



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Election Code Committee

STAFF

Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk
Rupa Venkatesh, Assistant City Manager
Carrie Daggett, City Attorney
Sara Arfman, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT

2024 Workplan Check-In and Election and Ranked Choice Voting Updates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to provide updates on the Committee’s Work Plan and to enable discussion on Work Plan items. The purpose also includes providing updates on the 2024 election and ranked choice voting efforts.

At its October 21, 2024, meeting, the Committee reviewed the remaining items on the Work Plan and Code amendments related to campaign finance enforcement and contribution limits. Changes have been made based on the discussion from that meeting and will be presented at the December 10 meeting. Discussion is also planned on possible options related to additional campaign oversight.

Discussion on possible additional Charter amendments will likely be included as part of the Charter review project that is currently underway.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Does this meet the Committee’s expectations regarding these items?
2. Are there any additional items the Committee is interested in pursuing for this election term?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

For the January 27, 2025, meeting, staff will be prepared to discuss:

- Draft code changes that would eliminate write-in candidates;
- Draft code changes that would eliminate having petition circulators read an entire petition if requested;
- Draft code changes that would enable the City to use the Secretary of State’s rules related to ranked choice voting for any special elections that are not coordinated with the County; and
- Draft code changes that are needed based on the Charter changes that passed.

Code changes agreed to at the December meeting, together with a summary of items the Committee approved at the October meeting, will be reviewed at the January 27, 2025, ECC meeting. Approved items will then be prepared for Council consideration. If no work session is needed, the items could be brought forward for first reading as early as February 18, followed by second reading on March 4, 2025. An earlier meeting in January could be scheduled if the Committee desires to do so.

Additional items remaining on the Committee's Work Plan include:

1. Education for Ranked Choice Voting and Sign Code requirements
2. Additional Code Amendments
 - a. Redistricting.
3. Other Topics: "Bike Rack" Items:
 - b. Public Financing of Campaigns

Staff will provide updates on remaining items as information is available.

Election Update:

Related to the 2024 Election:

- Larimer County has certified final election results, and the report has been filed with the State Department of Legal Affairs (DOLA) as required;
- The cost of the election was estimated to be \$164,337.27. We expect to receive the finalized cost by December 6 and can report out on this at the December 10 meeting.

Candidate information for the 2025 election is being received. Here is what we have so far:

Mayor: No Candidates

District 1: Nick Armstrong (needs to provide updated information) and Christopher Bramhall-Conway

District 3: No Candidates

District 5: Amy Hoeven

Staff is working on finalizing Candidate Guidelines and other materials for the 2025 election. We are expecting to schedule a Candidate Information Session towards the end of Q1 which will include some information about the new ranked choice voting process.

Ranked Choice Voting Efforts

A core staff team has been established that includes members from the City Clerk, City Attorney and Communications teams. Many efforts are underway including developing a communications/outreach plan and associated timelines, working on branding, website and material development, event planning, etc.

Collaboration with CSU (ASCSU and Strayer Center) is already underway. The team plans to reach out to Poudre School District and Front Range Community College as well to determine how best to reach their students.

Collaboration with Larimer County is underway with a kick-off meeting scheduled for Friday, December 13.

Collaboration with the League of Women voters is planned.

Outreach is expected to start during Q1 2025. We are expecting to take a "bite, snack, meal" approach to this, similar to what the City of Boulder did.

- Bite – social media posts, early website development, postcard creation, Coloradoan information;
- Snack – Candidate Information Session, postcard mailing, utility bill stuffer, continued social media posts, added information on the website, development of slides and a video;
- Meal – Full flyer mailing, cable TV information, QR code that links to a ballot for practice, fully built out website, events, mock elections, elections blue book.

We expect to have all items except for the elections blue book developed and ready to go by the Summer of 2025, prior to attending events.

Events we have identified include:

- State of the City (postcard developed and available)
- Candidate Information and Orientation Sessions (postcard and video developed and available)
- Open Streets
- Lagoon Series
- Farmer's Markets
- Library (when they have other events planned)
- Super-Issue meetings
- CSU events
- Senior Center Outreach
- Town Hall and/or similar meetings
- League of Women Voter and County events

Other events will be added as wanted/needed.

The election blue book is expected to be developed in the August/September timeframe. It is unknown at this time whether this will solely be an online resource or mailed to registered households. It is expected that a full mailing for something like this would cost approximately \$85K. Alternatively, a link to the online version could be included on the last flyer that is mailed and perhaps on the voter instructions that go out with ballots.

We plan to collaborate with the City's Equity Office and the League of Women Voters to ensure effective outreach and training to underserved populations within the community. There are a lot of great ideas being generated in this space that we plan to explore. All ranked choice voting materials will be available in English and Spanish.

Staff will continue to keep the Committee and Council apprised of related efforts.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation