

TOWN OF BLUE RIVER, COLORADO

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor & Board of Trustees

THROUGH: Bob Widner, Town Attorney

FROM: Molly Schultz, Deputy Town Attorney

DATE: December 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Resolution 2023-13
Setting Ballot Question for Publishing by Title Only for April 2, 2024, Election

If approved by the Board, Resolution 2023-13 would refer a ballot question to the electors for the April 2, 2024, Election.

Resolution 2023-13

- State law requires the publication of the ENTIRE text of any ordinance after adoption in a newspaper of general circulation.
- Publishing ordinances in a newspaper is costly for any small town. Blue River currently spends approximately \$8,000.00 each year publishing the full text of its adopted ordinances.
- However, state law expressly permits the voters to approve the publishing of the “title only” of an ordinance, thereby saving the expense of full publication.
- It is more common today that citizens look to the Town’s website for the full text of adopted ordinances. Citizens no longer “read the fine print” in the back of a newspaper.
- If approved by the voters, the ballot question will still require the Town to inform the citizens of the title of adopted ordinances in a newspaper, and also requires the Town to put the full text of the ordinance on the Town website.
- There will be no loss of transparency from the approval of the ballot question.