



GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

MUNICIPAL VOTERS GO TO THE POLLS THIS SPRING

March 11, 2019, Denver, CO – Nine municipal elections will be held in April to elect city councilmembers and town board trustees. Voters in Colorado Springs, Craig, Durango, Fort Collins, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, and Ward will select their municipal leaders on April 2. Aspen will hold a runoff election the same day to decide between two finalists in the mayoral race, after holding its regular election on March 5. Larkspur will hold a special election two weeks later to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of their previous mayor.

Denver residents pick their mayor, council members, and other elected officials including auditor and clerk and recorder in May, and Mountain Village voters go to the polls in June. Georgetown and Ridgway canceled their elections due to no competitive races.

Voters will also decide the fate of several ballot questions:

Tax and Bond Issues

Durango and Glenwood Springs voters are being asked to increase sales and use taxes for street maintenance and improvements. Glenwood Springs has a second question that would increase debt up to \$16 million, also for roads. Fort Collins is requesting an extension of the "Keep Fort Collins Great" sales and use tax to be split between general operations and public safety purposes.

Grand Junction has three sales and use tax questions on the ballot, which would fund road improvements, emergency services, and the construction of a new community center, respectively. The community center question also includes authorization for up to \$79 million in debt.

Charter amendments

Fort Collins voters will decide if their mayor and city councilmembers should receive an increase in compensation that would make their wages equal to the area median household income. A city charter amendment is also being considered in Colorado Springs, which, if approved, will allow collective bargaining for firefighters. Grand Junction voters will consider two charter amendments: the first concerning the process for cable television franchise renewal and the second increasing the authorized terms for lease of public property.

Home Rule

In May, Castle Pines voters will decide whether to approve the proposed home rule charter to become Colorado's 102nd home rule municipality.

Broadband

In June, Eaton will hold a special election to ask voters to opt out of Senate Bill 152 and to have the right to engage in broadband services. If successful, they will join 102 municipalities who have already done so.

Other issues

At their March election, Aspen voters approved a question to rezone a portion of land and use public funds for ski- and tourism-related development projects.

Grand Junction voters will consider the sale of public property.

The two questions on the ballot in Denver's May election include a measure that grants certain rights to people experiencing homelessness and the decriminalization of personal use and possession of psilocybin mushrooms.

CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 270 cities and towns. For more information about the Colorado Municipal League, please visit www.cml.org or call 303-831-6411.

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