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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado Municipal League releases spring municipal election preview

March 23, 2022, Denver, Colo. – On April 5, voters in almost 100 cities and towns across Colorado will decide their city and town councils and boards of trustees. Twenty-seven of those municipalities will also have tax or revenue issues or other questions on the ballot. Over 70 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 tax questions will be on the ballot in:

- Burlington – increase to be used for street improvements
- Grover – increase to be used for town operations
- Nederland – extension of sales tax to be used for town's community center
- Hugo – authorization for revenue from existing sales tax for street and storm drainage improvements to 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

Lodging taxes will be considered in Larkspur, New Castle, Silt, Silverthorne, and Simla.

Frisco's ballot will include a tax on short-term rentals to be used for affordable housing projects and programs.

Two property tax questions are on the ballot:

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

Carbondale is requesting authorization to increase debt up to \$8 million for park and recreation facilities, including a new aquatic center.

Revenue retention

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

Governance

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

The recall of the mayor is on the ballot in Crestone, as is the option to vote for a candidate to succeed the mayor should the recall be successful.

Broadband

Timnath is seeking approval to join the 118 municipalities already exempted by local voters 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.

Marijuana

Marijuana businesses are on the ballot in:

- Burlington – retail stores, in a question that would also authorize a marijuana sales tax
- Hooper – three questions authorizing retail stores, medical stores, and medical marijuana delivery, and two issues authorizing a sales tax on retail marijuana and an excise tax on retail marijuana
- Ignacio – one question to authorize retail stores and an occupation tax on the sale of retail marijuana and a separate question to authorize medical stores and an occupation tax on the sale of medical marijuana
- La Veta – medical and retail businesses
- Morrison – one retail store, and a marijuana sales tax

Taxes on marijuana sales are also being considered in Glendale and Ordway.

Publication requirements

To save money on publication costs, Estes Park is requesting authorization to no longer publish in the newspaper the bills list or contracts awarded and to publish ordinances by title only, provided the information be published on the town website instead. Hotchkiss is also requesting 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 is asking voters to move their regular elections to November of even-numbered years.

Charter amendments

Several charter amendments are on the ballot in home rule municipalities around the state.

- Glendale has two charter amendments on the ballot, to update language to be gender neutral and to implement term limits for the mayor and council members of four consecutive terms.
- Johnstown's charter amendment would make changes to initiative and referendum petition requirements.
- Larkspur has 13 charter amendments up for approval, including several amendments which would update language to be gender neutral, clarify language relating to registered electors, and make changes to conform to state election codes. A final amendment would update sections relating to powers and duties of the council and mayor.
- Pagosa Springs voters will consider a citizen-initiated amendment that would impose a fee on short-term rentals to be used for workforce housing.
- Timnath has two amendments on the ballot: one 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 one to change certain election-related deadlines to conform to the Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965.
- Woodland Park has three amendments on the ballot, regarding conflict of interest provisions, filling council vacancies, and removal of elected and appointed officials from office.

Special elections

The City of Louisville will conduct a special election on April 19 regarding a referendum on an ordinance concerning an amendment to a development plan.

The City of Glenwood Springs will hold a special election on May 3 with two ballot questions. The first question is a charter amendment that would add an election requirement to any sale or permanent closure of the municipal airport. The second question is a referendum to repeal an ordinance concerning annexation of property.

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 or call 303-831-6411.

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