

ORDINANCE NO. 031, 2025
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING SECTION 7-103 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF
FORT COLLINS TO REMOVE WRITE-IN CANDIDATES IN CITY
ELECTIONS

A. In 2015, the City Council formed an ad hoc committee to review, discuss and recommend the most beneficial changes to the Code and City Charter regarding elections and other related matters.

B. In January 2017, Council made the ad hoc Committee a standing committee of Council for the purpose of identifying and evaluating ideas for improvements to City election laws and practices and anticipating adjustments that may be needed to adapt to a changing legal and technological environment, for Council consideration.

C. As a result of the Committee's work (as both an ad hoc committee and a standing committee), Ordinance No. 021, 2016, Ordinance No. 005, 2017, Ordinance No. 045, 2018, Ordinance No. 077, 2018, and Ordinance No. 113, 2018, Ordinance No. 109, 2020, Ordinance No. 112, 2020, and Ordinance No. 079, 2022, were considered and adopted by the Council to update various provisions of Chapter 7.

D. The Committee has continued to meet to consider clarifications and updates that may be needed in Chapter 7 and has recommended eliminating write-in candidates for City elections.

E. Write-in candidates must currently register only a few days after the deadline for submission of nominating petitions and eliminating the potential for write-in candidates will generally improve and clarify the City's election processes and will avoid unnecessarily complicating the ranked voting process.

F. These updates further the City's and the public's interest in efficiently conducting City elections.

G. The Council desires to enact the recommendations of the Committee and staff to clarify and improve Section 103 of Chapter 7, as set forth below.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that Section 7-103 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7-103. - Write-in candidates.

No write-in vote for a candidate for City Council office will be counted. ~~unless the person whose name appears as the write-in vote has filed an affidavit of intent with the City Clerk,~~

~~no later than the close of business sixty-four (64) days before the election, indicating that such person desires and is qualified for the office.~~

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on February 18, 2025, and approved on second reading for final passage on March 4, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: March 14, 2025

Approving Attorney: Sara Arfmann