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## GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

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## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Colorado Municipal League releases spring municipal election results

**April 6, 2022, Denver, Colo.** – Voters in almost 100 cities and towns across Colorado cast their votes for city and town councils and boards of trustees. Twenty-seven of those municipalities also had tax or revenue issues or other questions on the ballot. The following results are unofficial and subject to change.

Ballot issues and questions included:

#### Tax and bond issues

Sales tax questions passed in:

- Burlington – increase to be used for street improvements
- Nederland – extension of sales tax to be used for town’s community center
- Hugo – expansion of use of revenue from existing sales tax for street and storm drainage improvements to also be used to finance capital assets
- Crestone – reallocation of dedicated sales tax for water and sewer enterprise funds to a capital projects fund in order to preserve enterprise status

Results for a sales and use tax increase in Grover were not available at the time of publication.

Lodging taxes passed in Larkspur, New Castle, Silt, Silverthorne and Simla.

Frisco voters approved a tax on short-term rentals to be used for affordable housing projects and programs.

Both property tax questions on the ballot failed:

- Bethune – for town operations
- Glendale – for constructing and maintaining public improvements

Carbondale voters authorized an increase in debt up to \$8 million for park and recreation facilities, including a new aquatic center.

#### Revenue retention

Estes Park voters granted authority to collect, retain and spend all revenues as allowed by voter approval under the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) and removed any limitation on the uses of the retained revenues previously imposed by the town’s 2000 ballot initiative.

#### Governance

Creede and Kersey voters approved reducing the number of trustees on the board from six to four.

A recall of the Crestone mayor failed.

## **Broadband**

Timnath voters authorized the town to become the 119<sup>th</sup> municipality to be exempted from the statutory restriction on providing broadband or telecommunications services that also prohibits most uses of municipal funding for infrastructure to improve local broadband or telecommunications services. These elections are also known as “SB 152 elections,” named for the 2005 bill that implemented the restriction.

## **Marijuana**

Marijuana businesses were on the ballot in:

- Burlington – rejected retail stores, in a question that would have also authorized a marijuana sales tax
- Hooper – rejected retail stores, medical stores and medical marijuana delivery in three separate questions, while separately approving a sales tax on retail marijuana and an excise tax on retail marijuana
- Ignacio – rejected retail stores and an occupation tax on the sale of retail marijuana and, in a separate question, rejected medical stores and an occupation tax on the sale of medical marijuana
- La Veta – rejected medical and retail businesses
- Morrison – approved one retail store and a marijuana sales tax

A marijuana sales tax increase passed in Glendale. A tax increase on marijuana sales in Ordway is currently trailing by one vote. Final results will be available April 14.

## **Publication requirements**

Estes Park voters passed both questions related to publication: authorization to no longer publish in the newspaper the bills list or contracts awarded and authorization to publish ordinances by title only, provided the information be published on the town website instead. Hotchkiss also received voter permission to publish ordinances by title only in the newspaper and instead publish the ordinance in full on the town’s website.

## **Election changes**

Kersey voters approved moving their regular elections to November of even-numbered years.

## **Charter amendments**

Several charter amendments passed in home rule municipalities around the state:

- Glendale voters approved two charter amendments: to update language to be gender neutral and to implement term limits for the mayor and council members of four consecutive terms.
- Johnstown voters approved a charter amendment requiring that the proponents of initiative and referendum petitions be represented by three registered electors of the town.
- Larkspur voters approved all 13 charter amendments up for approval, including several amendments updating language to be gender neutral, clarifying language relating to registered electors, and making changes to conform to state election codes. The amendment updating sections relating to powers and duties of the council and mayor also passed.
- Pagosa Springs voters approved a citizen-initiated amendment that would impose a short-term rental fee to be used for workforce housing.
- Timnath voters approved the two amendments on the ballot: to re-establish term limits for elected officials as set forth in the Colorado Constitution, except that the terms considered to be consecutive shall be at least two years apart, and to change certain election-related deadlines to conform to the Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965.
- Woodland Park’s three amendments passed: regarding conflict of interest provisions, filling council vacancies and removal of elected and appointed officials from office.

CML thanks the city and town clerks who assisted CML staff in compiling this election information.

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