



GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

(updated from previous version)

December 4, 2017, Denver, CO – Last month voters across Colorado answered questions ranging from broadband to marijuana to tax and bond issues, and more, as well as selected representatives to serve on their city councils and board of trustees.

Broadband

Coloradans have once more spoken definitively for local control in allowing their municipality to provide or partner to provide high speed internet service. Seventeen municipalities requested and received permission to explore broadband options: **Alamosa, Avon, Dillon, Eagle, Fort Lupton, Georgetown, Greeley, Gypsum, Idaho Springs, Kremmling, Louisville, Manitou Springs, Minturn, Monte Vista, Silverthorne, Snowmass Village, and Vail**. This election brings the total number of cities and towns who have received authorization to 86.

Fort Collins voters had authorized the city to partner or to provide broadband service in 2015, and yesterday they also authorized up to \$150 million in debt for its implementation.

Marijuana

Alamosa and **Monte Vista** voters rejected allowing retail and medical marijuana stores within city limits, but they did approve taxes on marijuana sales should they occur in the future. **Rocky Ford** voters authorized the licensing of retail marijuana establishments and a tax on the sales.

Marijuana taxes were also approved in **Berthoud, Commerce City, De Beque, Dinosaur, Eagle, Federal Heights, Log Lane Village, Longmont, Sheridan, and Walsenburg**. Only in **Foxfield** did a marijuana tax fail.

Fort Collins voters authorized 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** both rejected the elimination of term limits for their councilmembers.

Tax and bond issues

Voters in **Canon City, Leadville, and Salida** approved retention of revenue as allowed by the Colorado Constitution, while voters in **Greeley** and **Littleton** voted in a more specific authorization to retain revenue. Only **Lochbuie** did voters turn down the request.

Voters in **Crested Butte, Cripple Creek, and Wiggins** authorized lodging taxes, while **Canon City, Hudson** and **Lamar** rejected them.

Public safety taxes were approved in **Durango, Firestone, and Longmont**, while **Pueblo** voters approved one public safety tax increase, for police personnel, and defeated the other, for youth-oriented programming. Early results in **New Castle** tentatively show a motor vehicle tax passing, which can be used for public safety and recreation, but the vote is very close.

Voters in **Fort Morgan** and **Rocky Ford** voted in a new tax for road and infrastructure improvements, while voters in **Northglenn** approved the extension of an existing tax for city streets. **Timnath** voters turned down a sales tax that would have been used for road improvements.

Other tax issues that PASSED 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
- **Craig** – sales tax increase
- **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 also PASSED in several municipalities:

- **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
- **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

Voters in **Log Lane Village** voted to institute a 20% mill levy rate reduction for one year.

A handful of tax and bond issues FAILED:

- **Brighton** – expansion of the application of the current use tax
- **Crawford** – mill levy increase for capital improvements and general operations
- **Aspen** - \$3 million debt authority to purchase property to store municipal water supplies, with associated mill levy increase for repayment if needed
- **Dillon** - \$5 million debt authority for workforce housing
- **Manitou Springs** - \$3.9 million debt authority for fire protection improvements, with associated mill levy increase for repayment

Other issues

- **Broomfield** voters approved a charter amendment further defining the City's powers to regulate oil and gas development.
- **Castle Rock** voters approved the creation of position of an elected mayor and consolidation of City Council districts from 7 to 6.
- **Colorado Springs** voters approved the implementation of stormwater fees.
- **Denver** voters approved a requirement for green roofs or solar energy on large new construction.
- **Lafayette** voters approved a charter amendment to extend the building permit cap for six years and to exclude qualifying affordable housing developments from the cap.
- **Pueblo** voters approved a 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.
- **Trinidad** voters approved collective bargaining for non-administrative fulltime employees.

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.

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