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COLORADO SUPREME COURT DENIES BAKER APPEAL

– ELECTION STILL ON –

LITTLETON, CO (Feb. 23, 2004) – The Colorado Supreme Court today denied a petition from Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder Tracy Baker seeking to enjoin tomorrow’s scheduled recall election.

Following Friday’s ruling by District Court Judge J. Mark Hannen that the election should go forward, Baker submitted a written motion to the state’s highest court today. The appeal echoed Baker’s earlier arguments that Arapahoe County Commissioners had no standing to appoint Arapahoe County Assessor Ed Bosier as the designated election official and that the recall petition process was fraudulent.

Baker asked that the election be halted and that the petitions be remanded to him, in his official capacity as the County Clerk & Recorder, for review. “If the petition is eventually determined to have sufficient signatures, an election can still proceed at a later date, most likely as part of the November 2004 general election, meaning little special additional expense will be necessary,” stated the motion. “If the petition is determined not to have sufficient valid signatures, the election should not take place.”

In his closing argument on Friday, Bosier’s attorney, Charles Norton, called the idea of Baker overseeing his own recall petition process “absurd.”

Sample ballots and other information about the special recall election can be found online at <http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/AS/RecallElection.asp>.

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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