

September 18, 2026

ELECTION CODE COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM

COMMITTEEMEMBERS PRESENT

Chair/Councilmember Chris Conway

Councilmember Josh Fudge

Councilmember Melanie Poytondy

STAFF PRESENT

Delynn Coldiron

Carrie Daggett

Ted Hewitt

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOLLOW-UP

None.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 15, 2026

1. Approval of Minutes

The purpose of this item is to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2026, Election Code Committee meeting.

Councilmember Potyondy moved, seconded by Councilmember Fudge, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2026 meeting.

THE MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

City Clerk Coldiron introduced Ted Hewitt as the Assistant City Attorney who will be attending ECC meetings.

F. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. Proposed Election Code Changes.

The purpose of this item is to propose election-related Code changes for the Committee's consideration.

Ted Hewitt, Assistant City Attorney, outlined the proposed Code changes, including modernization, cross-references, non-applicable section removal, allowing the City Clerk to not be required to bring forth City precinct map changes if they are not needed, and

eliminating the population deviation review requirement every time precincts are changed, unless otherwise needed.

Committee members and staff discussed redistricting and precinct changes, and Committee members expressed support for keeping the mid-cycle population review.

Assistant City Attorney Hewitt went on to outline additional proposed Code changes, including adjusting some definitions such as contributions.

Councilmember Potyondy asked if call lists can be shared among campaigns. City Attorney Daggett noted coordination among campaigns is on the list of things the Committee may want to consider in the future.

Assistant City Attorney Hewitt stated the last proposed Code change relates to independent expenditures and eliminating the threshold that would require registration as an issue or political committee after \$2,500 of expenditures, unless that entity starts soliciting for local contributions. City Clerk Coldiron further detailed the difficulties with the requirement.

City Attorney Daggett commented on issues in the past wherein national organizations such as the Sierra Club were participating financially in the Fort Collins election and questions were raised as to how their list of national members was to be retained.

Councilmember Potyondy commented on situations wherein the fundraising political entity related to a known entity, such as the Chamber of Commerce, is hard to discern. City Attorney Daggett stated the source of funds must be disclosed if independent expenditures are being made, even if the source of funds is an individual entity.

Councilmember Conway stated the independent expenditure issue is tricky.

City Clerk Coldiron and Assistant City Attorney Hewitt stated they would move forward with the proposed changes per the discussion.

3. Work Plan for 2026/2027.

The purpose of this item is to track other items on the 2026/2027 Work Plan and possible longer-term projects.

City Clerk Coldiron stated the goal will be to have the Code changes implemented by the first quarter of 2027, so they are in place and ready for the next election. She stated more information on the violation process and campaign coordination will be forthcoming. She also outlined some of the Charter changes being considered, including the number of nomination petition signatures, extending the Mayoral term, and changing regular elections to even years which would lower election costs as the State and County would be participating as well, would make for longer ballots, and would impact current Council terms.

City Clerk Coldiron outlined proposed changes to candidate guidelines and education, including updating the FAQ section, providing additional information about setting up candidate committees and registered agents, and instructions related to electronic donations and ensuring the maximum contribution can go to the candidate. She discussed the voter information guide changes, including ensuring accessibility to all voters and

exploring providing a QR code as a separate postcard mailing. Additionally, she noted long-term projects include public campaign funding.

Councilmember Potyondy stated she would like to see some education around why municipal elections matter, particularly for new voters.

G. REVIEW OF UPCOMING CALENDAR

H. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.