

2026 Legislative Priority Proposal
Updated: 7/18/25

Electrical inspector flexibility for small local governments	
Clear Creek County (Commissioner George Marlin)	
Preferred Contact:	gmarlin@clearcreekcounty.us (also available by phone)
Co-Sponsoring Counties/Commissioners:	Clear Creek BOCC.
Who is your subject matter expert?	David Danielson, County Building Official. (303) 679-2360. ddanielson@clearcreekcounty.us
Has this proposal been approved by your BoCC?	Yes.
Have you reviewed the CCI Instructional Memo?	Yes.
Describe the problem your proposal will solve.	<p>Statute currently requires all electrical inspectors to be licensed electricians. SB17-247 repealed 12-23-115(b), which was made effective in 2023. That paragraph allowed persons who had been certified as residential electrical inspectors be a national certification authority to conduct electrical inspections on residential building of four units or less.</p> <p>While this change may be practical in larger jurisdictions with larger teams, it created significant barriers to creating a building department that can effectively serve people who want to build. In Clear Creek County, a building department with three people who can conduct inspections is enough to provide effective service to builders and homeowners. We are able to provide inspections four days a week and respond promptly to permit requests. However, we are not able to provide this service for electrical inspections without hiring a dedicated electrical inspector with an electricians license. This would require a roughly 33% increase in our staffing cost.</p>

	<p>The state inspection system only guarantees electrical inspections twice a week. There are few private companies that provide inspection services and they also historically only provide inspections twice a week in Clear Creek where those contracts are in place.</p> <p>This mismatch in service availability reduces service levels, making construction in rural areas more difficult and costly. Further, it makes it more difficult to build a robust locally operated building department.</p> <p>Clear Creek County has been exploring offering building inspection services to the municipalities within the county. Our municipalities currently use a private provider for these services. While we are able to offer better services for most elements of inspection, the municipalities would have to revert to state electrical inspection in order to use us instead of a private company.</p> <p>Many other states allow International Code Council certified inspectors to conduct inspections and people benefit from the flexibility that affords.</p>
Areas of Impact:	Day-to-day operations of the county; Functionality of county programs or services; Power/Authority/Mandate of county government; General community advancement.
What is the ultimate source of this problem?	<u>SB17-247</u> repealed 12-23-115(b), which was made effective in 2023. That paragraph allowed persons who had been certified as residential electrical inspectors be a national certification authority to conduct electrical inspections on residential building of four units or less.
What is your initial proposal to solve this problem?	<p>Allow small jurisdictions to conduct electrical inspections on some projects by a person that is certified through a national certification authority. Jurisdiction size could be defined by population or by the number of building permits or electrical permits issued. If the latter is pursued, that may allow for the best way to approximate which jurisdictions don't have the permitting volume to justify hiring a dedicated licensed electrician to conduct those inspections.</p> <p>Clear Creek County is more than open to working out the details of this proposal based on feedback from other jurisdictions.</p>
Please provide sample language for this solution.	Insert into statute: 12-23-115 (B) Persons employed by any city, town, county or city and county that has a five-year average of less than X electrical permit applications, who have been certified as residential electrical inspectors by a national certification authority approved by the board.

Are there any solutions that do not require state-level legislation? Has your county explored these alternatives?	There is not a private or public solution to this problem that does not involve a change to statute.
Has CCI or any other organizations sought a solution to this problem before?	Not to my knowledge.
What possible organization(s) would support your proposed solution?	CML and CCAT in addition, possibly, to advocates of removing barriers to construction in the state.
What possible organization(s) would oppose your proposed solution?	Representatives of licensed electricians are likely opponents. They supported the change in 2017. The hope is that because this won't change anything for the vast majority of the construction activity in the state, they would see the value in letting this go where it hasn't resulted in increased job opportunities for licensed electricians.
Have you spoken with any legislators about your proposed solution? If so, what was their response?	I have not.
What are the financial implications of this problem to your county? Are there any financial implications to this solution either?	If small jurisdictions were able to conduct electrical inspections in an efficient manner, we would be able to use the permit fees to offset the costs of building a more robust team of inspectors and a stronger building department overall.
What are the financial implications of this problem to any other impacted parties?	Builders, homeowners and people that like to live in homes in rural areas are underserved by local building departments, the state and private inspection companies. This adds cost and time to projects.

<p>What are the financial implications of this solution to any other impacted parties? <i>Please consider any relevant Colorado State Departments.</i></p>	
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