



Dec 18, 2025

# Election Code Committee Meeting

## Election Debrief

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Debrief from the 2025  
Election

Feedback from ECC

2026 Work Plan –  
Suggestions for Items to be  
Considered by next ECC



Debrief from 2025 Election

# 2025 Election – We Did It!!



## Amazing Partnerships



## Ranked Voting Election Administration

The broad strokes of a ranked voting election are the same as any other November election. We:

1. Sign an intergovernmental agreement.
2. Program the election.
3. Test the election.
4. Verify, tabulate, and adjudicate ballots.
5. Post election results.
6. Audit the election.

**The difference is in the details.**



## Ranked Voting Election Administration – Intergovernmental Agreement

Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins entered into an intergovernmental agreement in April, 2025. This agreement, in addition to the usual details of election coordination, also:

- Outlined shared responsibilities of conducting a ranked voting election, including voter education and outreach.
- Provided an estimate of costs unique to ranked voting.

But collaboration between the County and City actually began much earlier:

- The County and City officially met to “kick off” the ranked voting election in January, 2025.
- City and County continued to meet monthly to share key updates, educational materials, and public communications.

## Ranked Voting Election Administration – Election Programming

The County programmed the 2025 Coordinated Election, including ranked voting contests for the City of Fort Collins Mayor and Council Districts 1 and 3. This was only possible after:

- Exhaustive review of Rule and Law.
- Communication with the voting system provider and Secretary of State staff.
- Testing, testing, testing!
- Conducting mock elections.

## Ranked Voting Election Administration – Tabulation and Adjudication

The process of verifying, extracting, prepping, and tabulating ballots does not differ between standard and ranked contests. Ranked voting does, however, result in additional adjudication.

When a voter makes a mistake on their ballot, election judges must examine that ballot for “voter intent” and make any necessary corrections. What this looks like:

- A voter crosses out a mark in Round 6.
- Election judges interpret the correction.
- Election judges tell the system which mark to count.

**In general, more bubbles = more adjudication.**



## Ranked Voting Election Administration – Results Posting

The County's results posting schedule was the same for all measures and races in the 2025 Coordinated Election.

The process for posting ranked voting results required:

- Updates to the Larimer County results posting website.
- Integration of visualization software.
- Additional results reports (for each ranked contest).

## Ranked Voting Election Administration – Risk-Limiting Audit

The County audited each ranked voting race before the canvass board certified the election.

In practice, the County conducted two audits:

1. The official 2025 Coordinated Election Risk-Limiting Audit.  
Target Contests = State/County.
2. The pilot 2025 Coordinated Election Risk-Limiting Audit.  
Target Contest = City of Fort Collins Mayor.

These milestone audits were the first time a ranked voting contest was tested in a risk-limiting audit using the Colorado Risk-Limiting Audit (CORLA) tool.

## Ranked Voting Election Administration – Costs

### Unique costs associated with ranked voting:

- Voting System License: \$10,000.00
- Instructional Insert: \$12,212.97
- Election Judge Staffing Increase – Adjudication: \$1,894.46
- **TOTAL: \$24,107.43**

### Unique costs associated with 2-card ballot:

- Printing and Insertion: \$52,372.84
- Election Judge Staffing Increase – Extraction: \$14,066.66
- **TOTAL: \$66,439.50**

## **July 2024: Charter Amendments for Articles VIII (General), IX (Recall) and X (Initiative and Referendum)**

- Modernized language on all
- Modified time computations on all
  - ✓ Move to business days in increments of 7
  - ✓ Clarified if process was going to remain calendar days
- Reorganization of materials for clarity
- Updated processes
  - ✓ Review periods
  - ✓ Simplification (easier review process and elimination of cure provisions)
  - ✓ Petitions – City Clerk prepares general statement, simplified review process, tightened timeframe protests, requires initiative measures to be voted on at next timely November election

## **February 2025: Code Changes**

- Revisions to enforcement process
- Revisions to campaign contributions including adding additional reports
- Removal of write-in candidates
- Revision of requirements for petition circulators (not having to read entire petition and attachments unless asked, timing, etc.)
- Revisions to various sections to align with the City's Charter

## **April 2025: Proposed Charter Changes**

- Resulted in 6 Charter amendments moving forward to the 2025 Ballot
  - ✓ All but one was approved

# 2025 Election – Campaign Finance Reports

## 2025 Election:

- ✓ 141 Reports Received
- ✓ 5 late reports were received
- ✓ 75 amendments were requested and received

216 Reports Processed

- 6 reports were required prior to changes. We now require 7 reports (more if committee is registered prior to July)

- ✓ **2 weeks** after filing committee registration (then on 1<sup>st</sup> day of quarter until September) - NEW
- ✓ **July 1, 2025** - (1st day of quarter until Sept. 2, 2025 report) - NEW
- ✓ **Sept. 2, 2025** (63 days before election) - NEW
- ✓ **Sept. 30, 2025** (35 days before election)
- ✓ **Oct. 14, 2025** (21 days before election)
- ✓ **Oct. 21, 2025** (14 days before election)
- ✓ **Oct. 31, 2025** (by noon - Friday before election)
- ✓ **Dec. 2, 2025** (28 days after election) - AMENDED
- ✓ **Jan. 13, 2026** (70 days after election)

2 Candidates  
Unresponsive to Filing  
Deadlines



## Common Issues Found:

- ✓ People neglected to sign or date the report
- ✓ Not showing the correct report period
- ✓ Report signed by the wrong person
- ✓ Not submitting the report to all parties (City and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party)
- ✓ Not understanding that the ending balance of the prior report needed to match the beginning balance of current report
- ✓ Not completing or making errors with cumulative totals
- ✓ Changing or eliminating the formula in the spreadsheet resulting in calculation errors
- ✓ Incomplete names/addresses for contributors and expenditures
- ✓ Not completing the column designating whether something was a loan

## Changes made:

- ✓ Spreadsheet was slightly modified to help make it clear what field entries were required
- ✓ Criteria checklists developed to assist with review reports
- ✓ Providing third party with filed spreadsheets to assist in cross-checking and calculations

Very helpful related to Campaign Finance!

- ✓ Especially with the extra efforts required for Ranked Voting

Budgeted for \$40K; actual - \$15,640

Improvements needed:

- ✓ More training on Code provisions related to campaign finance and enforcement
- ✓ Shared file locations that can be accessed by third party
- ✓ More timely uploads and sharing of initial committee information
- ✓ Better tracking of amendments
- ✓ Training on complaint process so they can assist

## 36 Complaints Received:

- ✓ 21 complaints received by one complainant
- ✓ 11 complaints received by another
- ✓ 4 complaints by separate individuals

## Complaint Types:

- 1 – No reported contributions/expenditures yet activity was occurring (i.e., website)
- 1 – Funds on hand with no identification of where they were from
- 1 – LLC reporting
- 1 – LLC revised report did not include dates
- 1 – Paypal processing fees not itemized
- 2 – Date listed at the top of form was incorrect, registered agent did not date the form, registered agent did not include title.
- 2 – No separate bank account
- 2 – Question about where donations were actually going (committee or another)
- 2 – Committee making expenditures with no contributions
- 2 – Cumulative totals section not completed or incorrect totals in form
- 3 – Contributions in excess of limits
- 4 – No paid for by listed
- 6 – No committee registered but participating in election
- 8 – Committee coordinating with another committee

- Further Code refinements and/or administrative procedures need to be developed around enforcement process
  - ✓ When does City file complaints
  - ✓ Should there be some standard steps that if a report is late, after XX days there is an automatic fine (may be other items where this should apply) – would be good to have this set out in Code
- Further refinements to Campaign Finance Spreadsheet or different way to file
  - ✓ Could research systems that do this; however, we know they are costly
  - ✓ Would be helpful in filing, tracking, etc.
- Changes to allow someone to get started with some things such as creating a bank account prior to filing a registration since funds are required to do this, but we require proof of a bank account at time of registration
- Changes around 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Assistance:
  - ✓ More training on Code provisions related to campaign finance and enforcement
  - ✓ Shared file locations that can be accessed by third party
  - ✓ More timely uploads and sharing of initial committee information
  - ✓ Better tracking of amendments
  - ✓ Training on complaint process so they can assist



Feedback from ECC



## 2026 Work Plan – Suggested Items for the Next ECC Committee





# Questions?