



COLORADO COUNTY CLERKS ASSOCIATION

Mesa County Security Breach: An Examination of the Claims – Summary

The Mesa Reports made a series of claims about Mesa County’s election systems. Upon examination, the Mesa County District Attorney, the Colorado Secretary of State, and the Colorado County Clerks Association all determined these claims were **false or misleading**.

The Key Points

- **No records were destroyed.** All ballots, audit logs, and required records were preserved before system updates.
- **Systems were properly certified.** The voting system testing lab (VSTL) Colorado uses was never decertified, Wi-Fi was disabled, and all software was approved and tested.
- **Databases were not “unauthorized.”** A new database was created when a staff member made a mistake while troubleshooting. All ballots were still accounted for. This is not illegal.
- **Reports are not illegal.** The existence of internal reports before Election Day is not against the law unless results are released early, which never happened.
- **Voting patterns were normal.** Split-ticket voting is common in Colorado. For instance, voters often back liberal candidates statewide while voting against tax increases.

Colorado’s Layered Security

The reports ignored Colorado’s **defense-in-depth** system of protections, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Voter-verified paper ballots
- Public testing of equipment
- Bipartisan and multipartisan election judges
- Chain of custody and 24/7 video monitoring
- Risk-Limiting Audits to double-check results
- Restricted Access to Secure Facilities

Tina Peters’ Conviction

Former Clerk **Tina Peters** was not a whistleblower. She was convicted in 2024 on multiple felonies and misdemeanors for her role in a security breach.

- **Convicted of** three felony counts of attempting to influence a public servant, conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation, identity theft-related offenses, official misconduct, and violation of duty.
- **Not charged or convicted of** anything related to preserving or backing up election records.
- Because this was a **state conviction**, only Colorado’s governor could grant clemency. The President has no authority.

Bottom Line

The Mesa Reports are not proof of fraud. They are an example of **malinformation**: information based on fact but deliberately distorted or presented out of context to mislead the public and undermine trust in institutions. Colorado’s elections remain secure, transparent, and accurate, confirmed by audits, a district attorney investigation, and bipartisan election officials. The only criminal conduct in Mesa County elections at that time was orchestrated by Tina Peters, not the election systems.