



Town of Johnstown

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor Gary Lebsack & Town Councilmembers

FROM: Matt LeCerf, Town Manager

CC: Mitzi McCoy, Deputy Town Manager

DATE: March 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Potential Referendum – April 2024

In April 2024, we expect to have an election for Council, pending applications for candidates. This will be dependent upon the number of applicants compared to the number of vacancies in 2024. During these elections, this also represents the best time in which to have referendums on the ballot to control costs. Referendums can address many different initiatives including, but not limited to sales & use tax questions, amendments to our home rule charter, and exemptions or opt-outs from state laws in certain instances.

As we look toward 2024, two potential topics have percolated as potential referendums that may be considered by Council to add to the April 2024 ballot. The measures would need to be approved by the voters. Those items include:

1. *Creation of a Water Policy* – These would be high level items that could be included into the Johnstown Home Rule Charter to ensure a long-term strong position with respect to our water resources. Our Water Attorney and Water Engineers have provided policy positions attached that you may want to consider.
2. *ACLU Notice* – If you will recall, the ACLU provided the Town with a letter regarding concerns about the terms by which citizens of Johnstown can run for Mayor or Council. Our current Home Rule Charter bars everyone convicted of a felony from running for Johnstown Council. Based on a recent court case in Arapahoe County, our Home Rule Charter may be in conflict with the Colorado Constitution and requires a narrower definition of felonies that prohibit residents seeking election to Johnstown Council.

Does Council want to address these two items or any other critical topic in the next general local election?

The Community That Cares

johnstown.colorado.gov

P: 970.587.4664 | 450 S. Parish Ave, Johnstown CO 80534 | F: 970.587.0141