

Election Code Committee Meeting

Final meeting of this session.

Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk Cecilia Good, Snr Deputy City Clerk Sara Arfmann, Assist City Attorney II



Today's Topics



Debrief from the February 18th Council Meeting

Election Oversight Role/Duties of Contractor

RCV Communications Plan and Update

Candidate Information Session



Debrief from the February 18th Council Meeting

February 18th Council Meeting



- A. First Reading of Ordinance No. 029, 2025, Amending 7-145 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to Clarify and Revise the Process for Enforcement of Campaign Violations. Adopted 7-0.
- B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 030, 2025, Amending Article V of Chapter 7 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to Clarify and Revise the Restrictions and Requirements Related to Campaign Contributions in City Elections. Adopted 7-0.
- C. First Reading of Ordinance No. 031, 2025, Amending Section 7-103 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to Remove Write-In Candidates in City Elections. Adopted 5-2.
- D. First Reading of Ordinance No. 032, 2025, Amending Section 7-165 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to Clarify and Revise the Requirements for Petition Circulators. Adopted 7-0.
- E. First Reading of Ordinance No. 033, 2025, Amending Chapter 7 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to **Update Various Sections Related to City Elections for Consistency with the City Charter and Within Chapter 7. Adopted 7-0.**

2nd Reading – March 4; Effective Date of Changes – March 14







Election Oversight

Role/Duties of Contractor

Election Complaints Received From 2019 to 2023



2023 – 5 Complaints Received:

- 3 Campaign Materials, i.e., no paid for by listed.
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process starting with a review by the Clerk and City Attorney.
- 2 Financial
 - Would be covered by outside contractor proactively, so hopefully won't receive related complaints.

2022 – 4 Complaints Received:

- 1 Financial
 - Would be covered by outside contractor.
- 1 Committee Registration (violations found)
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.
- 2 Campaign Materials
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.

Election Complaints Received From 2019 to 2023, Continued



2021 – 12 Complaints Received:

- 3 Financial
 - Would be covered by outside contractor.
- 4 Committee Registration (violations found)
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.
- 5 Campaign Materials
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.

2019 – 19 Complaints Received:

- 10 Campaign Materials, i.e., no paid for by listed.
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process starting with a review by the Clerk and City Attorney.
- 7 Financial
 - Would be covered by outside contractor.
- 2 City Process
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.

ECC Expectations Related to Oversight Contract Position



A. Proactive review of Campaign Finance Reporting and Related Compliance

- Ensure numbers make sense (starting and ending balances).
- Ensure timeliness of filing and follow up on missing reports.
- Ensure contributions are within limits.
- Ensure contributions are given by allowed donors.
- Make periodic checks of donations made to ensure accuracy of information reported.
- Ensure all contributions meet City code requirements.
- Ensure revised reports are filed to address issues found.
- Work with Candidates and Committees to get voluntary compliance.
- If needed, report unresolved issues found to City Clerk staff for enforcement.

ECC Expectations Related to Oversight Contract Position



A. Items that may be outside of the scope

- Periodically ask for samples of materials to check for "paid for by" requirements.
- Periodically look at election-related Facebook pages to check for "paid for by" requirements.
- Periodically check election signs to check for "paid for by" requirements.
- Pursue checks on potential issues reported such us text messages with no "paid for by" information added.

Time Estimates for This work



Proactive review of Campaign Finance Reports.

- 9 reports due per committee
- If we have 12 candidates and 3 committees:
 - 135 reports to be reviewed
 - @ 3 hours each = 405 hours (recognize that some will take longer due to investigation and follow-up, and some will take less time).
 - \$100/hour
- \$40,500
- Additional funding might be required if proactive work outside of campaign finance is desired

Appropriation and Timing



Next Steps

- Will come to Council to request an appropriation for the outside contractor on April 1st.
- Will also include an appropriation for any extra needed for the coordinated election based on County estimate.
- Will write a Scope of Work and go out for written proposals won't have to go through the full RFP process
- Want to have them hired and ready to go by May 1

Who would make an ideal candidate?

- City Clerk Consultant
- Outside Attorney
- Election judge
- Community member who has election experience



Candidate Information Session

Candidate Information Session



- April 2, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers
- Agenda
 - General City Information
 - Full-Service City, History-Past and Present, Structure
 - Council
 - Direct Reports, Council Duties, Council Schedule, District Boundaries, Boards and Commissions, Council Compensation
 - Election Timelines and Requirements
 - Candidate Affidavit, Committee Registration,
 Nomination Petition, Campaign Finance and Reporting
 - Review of pertinent Code changes
 - Complaint and enforcement information
 - Outside contractor role
 - Ranked Voting
 - General information
 - Video
 - Does anyone from Council want to participate?



Baw Baw Shire Council



RCV Communications Plan and Update

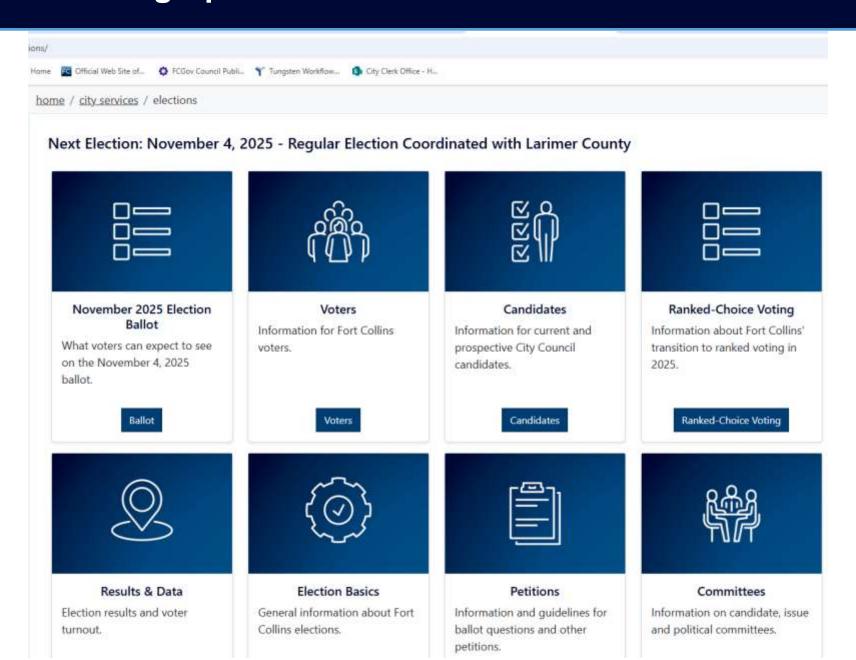
Ranked Choice Voting Update – Communications Plan





Ranked Choice Voting Update – Communications Plan





Ranked Choice Voting Update



- State of the City event
 - Had a lot of great discussions
 - Was interesting to see where people are as far as what they know
 - Found some new tools! (rcv123.org)
 - People liked the materials we had
 - FC Vote T-shirts
- Next touchpoint Candidate Information Session on April 2
 - 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
 - Video will be ready!
- PSD and CSU
 - Both are excited to help share the word through newsletters and other avenues.
 - PSD newsletters goes to 77,000 people!
 - CSU will help educate students, parents, faculty, etc.



Ranked Choice Voting Update



Events

- State of the City Done
- Candidate Information and Orientation Sessions
- Open Streets
- Lagoon Series
- Larimer County Fair and Farmer's markets
- Library (when they have events planned)
- Super-Issue meetings
- Collaboration with League of Women Voters
- CSU events (ASCSU, Strayer Center)
- Senior Center Outreach
- Collaboration with the Equity Office and related events



Better Ballot North Carolina

Ranked Choice Voting Update - Volunteers

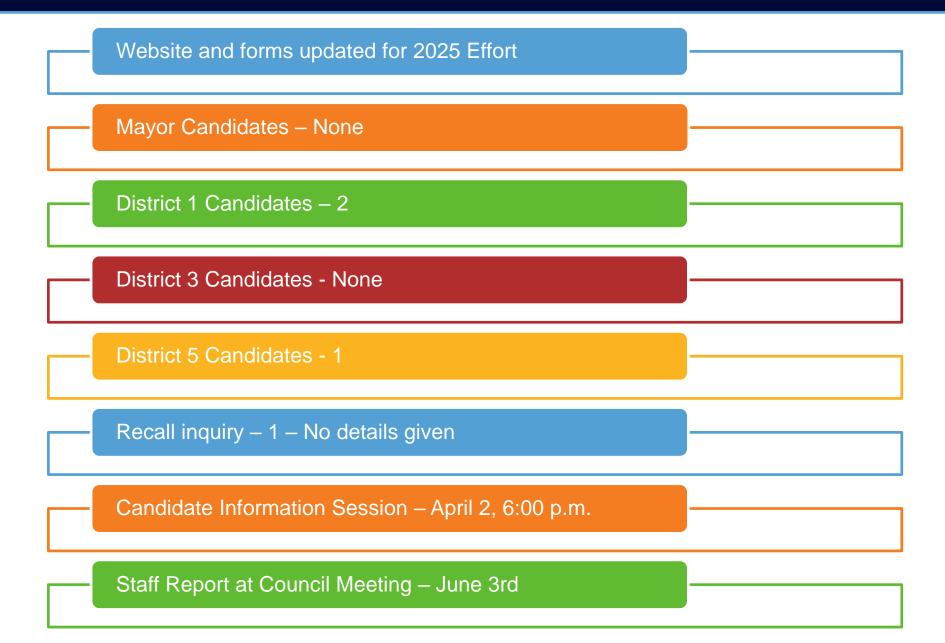


- Volunteer description is posted and accepting applications. We have received 3 so far
- Will work through the City's Volunteer Coordinator with help of Davina in the Clerk's Office
- Will ensure all volunteers are identified and go through the same process
- Will include volunteer training, as well as RCV training



Election Update





Additional Charter Amendments and Other Topics – Next Session



Additional Code Amendments

- Redistricting
- Other?

Other Topics "Bike Rack"

 Public Financing of Campaigns



Questions?