



## NEWS RELEASE

# Colorado Municipal League releases spring municipal election preview

**Contact:** Kevin Bommer, executive director, [kbommer@cml.org](mailto:kbommer@cml.org), (303) 564-0442; Rachel Woolworth, municipal research analyst, [rwoolworth@cml.org](mailto:rwoolworth@cml.org)

**Friday, March 1, 2023, Denver, Colo.** – On April 2, voters in at least 80 cities and towns across Colorado will consider local candidates and ballot measures in municipal elections. At least 50 municipalities will vote solely on candidates, while no less than 30 will also vote on ballot issues and questions. More than 35 municipal ballot measures are being considered across the state. Almost 50 municipalities canceled their regular elections, citing a lack of competitive races.

Ballot issues and questions being considered by voters include:

### **Tax and bond issues**

Sales and use tax increases will be on the ballot in:

- Arriba – for capital investments
- Deer Trail – for infrastructure projects and general revenue
- Dolores – for street improvements and maintenance and other public improvements
- Holly – for the general fund
- Garden City – for general purposes including streets, law enforcement, and administration
- Lyons – for infrastructure improvements including streets, stormwater utility, and electric undergrounding
- South Fork – for staff wages and infrastructure improvements

Estes Park will request a ten-year extension of its sales tax to fund street improvements, stormwater infrastructure expansions, trail reconstruction, and wildfire mitigation. Westcliffe is requesting an extension of its sales tax in perpetuity to fund street improvements, among other uses.

Center will seek authority to dedicate a pre-existing sales tax to its general fund and economic development fund.

Other taxes issues include:

Silver Plume will ask voters to increase the property tax mill levy to fund its portion of the Clear Creek Fire Authority.

Silverthorne will seek authority to increase its lodging tax to fund capital projects related to recreation and public safety, among other uses.

Larkspur will ask voters to consider an increase in admissions tax to fund infrastructure improvements and other general purposes.

Wiley voters will consider the creation of a use tax for motor and other vehicles to fund general operating and capital expenses.

### **Revenue retention and debt**

Fruita will request authority to retain and spend all revenues collected from all sources to fund the implementation of the city's capital improvement plan.

Silverthorne will ask voters for authorization to increase the town's debt up to \$50 million to finance workforce housing projects.

### **Governance**

Campo voters will consider reducing the number of seats on the town council from seven to five.

Larkspur will ask voters to reduce the number of seats on the town council from six to four.

Sugar City voters will consider reducing the number of seats on the town board from six to four.

Empire will ask voters to eliminate term limits for the town's board of trustees and mayor.

### **Marijuana**

Ordway voters will consider a sales tax increase on medical and retail marijuana and associated products to fund enforcement and administration of the town's marijuana industry.

Silverton will ask residents to increase the sales tax on retail marijuana and associated products to be used for any municipal purpose.

### **Election changes**

Buena Vista, Green Mountain Falls, Garden City, and Poncha Springs will ask voters to move their regular elections to November of even-numbered years.

### **Publication requirements**

To save money on publication costs, Blue River and Buena Vista will request authorization to publish ordinances by title only in the newspaper, provided the ordinances are published in full on the town's website.

La Jara will request authorization to publish ordinances by title only unless specifically required by state statute to be published in full.

### **Charter amendments**

Several charter amendments will appear on the ballot in home rule municipalities across the state:

- Breckenridge – amendments lengthening the term of election commissioners from two to four years and removing the requirement that board and commission appointees be electors and residents
- Johnstown – amendments adding a section on water policy to the town's charter, amending qualifications for elective office to replace the general prohibition against convicted felons holding elective office, and modifying electoral districts for councilmembers
- Larkspur – amendments changing the town's audit schedule to comply with state statute and reducing the number of councilmembers from six to four
- Timnath – to prohibit the town from annexing property with active state mining permits

### **Other issues**

Estes Park voters will consider a citizen-initiated measure regarding requiring adjacent property owner consent to development applications.

Fraser will ask voters to create a downtown development authority and to authorize the town to increase its debt by up to \$25 million in connection with the authority.

Nederland voters will weigh in on whether they support the permitting and construction of a local pump track.

### **Special elections**

The City of Greenwood Village will conduct a special election on April 16 regarding a property owner's petition to disconnect a parcel of undeveloped property from the city.

Not all ballots were available at the time of publication. Any ballot questions not included in this press release will be included in the post-election summary. Colorado Municipal League (CML) thanks the municipal clerks who assisted CML staff in compiling this election information.

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*Colorado Municipal League (CML) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 270 cities and towns. For more information on CML, please visit [cml.org](https://cml.org), call 303-831-6411, or stay connected on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).*