County Commissioners, who will then set a date for a recall election that is no less than 45 and no more than 75 days after the date of certification.

About the Arapahoe County Assessor’s Office

The Assessor's Office discovers, lists, classifies and values all real and personal property in Arapahoe County. The Office is also responsible for maintaining public records, including

ownership and parcel maps; submitting the Abstract of Assessment to the Colorado Division of Property Taxation; certifying values to taxing entities; and producing the warrant roll. The Arapahoe County Assessor, Ed Bosier, began working for the Office in 1987 as a certified appraiser/supervisor in Land Development. Voters first elected him to the Office of the Assessor in 1995. He is currently serving his third term, which expires January of 2007.

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