

# Potential Election Code Committee Topics for Discussion

## Campaign Finance Complaints

- What constitutes a cure of a violation? Especially after the election has concluded.
- Include ability for a respondent to resolve a complaint by paying a fine (eliminates resources needed for municipal court prosecution, and facilitates a resolution when it is not possible to cure the violation)
- Remove Police Services from the process and replace with an investigator. Investigator could also perform other parts of the process.
- Improve communications (to all parties even if not required; more timely, other?)
- New options State law (HB24-1283) may offer, if enacted.

## Campaign Finance (in General)

- Increase contribution limits?
  - HB23-1245 set the limit any person at \$400 and for small donor committees at \$4,000
- Independent expenditure definition and provisions need to include political parties
- Update the reporting requirements to match the requirements set in CRS 1-45-108
  - 60 days, 30 days, and 15 days prior to the election
  - 30 days after the election
  - Annually in off-election years on the first day of the month in which the major election occurs
  - Runoff elections – no later than 15 days before and after
- Need to address “issue” committees formed before there is an actual ballot issue (during a referendum process before Council makes a decision to repeal or refer to voters)
- Referring complaints to the Secretary of State, reliant on the passage of HB24-1283

## Candidates

- Increase number of signatures required for nomination?
  - Write-in Candidates
    - Potentially eliminate them
- OR
- Update Code provisions to provide clarity
    - Definition of candidate
    - Applicability of campaign finance provisions
  - CHARTER AMENDMENT(S) – possible amendment(s) for clarity

## Initiative and Referendum

- Update the petition forms
  - Cure incongruent language on bottom of front page
  - Preparation of petition for circulation (who prints the packets; cost recovery?)
- Consider City Code provisions regarding the requirement for a circulator to read the text of the proposed or referred measure (currently required via adoption of the form of the petition)
- CHARTER AMENDMENTS relating to referendum to address:
  - Requirement to include the full text of the referred ordinance
  - When a protested ordinance is suspended
  - Timelines, specifically regarding if a hearing is required and for review of signed petitions and other related steps

- Signature requirements (currently 10% of the ballots cast in the last election)
- Restructuring of the provisions for clarity
- CHARTER AMENDMENTS relating to initiatives to address:
  - Timelines for review of signed petitions and other related steps
  - Signature requirements (currently 10% of the ballots cast in the last election for both; 15% if seeking a special election for initiatives)
    - CO Constitution sets the limit as 10% for referendums and 15% for initiatives
- Requests to withdraw a signature from a petition (Colorado Springs 5.1.408(C)(1) and CRS 1-12-108(9)(d)(1) examples)

### **Ranked Choice Voting**

- Review Secretary of State rules regarding RCV
- RCV provisions need to be added to the City Code (if City is conducting the election)
- Voter outreach and education

### **Other**

- CHARTER AMENDMENT adjusting Council vacancy process
- Clarify in Sec 2-636 what financial disclosures are required upon leaving office