



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Election Code Committee

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### STAFF

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Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk  
Carrie Daggett, City Attorney  
Sara Arfmann, Assistant City Attorney II

### SUBJECT

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**Proposed Code Changes and Election and Ranked Choice Voting Updates**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The purpose of this item is to present proposed election-related code changes and to provide updates on the 2025 Election and ranked choice voting efforts.

At its December 10, 2024, meeting, the Committee reviewed revised code amendments related to campaign finance enforcement and contribution limits. The Committee also discussed possible options related to additional campaign oversight and will receive follow up information based on that discussion.

Proposed code amendments related to eliminating write-in candidates, adding ranked voting provisions in case of a special election administered by the City, eliminating the requirement that circulators read petitions when requested but providing an accessible way to access the information, updating the definition for ballot issue, ballot question or issue, and aligning campaign finance reporting with state provisions, as well as adding additional ones for committees that have been established more than 90 days ahead of an election, will be presented. The Committee will provide direction on which code amendments should be moved forward for consideration by the full Council.

### GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

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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

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Code changes agreed to at the January meeting will be prepared for Council consideration on February 18 (or March 4), followed by second reading on March 4 (or March 18), 2025. Staff will be looking for guidance on whether this should be placed on the Consent Agenda or as a discussion item on the chosen agenda.

Staff will also be looking for guidance related to campaign oversight and whether the Committee intends for staff to move forward with one of the options. If the Committee wants staff to move forward with an outside contract, an additional appropriation ordinance will be needed. This could be done as part of the

upcoming items or in July when we anticipate we will have estimated costs from the County that may require additional funding to be appropriated.

Additional items that remain outstanding include:

1. Code amendments related to Redistricting.
2. Other Topics: "Bike Rack" Items:
  - b. Public Financing of Campaigns

Staff will be looking for guidance on whether the Committee would like to continue meeting to review proposed code amendments related to Item 1 above or to hold these items for when the Committee reconvenes in the fall.

### **Election Update:**

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

Mayor: No Candidates

District 1: Christopher Bramhall-Conway. Nick Armstrong withdrew.

District 3: No Candidates

District 5: Amy Hoeven

Candidate Guidelines and other materials for the 2025 election have been finalized and the website has been updated.

A Candidate Information Session has been scheduled for April 2 which will include some information about the new ranked choice voting process. The session will be promoted during the State of the City address. It has been placed on this date to ensure that all code amendments have been approved, materials have been updated, and preliminary ranked choice voting information, including our video, are available. The Candidate Information Session in 2023 was held in July, so we are starting this outreach much earlier this round.

### **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.

An initial meeting was held with Larimer County on January 8, 2025. There is some additional work and collaboration that needs to be done to ensure alignment, especially on the name (ranked voting versus ranked choice voting). Staff will be meeting with the County on a monthly basis and plan to partner with them when possible, on events and outreach.

Collaboration with the League of Women voters is planned. Our first meeting with them is scheduled on January 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be able to provide a related update and the Committee's meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Outreach is expected to start during Q1 2025. We continue to expect 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. We are planning a staff report to City Council on June 3, 2025 to share materials, the video, the website, and answer questions Council may have.

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
- Larimer County Fair and 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**

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1. Proposed code amendments
2. Letter from League of Women Voters
3. Presentation