

# 2026 POTENTIAL BALLOT QUESTIONS DISCUSSION

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APRIL 28, 2026



## COUNCIL DIRECTION BASED ON CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- CRC outlined a total of 39 Charter sections for Council consideration
- CRC focused on the top 11 committee recommendations
- Council considered *all* recommendations and directed staff to bring forth six (6) for further discussion of potential ballot question/s

# TOP 11 CHARTER SECTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AMENDMENT

- Sec. 8. Amending the Charter.

Charter language: Amendments to this Charter may be framed and submitted to the registered electors through petitioning the Council, or framed and submitted to the registered electors by Council on its own initiative, in accordance with the provisions of Article XX of the Constitution of the State of Colorado. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the submission to the people of more than one Charter amendment at any one election. (Amended, Election of 11-5-1991)

CRC Recommendation: Create equity between the effort/ability to amend the City's Charter with that required to submit a successful initiative or referendum petition by raising the threshold for number of signatures required and/or requiring a super-majority vote or other percentage vote for passage of any Charter Amendment referred to the electorate.

Comments: Home Rule Charter amendment process is prescribed by the state's Constitution and statute. City of Littleton's Charter meets current process as allowed.

# TOP 11 CHARTER SECTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AMENDMENT

- Sec. 24. Presiding Officer

Charter language: The voters shall elect the Mayor who will be the presiding officer and entitled to vote. He or she shall have no veto power. He or she shall be recognized as the head of the City government for all ceremonial purposes and shall execute and authenticate legal instruments requiring his or her signature as such official. If a seated council member with remaining years on their term wishes to run for the position of Mayor, that council member shall be required to provide written notice to the City Clerk by July 1st of that general municipal election year of his or her intent to step down from their current council seat and run for Mayor. That council member shall continue to serve in their elected capacity until their seat is filled at the next general municipal election.

CRC Recommendation: Remove the second paragraph and replace with: If a seated council member with remaining years on their term wishes to run for the position of mayor and wins, the new city council would appoint a replacement to fill the remaining two (2) years of their term. If a seated council member with remaining years on their term wishes to run for the position of mayor and loses, they will retain their seat on city council for the remainder of their term.

# TOP 11 CHARTER SECTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AMENDMENT

- Sec. 27. Council Meetings; Open and Executive Sessions. (Specific to 27.2)

Charter language: To confer with an attorney regarding a legal action already filed in a court of law. The case name and number shall be cited for the public record. Any final settlement or final agreement shall be decided by a majority vote in a regular meeting of the Council.

CRC Recommendation: Replace with “Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators” or something similar thereby allowing the City Attorney to discuss *all* potential legal action, regardless of whether action has been filed.

Comments: Staff concurs with the recommendation, as replacing the provision would align the City’s Charter with statute.

# TOP 11 CHARTER SECTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AMENDMENT

- Sec. 36. Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions.

Charter language: The Council shall act only by ordinance, resolution or motion. All legislative enactments must be in the form of ordinances; all other procedures may be in the form of resolutions or motions. All ordinances and resolutions shall be confined to one subject, except in the case of repealing ordinances. Ordinances making appropriations shall be confined to the subject of appropriations. (July 28, 1959; Amended, Election of 11-3-2015)

Recommendation: Add definitions for all three to Sec. 7. Definitions.

Comments: The 2013/2014 CRC recommended adding these definitions, and others, to Sec. 7 Definitions. This was not referred to a ballot; language is unchanged in the Charter.

# TOP 11 CHARTER SECTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AMENDMENT

- Sec. 70. Submission of the Budget.

Charter language: Not later than September fifteenth of each year, the City Manager shall submit to the Council:

A. An annual or current expense budget of all City funds, hereafter referred to as the "budget", which shall be a complete financial plan for the ensuing fiscal year, consisting of the budget proper and the budget message.

B. A capital budget. (July 28, 1959; Amended, Election of 11-3-2015)

CRC Recommendation: Budget should be adopted prior to seating of new council\*. Remove reference to 9/15 and replace with a range of dates. *\*Would require changes to Sec. 22. Terms as a separate ballot question;*

Comments: Deadline for approval of the budget is required prior to the date by which the county/ies certify mill levies, generally by December 15. Deadline for submittal of budget could be removed from the Charter with budget timeline set by administrative policy or ordinance.

# TOP 11 CHARTER SECTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AMENDMENT

- Sec. 89. General Obligation Bonds.

Charter language: Indebtedness and obligations of the City shall be incurred and limited as provided in Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Colorado applicable to towns and cities except as otherwise provided in this Charter. The Council shall have power to issue general obligation bonds of the City for any public capital purpose upon majority vote of the registered electors of the City voting at any special or general election. However, water and/or sewer-extension and water and/or sewer improvement bonds may be issued without an election if the total of existing and proposed such bonds shall not exceed five percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property within the City as shown by the last preceding assessment for tax purposes. The total outstanding general obligation indebtedness of the City, other than for water and/or sewer bonds, shall not at any time exceed three and seven-tenths percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property within the City as shown by the last preceding assessment for tax purposes. Bonds of the City, other than water and/or sewer bonds, shall be payable in installments commencing not later than two years after the date of said bonds. Water and/or sewer bonds shall mature and be payable as provided by the ordinance authorizing the issuance of said bonds. (Amended, Election of 7-8-1986; Election of 11-5-1991)

CRC Recommendation: Existing language is too prescriptive. Committee suggested referencing state statutory limit/not to exceed. Increase with staff/council direction. Use "plain" language for ballot and provide adequate outreach and education.

Comments: Staff recommends either 1) repeal of this section, and replacement with related reference to policy adopted by ordinance, aligning the City with more common municipal practices; or 2) replacement of the following verbiage “three and seven-tenths percent of the assessed valuation” with “three percent of appraised/actual valuation” to be consistent with regional municipal practices.

# MUNICIPAL DEBT CAP EXAMPLES

City	Indebtedness Limit	Actual vs. Assessed Value
Arvada	3.0%	Actual
Centennial	3.0%*	Actual
Englewood	3.0%	Actual
Greenwood Village	2.0%	Actual
Lakewood	3.0%	Actual
Littleton	3.7%	Assessed
Northglenn	5.0%*	Actual
Parker	None	n/a
Westminster	3.0%*	Actual
Wheat Ridge	3.0%	Actual

\*General obligation indebtedness of the City shall be incurred and limited as provided in Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Colorado



Questions