



GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

MUNICIPAL VOTERS GO TO POLLS NEXT MONTH

October 20, 2017, Denver, CO – On November 7th electors in more than 80 cities and towns across Colorado will have the opportunity to vote on a broad range of ballot questions and tax issues, as well as vote for representatives to serve on their city councils and boards of trustees.

Broadband

Colorado statutes require an election to allow a municipality to provide broadband service or partner with the private sector to provide that service, and voters in 69 cities and towns have already said yes. This fall, 16 municipalities have put the question on the ballot: Alamosa, Avon, Dillon, Eagle, Fort Lupton, Georgetown, Greeley, Gypsum, Idaho Springs, Louisville, Manitou Springs, Minturn, Monte Vista, Silverthorne, Snowmass Village, and Vail.

Fort Collins voters authorized the city to provide or partner to provide broadband services in 2015, and this November, they will be asked to authorize the provision of these services as a public utility and to authorize debt not to exceed \$150 million in order to implement the service.

Marijuana

Alamosa, Monte Vista, and Rocky Ford voters will decide whether to allow marijuana sales and/or cultivation.

Marijuana taxes are being considered in Alamosa, Berthoud, Commerce City, De Beque, Dinosaur, Eagle, Federal Heights, Foxfield, Log Lane Village, Longmont, Monte Vista, Sheridan, Rocky Ford, and Walsenburg.

Fort Collins voters will decide whether to permit the City Council to amend the City Code with regard to medical marijuana without needing to return to the electors with each amendment.

Term limits

Voters in Red Cliff and Wray will consider whether to eliminate term limits for their councilmembers.

Tax and bond issues

TABOR override ballot questions will be decided in Canon City, Greeley, Leadville, Littleton, Lochbuie, and Salida.

Canon City, Cripple Creek, Hudson, and Lamar are asking to implement a lodging tax for economic development and tourism related activities, while Crested Butte is asking to implement a vacation rental tax to fund affordable housing programs. The proposed lodging tax in Wiggins would be used for any lawful municipal purpose.

Durango, Firestone, Longmont, New Castle, and Pueblo are asking voters to increase or extend taxes in the name of public safety, including police, fire, or emergency services, and Fort Morgan, Northglenn, Rocky Ford, and Timnath are asking to increase or extend a tax for road and infrastructure improvements.

Other tax issues on the ballot include:

- Aspen – increase sales tax on tobacco products for health and human services
- Black Hawk – occupational tax on live dealer gaming tables
- Boulder – increase and extension of utility occupation tax to fund a municipal electric utility
- Brighton – expansion of the application of the current use tax
- Craig – sales tax increase
- Crawford – mill levy increase for capital improvements and general operations
- Lafayette – extension of legacy open space tax and implementation of excise tax on storage to fund cultural arts and historic preservation
- Louisville – extension of historic preservation sales and use tax with permission to expend funds in any area within city boundaries
- Red Cliff – adoption of use tax
- Wiggins – adoption of use tax

Bond proposals for public improvements are on the ballot in several municipalities:

- Aspen - \$3 million to purchase property to store municipal water supplies, with associated mill levy increase for repayment if needed
- Boulder - \$26 million to fund capital improvement projects, with extension of community culture and safety sales tax for repayment
- Denver – \$937 million for improvements in transportation, cultural facilities, public safety, and parks and recreation
- Dillon - \$5 million for workforce housing
- Hayden - \$3.7 million for water improvements, with associated mill levy increase for repayment
- Idaho Springs – \$18 million for road improvements
- Lafayette – \$9 million for road improvements
- Lochbuie – \$4.5 million for road improvements, with associated tax increase for repayment
- Longmont - \$36.3 million for water system improvements
- Loveland - \$61 million for downtown development projects
- Manitou Springs - \$3.9 million for fire protection improvements, with associated mill levy increase for repayment

Voters in Log Lane Village will decide if the town should institute a 20% mill levy rate reduction for one year.

Administrative Charter Amendments

Several municipalities are asking their voters to eliminate, clarify, or otherwise update obsolete provisions of their home rule charter, including Boulder, Dacono, Denver, Federal Heights, Greeley, Lafayette, Northglenn, Sterling, Thornton, and Trinidad.

Other issues

Other issues to be decided include:

- Alamosa – whether to allow non-residents who are employed full-time, own property, or own businesses in the city to serve on certain boards and commissions; whether to repeal charter requirement for bonds on any city improvement over \$5,000; salary increase for council members
- Aurora – increase salaries of elected officials
- Broomfield – charter amendment defining the City's powers to regulate oil and gas development
- Castle Rock – creation of the position of an elected mayor, and consolidation of City Council districts from 7 to 6
- Colorado Springs – implementation of stormwater fees
- Denver – green roof/solar energy requirement on new construction over 25,000 square feet
- Golden – to allow revision of lease for future installation and operation of renewable energy facilities on undeveloped portion of park land
- Lafayette – charter amendment to extend building permit cap for six years and to exclude qualifying affordable housing developments from the cap
- Pueblo – charter amendment changing the form of government from Council-Manager to Mayor-Council, eliminating the Office of City Manager, and establishing the Office of Mayor
- Steamboat Springs – allow council members to participate in medical and dental health plan provided to employees
- Trinidad – collective bargaining for non-administrative fulltime employees
- Wray – granting a natural gas franchise

CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 269 cities and towns. For more information on the Colorado Municipal League, please visit www.cml.org or call 303-831-6411.