



## GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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### NEARLY SEVENTY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS YESTERDAY

**November 5, 2014, Denver, CO** – Sixty eight cities and towns held elections yesterday. Most were on ballot measures, with a few dealing with candidate races. The Town of Breckenridge will hold a special election on December 9<sup>th</sup> dealing with the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown core. Four municipalities cancelled their regular elections because they had uncontested races.

#### Summary

Following is a summary of ballot measures CML is aware of around the state:

- **Debt** - Center, \$1.1 million for water tank improvements passed; Lafayette, \$7.4 million for park improvements passed, Wheat Ridge, \$40 million for city wide capital improvements (contingent on sales tax passing) failed; Windsor, \$16 million for rec center passed; Woodland Park, \$10 million for aquatics center passed. Since, 1992, nearly 70% of all municipal debt questions have been approved.
- **Sales tax**- Bayfield, 1% for streets failed; Boulder, .3% for targeted civic improvements passed; Brush, .4% for fire safety passed; Crested Butte, .5% for parks & rec passed; Delta for extension of expiring .75% tax for use in various park and rec improvements passed; Denver, .15% for preschool programs passed; Longmont, .75% extension for street improvements passed; Pueblo, .5% for public safety failed; Trinidad, 1% extension for capital projects passed; Walsenburg, 4% increase failed; Wheat Ridge, 1% increase for public improvements failed; Wray, .5% for public improvements passed. Since 1992, 57% of tax policy changes have been approved.
- **Property tax**- Aurora for public safety and transportation failed, Lafayette for public safety passed, Red Cliff for street improvement failed.
- **TABOR** excess revenue retention—Crawford for street improvements and town hall repair passed, Delta for fees failed, Log Lane Village passed, Ouray passed and Williamsburg failed for city property tax. Since 1992, nearly 90% of such questions have been approved.
- **Lodging tax**- Basalt, additional 2% passed; Fort Morgan, 2% failed; Fountain, 3% failed.
- **Excise tax**- Lafayette, up to 2% on electricity and gas for renewable energy programs failed.
- **Marijuana tax**- Aurora, 2% not to exceed 10% passed; Basalt, 5% passed; Canon City, 5% not to exceed 10% passed; DeBeque, 5% passed; Federal Heights, 5% and up to 10% passed; Gunnison, 5% passed; Hot Sulphur Springs, 10% not to exceed 15% failed; Lafayette, 5% and up to 10% passed; Lyons, 3.5% passed; Northglenn, 2% passed; Ouray, 5% not to exceed 10% passed; Palisade, \$5.00 occupation tax or up to \$25.00 on sales over \$100 passed; Paonia, 5% and up to 10% passed; Pueblo, not to exceed

15% failed; Ramah, 5% and up to 10% tie vote; Rico, 10% passed; Rifle, 5% passed; Trinidad 5% passed.

- **Marijuana, whether to allow-** Breckenridge (downtown only) will decide on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>; Canon City prohibit; Federal Heights allow medical and prohibit retail; Gunnison allow medical and retail; Hot Sulphur Springs will continue to prohibit; LaJara allow medical and prohibit retail; LaJunta prohibit; Lake City prohibit; Lakewood prohibit; Manitou Springs allow; Otis prohibit retail and medical; Ouray prohibit; Palisade prohibit; Palmer Lake prohibit; Paonia prohibit; Ramah prohibit; Red Cliff allow; Rico allow.
- **Term limits-** Aspen-passed an extension; Evans-passed an extension; Holyoke-passed elimination; Kit Carson-failed to eliminate; Leadville-failed to eliminate for city clerk; Williamsburg-failed to eliminate.
- **Municipal broadband-** Boulder, Cherry Hills Village, Red Cliff, Wray and Yuma all passed joining Centennial, Longmont, and Montrose which have already received voter approval. The Counties of Yuma and Rio Blanco also approved such questions yesterday.

### **Miscellaneous items**

There are a variety of interesting miscellaneous measures on local ballots:

- Aspen - Filling vacancies for any elected office passed
- Basalt – Passed a modification to residency requirement for eligibility to vote
- Boulder - Executive sessions for XCEL franchise negotiations passed
- Canon City – Increase competitive bidding threshold passed
- Canon City - Remove voter approval for certain property acquisitions failed
- Aurora – Upheld Pit Bull Ban
- Englewood - Property exchange passed
- Residency requirements – Evans (removal for city manager) failed, Fountain (modify so that fire and police chiefs must live within a 30 mile radius) failed
- Gilcrest - Change election date from April to November in even-numbered years passed
- Severance - Property sale of old town hall passed
- Telluride – Voters opted to use property for other uses than a regional medical center
- Wheat Ridge - Widen street for economic development purposes failed
- Steamboat Springs – BID property tax failed
- Colorado Springs – Regional stormwater fee failed

The League wishes to recognize and thank all of the municipal clerks who responded to our request for municipal returns.

CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 267 cities and towns. For more information on the Colorado Municipal League, please visit [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org) or call 303-831-6411.

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