



NEWS RELEASE

Municipalities across Colorado vote on candidates, ballot measures

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Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, Denver, Colo. – On Nov. 7, voters in at least 80 municipalities across Colorado considered local candidates and ballot measures as part of the general election. At least 20 municipalities voted solely on candidates, while many more voted on initiated and referred ballot measures. More than 120 municipal ballot issues or questions were considered across the state.

The following results are unofficial and subject to change.

Tax and bond issues

Sales tax increase questions passed in **Castle Pines, Cripple Creek, Eaton, Fort Collins, La Junta, Louisville, Rocky Ford, Romeo, and Yampa.**

Sales tax increase questions failed in **Bayfield, Brighton, Fountain, Loveland, Olathe, and Rifle.**

Voters in **Boulder, Denver, Gunnison, and Northglenn** passed sales and use tax extensions. **Frederick** voters authorized the city to use an existing sales and use tax funding open space to also fund parks, trails, and related amenities.

Voters passed property tax mill levy increases to fund recreation and open space amenities in **Castle Pines** and to fund the local fire department in **Golden**. A property tax mill levy increase meant to fund affordable housing failed in **Fort Collins**.

Longmont voters rejected three property and sales tax increases related to a new library, arts and entertainment center, and recreation facilities and an affordable housing complex.

Lodging tax increases passed in **Ridgway** and **Winter Park**. Lodging tax measures failed in **Pueblo, Salida, and Trinidad**.

Avon voters rejected a use tax on construction materials.

Steamboat Springs received authority to include community identity and environmental sustainability, among other uses, in the allowed uses of the revenues from an existing public accommodations tax.

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Wheat Ridge voters granted the city authority to increase debt to \$75 million and to extend the city's sales and use tax to fund street improvements. **Yampa** voters granted the city authority to increase debt to \$2.8 million to fund capital improvements to the town's sewer system.

Revenue retention

Voters in **Golden**, **Littleton**, and **Telluride** granted their municipal governments authority to retain and spend all revenues collected from specific previously approved taxes.

Idaho Springs voters granted the city authority to retain and spend revenues from all sources. Voters in **Loveland** rejected the city's request to retain and spend revenues from all sources.

Colorado Springs voters rejected the city's request to retain \$4.75 million of 2022 revenues for the construction of a police department training facility.

Home rule

Erie voters adopted a home rule charter to become Colorado's 106th home rule municipality.

Superior voters approved forming a home rule charter commission to draft a proposed home rule charter.

Governance

In **Las Animas**, two separate questions to make the city clerk and the city treasurer appointed rather than elected positions failed.

Mt. Crested Butte residents voted to extend the consecutive term limits for councilmembers to three terms.

Marijuana

Voters in **Olathe** authorized medical and retail marijuana sales, as well as a 5% tax on retail sales of marijuana products. **Sterling** voters authorized medical and retail marijuana sales but rejected a 5% tax on retail sales of marijuana products.

Voters in **Lochbuie** clarified that they do not support marijuana sales.

Ault voters passed a tax on retail marijuana sales to fund general operations. **Moffat** voters rejected revisions to an excise tax on marijuana sales.

Election changes

Voters in **Evans** and **Log Lane Village** passed measures authorizing their municipalities to move regular elections to November of even-numbered years.

Westminster voters clarified that they do support electing some or all councilmembers from geographic wards rather than at-large.

Voters in **Moffat** rejected a measure to eliminate term limits for elected officials.

Charter amendments

- **Aurora** – approved amendments making changes to the probationary period for police officers and firefighters and the police promotion consideration process, reducing restrictions on lateral entry police and fire employment processes, and increasing the number of authorized police division and deputy chief officers and clarifying exceptions of police deputy chiefs and commanders from civil service membership but rejected an amendment to replace gender-specific terms with gender-neutral nouns in its charter
- **Boulder** – approved a set of administrative charter cleanup amendments removing the requirement that signers to petitions appear personally before the city clerk and changing timing provisions of filing a petition and the number of days the city clerk has to approve a petition and verify petition signatures
- **Commerce City** – approved allowing publishing of legal notices on the city’s website
- **Craig** – rejected amendments changing the makeup of city council to select a council president from among the council in lieu of an elected mayor and authorizing the city manager to grant revocable permits for franchises and public utilities
- **Dacono** – approved amendments requiring council to appoint and remove appointed city officers by resolution and setting city manager employment expectations, incorporating an “Open Government Policy” for the council, and amending provisions relating to new councilmembers taking office and the appointment of a mayor pro tem
- **Englewood** – likely rejected amendments relating to provisions regarding initiative, referendum, and recall of elected officials, authority to approve subdivision plats, and authority to approve contracts and land conveyances
- **Fort Collins** – approved amendments changing qualifications for elective office to replace the general prohibition against convicted felons holding elective office and clarifying language around the referendum and petition process but rejected an amendment removing residency requirements for certain city employees from the charter
- **Golden** – approved an amendment replacing terms used to describe city officers with generally applicable terms
- **Grand Junction** – approved an amendment increasing the authorized lease term for municipal property from 25 years to 99 years when the property is to be used for workforce housing projects but rejected an amendment increasing council salaries and permitting councilmembers to purchase health insurance through city policies
- **Greeley** – approved an amendment changing the titles of several positions within the fire department but rejected an amendment changing the definition of “police officer” to include sergeants
- **Hayden** – approved an amendment regarding vacancies in office but appears to have rejected amendments eliminating the town finance director position as a council-appointed position and reducing the residency requirements for electors
- **Loveland** – approved amendments prohibiting taxes or fees on the retail sale of human food for home consumption and requiring voter ratification of certain urban renewal plans
- **Mountain View** – approved amendments concerning charter organization and gender-neutral language, local term limits, town council vacancies, prohibiting financial interests of elected officials in town contracts, town council meetings, and budgetary procedures
- **Northglenn** – approved an amendment updating charter language to be gender-silent
- **Parker** – approved amendments concerning powers of the council, organization of municipal government, and swearing in of police officers but rejected an amendment concerning gifts and donations
- **Steamboat Springs** – approved extending the deadline for the city’s independent audit
- **Snowmass Village** – approved an amendment allowing elected officials to serve on town boards and commissions as non-voting members

