NEWS RELEASE

Municipalities across Colorado vote on candidates, ballot measures

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Wednesday, April 3, 2024, DENVER, COLO. – On April 2, voters in at least 80 cities and towns across Colorado considered local candidates and ballot measures in municipal elections. At least 50 municipalities voted solely on candidates, while no less than 30 also voted on ballot issues and questions. More than 35 municipal ballot measures were considered across the state. Almost 50 municipalities canceled their regular elections, citing a lack of competitive races.

The following results are unofficial and subject to change.

Tax and bond issues

Sales and use tax increase questions passed in **Deer Trail** for infrastructure projects and general revenue, **Dolores** for street improvements and other public improvements, **Garden City** for general purposes including streets, law enforcement, and administration, **Holly** for the general fund, and **Lyons** for infrastructure improvements including streets, stormwater utility, and electric undergrounding.

Voters in **Estes Park** passed a ten-year extension of its sales tax to fund street improvements, stormwater infrastructure expansions, trail reconstruction, and wildfire mitigation. **Westcliffe** voters authorized an extension of its sales tax in perpetuity to fund street improvements, among other uses.

Voters in **Center** approved a measure to dedicate an existing sales tax to the town's general fund and economic development fund.

A property tax mill levy increase to fund **Silver Plume's** portion of the Clear Creek Fire Authority is currently ahead by three votes.

A lodging tax increase was passed in **Silverthorne** to fund capital projects related to recreation and public safety, among other uses.

Voters in **Larkspur** passed an admissions tax to fund infrastructure improvements and other general purposes.

In **Wiley,** voters have narrowly approved the creation of a use tax for motor and other vehicles to fund general operating and capital expenses.

Revenue retention and debt

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

Silverthorne's ballot measure to grant the town authority to increase debt up to $50 million to finance workforce housing projects is currently ahead by three votes but was too close to call at publication deadline.

Governance

Campo voters passed a measure reducing the number of seats on the town's council from seven to five.

Larkspur and **Sugar City** voters rejected measures reducing the number of seats on their respective town council and board by two.

Empire voters rejected a measure to eliminate term limits for the town's board of trustees and mayor.

Marijuana

Silverton voters passed a sales tax increase on retail marijuana and associated products to be used for any municipal purpose.

Election changes

Voters in **Buena Vista**, **Garden City**, **Green Mountain Falls**, and **Poncha Springs** passed measures authorizing their municipalities to move regular elections to November of even-numbered years.

Publication requirements

Blue River and **Buena Vista** voters granted their town governments authority to publish ordinances by title only in the newspaper, provided the ordinances are published in full on the town's website.

Voters in **La Jara** passed a measure authorizing the town to publish ordinances by title only unless specifically required by state statute to be published in full.

Charter amendments

- **Breckenridge** – rejected 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** – approved 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** – approved an amendment changing the town's audit schedule to comply with state statute and rejected an amendment reducing the number of councilmembers from six to four
- **Timnath** – rejected an amendment prohibiting the town from annexing property with active state mining permits

Other issues

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

Voters in **Fraser** narrowly rejected a measure to create a downtown development authority (DDA), while the measure to authorize the DDA's debt, if it had been approved, is currently a tie vote and too close to call at the time of publication.

Nederland voters clarified that they do not support the permitting and construction of a local pump track.

Special elections

On March 26, **Steamboat Springs** voters rejected an annexation agreement ordinance associated with an affordable housing project at Brown Ranch, a property owned by the Yampa Valley Housing Authority.

South Fork will hold its regularly scheduled election on April 9. Residents will vote on a 2% sales tax increase to fund staff salaries and infrastructure improvements.

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.

Election results for **Arriba** and **Ordway** were not available by the publication deadline. Colorado Municipal League thanks the municipal clerks who assisted staff in compiling this election information.

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