



Agenda

Election Code Committee

March 3, 2025 – 4:00 PM

CIC Conference Room, City Hall, 300 Laporte Ave and via Zoom

<https://fcgov.zoom.us/j/98639152564>

Remote Participation Available

A) Call Meeting to Order

B) Roll Call

C) Public Participation

D) Public Participation Follow-up

E) Approval of Minutes

1. **Approval of Minutes.**

The purpose of this item is to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025, Election Code Committee meeting.

F) Discussion / Informational Items

2. **Debrief from the February 18 Council Meeting, Discussion on Election Oversight and the Candidate Information Session and Ranked Choice Voting Updates.**

The purpose of this item is to:

- Debrief from the February 18 Council Meeting where the election code changes were discussed;
- Discuss election oversight;
- Discuss the upcoming Candidate Information Session; and
- Provide an update on ranked voting efforts.

G) Review of Upcoming Calendar

H) Other Business

I) Adjournment

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A solicitud, la Ciudad de Fort Collins proporcionará servicios de acceso a idiomas para personas que no dominan el idioma inglés, o ayudas y servicios auxiliares para personas con discapacidad, para que

puedan acceder a los servicios, programas y actividades de la Ciudad. Para asistencia, llame al 970.221.6515 (V/TDD: Marque 711 para Relay Colorado). Por favor proporcione aviso previo cuando sea posible. Las solicitudes de interpretación en una reunión deben realizarse antes del mediodía del día anterior.

March 3, 2025

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Election Code Committee



STAFF

Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk

SUBJECT

Approval of Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025, Election Code Committee meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes, January 27, 2025

January 27, 2025

ELECTION CODE COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM

COMMITTEEMEMBERS PRESENT

Chair/Councilmember Tricia Canonico
Mayor Jeni Arndt
Councilmember Julie Pignataro (remote)

STAFF PRESENT

Delynn Coldiron
Cecilia Good
Sara Arfmann
Carrie Daggett
Rupa Venkatesh

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pat Burger, Larimer County League of Women Voters, stated the Larimer County League of Women Voters is the largest in the state and is a non-partisan entity. Burger read a letter from the League regarding support of improved election oversight for Fort Collins elections, specifically the establishment of an independent election oversight authority with quasi-judicial powers.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOLLOW-UP

Mayor Arndt stated the formation of an election oversight body is part of a growing town and stated there is a growing lack of trust in elections nationwide. However, she also noted she has full confidence in the Clerk's Office to be an independent arbiter of elections. She expressed support for starting with an outside consultant, through she stated she was unsure where necessary funds would be found.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 10, 2024

1. Approval of Minutes

The purpose of this item is to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024, Election Code Committee meeting.

Councilmember Pignataro moved, seconded by Mayor Arndt, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 meeting. Yeas: Chair Canonico, Councilmember Pignataro and Mayor Arndt. Nays: none.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

F. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. Proposed Code Changes and Election and Ranked Choice Voting Updates

City Clerk Coldiron summarized the proposed Code changes.

Sara Arfmann, Assistant City Attorney, provided additional detail on the proposed changes, beginning with eliminating write-in candidates as allowing that would make ranked choice voting elections much more complicated. City Clerk Coldiron noted write-in candidates do not have to go through the same process as other candidates. Mayor Arndt also noted there is a

low bar for becoming a candidate. Members opted to move forward with the elimination of write-in candidates.

Arfmann noted staff is also recommending clarifying that any special election not coordinated with the County would follow the rules adopted by the Secretary of State related to ranked voting. Members opted to move forward with the change.

Arfmann outlined the next proposed change regarding providing reasonable accommodations for any ADA request but eliminating the requirement that a petition circulator must read an entire petition upon request. Members opted to move forward with the change.

Arfmann outlined definition changes and campaign finance report changes with which the committee opted to move forward. Chair Canonico stated May 1, 2025 has been considered as the date for the first financial report to be due for this year only, with the next report due July 1, 2025.

Arfmann outlined two additional Code provisions that will likely be brought forward with changes, one related to nomination petition timelines and one related to the list of City Clerk duties.

City Clerk Coldiron summarized additional Code changes that will be brought forward regarding campaign enforcement and contribution limits and associated contribution changes.

Councilmember Pignataro moved, seconded by Mayor Arndt, to recommend to the full Council changes 1 through 7 as reflected in the staff presentation on slide 9, including some language reconciliation regarding nominating petitions in the event of a recall and clarification regarding the City Clerk's duties. Yeas: Chair Canonico, Councilmember Pignataro and Mayor Arndt. Nays: none.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Cecilia Good, Senior Deputy City Clerk, discussed her research regarding seeking an outside consultant to conduct election oversight. She stated the services could cost as much as \$60,000 and staff would look at doing a RFP if that were the case.

Mayor Arndt stated the person doing oversight could be helped immensely with in-house training and also suggested regular candidate and treasurer meetings to provide information about reporting and campaigns.

Chair Canonico suggested the possibility of having two candidate information sessions. City Clerk Coldiron noted the first candidate information session will be recorded and available for viewing. She suggested the possibility of a monthly open meeting for questions.

Members commented on the importance of ensuring trust in elections and ensuring the first ranked choice election runs smoothly. Members also discussed paring back the scope of the election oversight party to being proactive about campaign finance reports. City Clerk Coldiron stated that could be done fairly readily, particularly with someone who is experienced with campaign finance.

City Attorney Daggett noted there have been few complaints that have led to investigations.

Mayor Arndt commented on the importance of having an oversight party.

City Attorney Daggett noted the Code has always preserved the authority of the City to take enforcement action about Code violations, though practically speaking, that approach has not been staffed.

Councilmember Pignataro suggested reaching out to the League of Women Voters for information regarding campaign oversight utilizing an outside consultant. City Clerk Coldiron stated staff could do additional research prior to the next Committee meeting.

City Clerk Coldiron asked if the Committee would like to hold off on addressing redistricting. Members replied in the affirmative.

City Clerk Coldiron noted the website has been updated for the 2025 election and there is a candidate information session scheduled for April 2nd. Additionally, there will be an extended staff report at the June 3rd Council meeting to present information to Council about ranked voting.

City Clerk Coldiron stated the County would like to use the name 'ranked voting' rather than 'ranked choice voting' to align with the State Statutes. City Attorney Daggett also noted the Charter uses the term 'ranked voting.' City Clerk Coldiron commented on the importance of voter education and messaging regarding the two terms essentially being interchangeable.

Chair Canonico suggested using ranked voting in order to maintain consistency with the State and Charter.

City Clerk Coldiron commented on a meeting with the League of Women Voters and a member from Ranked Choice Voting of Colorado. She stated those meetings will be occurring bi-monthly.

City Clerk Coldiron discussed the plan for voter education around ranked voting and the agenda for the March 3rd Committee meeting.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:30 p.m.

March 3, 2025

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Election Code Committee



STAFF

Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk
Cecilia Good, Senior Deputy City Clerk
Carrie Daggett, City Attorney
Sara Arfmann, Assistant City Attorney II

SUBJECT

Debrief from the February 18 Council Meeting, Discussion on Election Oversight and the Candidate Information Session and Ranked Choice Voting Updates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to:

- Debrief from the February 18 Council Meeting where the election code changes were discussed;
- Discuss election oversight;
- Discuss the upcoming Candidate Information Session; and
- Provide an update on ranked voting efforts.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Does the Committee want staff to move forward with the election oversight as described or are changes needed?
2. Are there any concerns related to the Candidate Information Session agenda or are modifications needed?
3. Are there any concerns related to the ranked choice voting communications plan or updates?
4. Are there any final items the Committee wants to address before next session?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At its January 27, 2025, meeting, the Committee reviewed revised code amendments related to eliminating write-in candidates, adding ranked voting provisions in case of a special election administered by the City, eliminating the requirement that circulators read petitions when requested but providing an accessible way to access the information, and aligning campaign finance reporting with state provisions, as well as adding additional ones for committees that have been established more than 90 days ahead of an election. The Committee provided direction on which code amendments should be moved forward for consideration by the full Council. Council considered these code amendments during its February 18 Council meeting.

February 18, 2025 Meeting Debrief:

These are the Ordinances presented to Council at the February 18 meeting:

- A. First Reading of Ordinance No. 029, 2025, Amending 7-145 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to Clarify and **Revise the Process for Enforcement of Campaign Violations. Adopted 7-0.**
- B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 030, 2025, Amending Article V of Chapter 7 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to **Clarify and Revise the Restrictions and Requirements Related to Campaign Contributions** in City Elections. **Adopted 7-0.**
- C. First Reading of Ordinance No. 031, 2025, Amending Section 7-103 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to **Remove Write-In Candidates** in City Elections. **Adopted 5-2.**
- D. First Reading of Ordinance No. 032, 2025, Amending Section 7-165 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to **Clarify and Revise the Requirements for Petition Circulators. Adopted 7-0.**
- E. First Reading of Ordinance No. 033, 2025, Amending Chapter 7 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to **Update Various Sections Related to City Elections for Consistency with the City Charter and Within Chapter 7. Adopted 7-0.**

All ordinances but No. 031, 2025 will be on the Consent Agenda for the March 4 meeting. Ordinance 031, 2025 will be a discussion item since there was a split vote. If approved, all code changes will become effective on March 14, 2025 and all necessary materials and website sections will be updated accordingly.

Election Oversight:

The Committee has discussed the option of hiring an outside contractor to provide additional and proactive oversight over the election process. During the February 18 Council meeting, Council directed staff under Other Business to propose a formal process to provide proactive oversight over mostly campaign finance for this election cycle.

Election complaints received between 2019 and 2023 have been summarized on Attachment A. Staff plans to briefly cover how these violations might be covered based on code changes that have been made and based on the assumption that an outside contractor will be utilized to look at Finance Campaign Reports and related items. Staff has prepared a list of items the outside contractor would be expected to fulfill, as well as some supplemental items that might be added. Staff has provided an estimate of what this might cost and plans to seek Council approval for an appropriation that would cover any election oversight the Committee recommends, and Council approves, as well as additional monies needed to cover the coordinated election cost.

Candidate Information Session:

Currently, the proposed agenda includes the following items:

- Agenda
 - General City Information
 - Full-Service City, History-Past and Present, Structure
 - Council
 - Direct Reports, Council Duties, Council Schedule, District Boundaries, Boards and Commissions, Council Compensation
 - Election Timelines and Requirements

- Candidate Affidavit, Committee Registration, Nomination Petition, Campaign Finance and Reporting
- Review of pertinent Code changes
- Complaint and enforcement information
- Outside contractor role
- Ranked Voting
 - General information
 - Video

Staff is interested in knowing whether anyone from Council that is not planning on being a candidate this election cycle or former Councilmembers would want to participate in this session to answer questions from participants about what it is really like to be a Councilmember.

Ranked Voting Update:

Staff intends to give an update on the RV Communications Plan. A summary has been provided as Attachment B. Staff will also provide an update on our experience with our first touchpoint – the State of the City Address on February 24 and will provide information about our discussions with Poudre School District and CSU. To date, we have received three applications from volunteers who want to participate in this effort. We have started to build out the City’s Ranked Voting (RV) website which currently includes some general information about RV, information about coming events, a link for the volunteer application, and a list of FAQs. Soon, we will have a video ready to go and a sample ballot that people can practice filling out. We will send Council information when these items are available. The link to the website page is: <https://www.fcgov.com/elections/ranked-voting>.

Election Update:

Staff has received Candidate Affidavits from three individuals so far:

- Mayor – No candidates
- District 1 – 2 candidates:
 - Christopher Bramhall-Conway
 - Daisy Montgomery
- District 3 – No candidates
- District 5 – Amy Hoeven

Outstanding Items:

Additional items that remain outstanding include:

1. Code amendments related to Redistricting.
2. Other Topics: “Bike Rack” Items:
 - b. Public Financing of Campaigns

Staff will be looking for guidance on whether the Committee would like to continue meeting or to hold these items for when the Committee reconvenes in the fall.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Election Violations since 2019
2. Ranked Voting Communication Plan Summary
3. Presentation

ATTACHMENT A - LIST OF ELECTION COMPLAINTS SINCE 2019

Date Filed	Complainant	Respondent	Complaint Type	Details of Complaint	Result
November 2023 Election					
11/6/2023	Robbie Moreland	Emily Francis	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	Failure to provide "paid for by" on campaign materials	Cured
11/6/2023	Robbie Moreland	Patricia Babbitt	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	Failure to provide "paid for by" on campaign materials	Cured
11/6/2023	Cathy Kipp	Patricia Babbitt	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	Failure to provide "paid for by" on campaign materials	Cured
12/13/2023	Robbie Moreland	Alexander Adams	Financial	Incorrect Campaign Finance Report Totals	Cured
12/11/2023	Sean McCoy	PFC Action	Financial	GoFundMe.com Petition	No probable cause exists.
November 2022 Election					
7/11/2022	Steve Lucas	Ranked Choice Voting Fort Collins	Registration	Failure to register as an Issues Committee	Cured
7/19/2022	Steve Lucas	Better Ballot and RCV Fort Collins	Financial	Donate button on RCV website takes user to Better Ballots.	Cured
8/22/2022	Robbie Moreland	Unidentified registrant using GoDaddy	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	Failure to provide "paid for by" on campaign materials	Registrant never identified.
11/3/2022	Jody Deschenes	Community for Fair Elections	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	Failure to provide "paid for by" on campaign materials	Unknown
April 2021 Election					
1/27/2021	Michael Pruznik	Susan Gutowsky	Form Completion	1. 2021 Registration Form was not signed. 2. Contributions received prior to signing should be considered null and void.	Cured
1/27/2021	Michael Pruznik	Susan Gutowsky	Form Completion	1. 2021 Candidate Affidavit did not identify the District or the election date. 2. The domain name was incorrect for the website. 3. Gutowsky should be disqualified.	Cured
3/5/2021	Jennifer Litzau	Citizens for a Sustainable Economy	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Series of text messages sent do not include a paid for by disclosure. 2. CSE failed to provide an IEC registration. 3. CSE failed to provide and IE filing.	No probable cause exists.
3/9/2021	Robbie Moreland	Jeff Hansen	Financial	1. Failure to attribute contributions from LLCs to individual members of the LLCs in March 3, 2021 campaign report.	Cured
3/16/2021	Robbie Moreland	BlueFlower Action IE Committee	Registration	1. Entity should be registered as a political committee.	No probable cause exists.
3/16/2021	Robbie Moreland	Citizens for a Sustainable Economy	Financial/Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Failed to file an independent expenditure report for texts. 2. Failed to include paid for by statements on texts.	No probable cause exists.
3/17/2021	Robbie Moreland	Miller/Grant/Meurer	Registration	1. Three persons associated with expenditure should have filed as an Issue Committee versus doing an Independent Expenditure.	Cured
3/23/2021	Robbie Moreland	Molly Skold	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Paid for by statements were not provided on robotexts that were sent.	Municipal Court
3/24/2021	Robbie Moreland	Citizens for a Sustainable Economy	Financial	1. Robotext chain done jointly with Stand With CSU was not accounted for as an independent expenditure or part of an Issue Committee Expense.	No probable cause exists.
3/24/2021	Robbie Moreland	BlueFlower Action IE Committee	Registration	1. Should be registered as a Political Committee versus filing independent expenditures.	No probable cause exists.
3/30/2021	Robbie Moreland	BlueFlower Action IE Committee	Registration	1. Should be registered as a Political Committee versus filing independent expenditures.	No probable cause exists.
4/15/2021	Robbie Moreland	Molly Skold	Financial	1. Did not report an expenditure for the voter contact list from the Larimer Republican Party. Voter list is considered a "valuable thing."	Municipal Court
November 2020 Election - None					
November 2019 Election - None					
April 2019 Election					
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Susan Holmes	Financial	1. Reported contribution by Susan Holmes does not include the date the contribution was accepted 2. Reported contribution in kind does not include an address of contributor or the date the contribution was accepted.	No probable cause exists.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Fort Collins Full Time Council	Financial	1. Reported contributions do not include address of a single contributor	Probable cause exists; circumstances do not warrant prosecution.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Fred Kirsch for Fort Collins District 6	Financial	1. Reported contributions do not include addresses of contributors	Probable cause exists; circumstances do not warrant prosecution.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Committee to Elect Noah Hutchison	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Candidate's personal Facebook page is promoting campaign without "paid for by" statement 2. Candidate's campaign Twitter page does not include "paid for by" statement	No probable cause exists.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Julie for FC	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Personal Facebook page is promoting campaign without "paid for by" statement	No probable cause exists.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Elect Emily	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Candidate's campaign website does not include "paid for by" statement 2. Candidate's personal Facebook page is promoting campaign without "paid for by" statement	1. Probable cause exists; circumstances do not warrant prosecution. 2. No probable cause exists.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Adam 4 Fort Collins	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Candidate's campaign website does not include "paid for by" statement 2. Candidate's personal Facebook page is promoting campaign without "paid for by" statement	1. Probable cause exists; circumstances do not warrant prosecution. 2. No probable cause exists.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Fort Collins Full Time Council	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Issue website does not include "paid for by" statement 2. Issue's Facebook page is promoting ballot issue without "paid for by" statement	No probable cause exists.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Fred Kirsch for Fort Collins District 6	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Candidate's campaign website does not include "paid for by" statement 2. Candidate's personal Facebook page is promoting campaign without "paid for by" statement	No probable cause exists.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Elect Joe Somodi City Council	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Candidate's campaign website does not include "paid for by" statement 2. Candidate's campaign Facebook page does not include "paid for by" statement	Probable causes exists; forwarded to police for further investigation.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Lori 4 Fort Collins	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Candidate's campaign website does not include "paid for by" statement 2. Candidate's personal Facebook page is promoting campaign without "paid for by" statement	1. Probable cause exists; circumstances do not warrant prosecution. 2. No probable cause exists.
3/8/2019	Marge Norskog	Susan Gutowsky for City Council	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Candidate's campaign website does not include "paid for by" statement 2. Candidate's campaign facebook not include "paid for by" statement	1. Probable cause exists; circumstances do not warrant prosecution. 2. No probable cause exists.
3/18/2019	Robbie Morland	Committee to Elect Noah Hutchison	Financial	1. Candidate used a jar at events for cash donations, and reported them as non-itemized donations. Complainant alleges some donations were likely in excess of the \$20 threshold, meaning those donation should be reported with the name and address of contributors	No probable cause exists.
3/26/2019	Marge Norskog	Committee to Elect Noah Hutchison	Financial	1. Contributions made by individuals and LLCs, where individuals may have ownership interests in LLCs. Complainant alleges its a violation of the prohibition against making contributions in the name of another person or knowingly allowing another person to make contribution in your name.	No probable cause exists.
3/26/2019	Robbie Morland	Susan Gutowsky for City Council	Disclosure of Campaign Expense	1. Candidate's flyers and yard signs do not include a "paid for by" statement	Probable causes exists; forwarded to police for further investigation.
4/15/2019	Marge Norskog	Committee to Elect Noah Hutchison	Financial	1. Candidate did not individually itemize certain contributions.	No probable cause exists.

4/15/2019	Marge Norskog	Committee to Elect Noah Hutchison	Financial	1. Contributions made by individuals and LLCs, where individuals may have ownership interests in LLCs. Complainant alleges its a violation of the prohibition against making contributions in the name of another person or knowingly allowing another person to make contribution in your name.	No probable cause exists.
4/15/2019	Marge Norskog	Citizens for a Sustainable Economy	City Process	1. Complains the City's form Notice of Independent Expenditure does not allow complete transparency.	Complaint does not allege an enforceable violation.
4/15/2019	Marge Norskog	Committee to Elect Noah Hutchison	City Process	1. Complains the City should instruct campaigns on how to report contributions via online services, which retain a percentage of the contribution as a fee.	No probable cause exists.

Ranked-Choice Voting

Communications Plan Summary

Project Overview

The City of Fort Collins is implementing ranked-choice voting (RCV) in the November 2025 municipal election following a 2022 voter-approved charter amendment. The City Clerk's Office and Communications & Public Involvement Office will lead voter and candidate education efforts in collaboration with the Larimer County Clerk & Recorder.

Goal

Ensure a smooth transition to ranked voting, resulting in informed voters, increased candidate participation and minimal ballot errors.

Messaging Themes

- Informing voters about the transition to RCV, emphasizing when and how it will be used in Fort Collins elections.
- Explaining how RCV works, including the ranking process, tabulation rounds and how a winner is determined.
- Addressing common questions and concerns, including ballot completion and potential ballot errors.
- Providing clear, accessible instructions on how to fill out an RCV ballot correctly, with resources available in English and Spanish.

Phase 1: Preliminary Information – February-April 2025

Key Audiences: Candidates/potential candidates, voters

Key Activities:

- Develop website content & key messaging
- Create explainer video
- Promote Candidate Information Session

Phase 2: Awareness & Familiarity – May-August 2025

Key Audiences: All voters, candidates, Spanish-speaking community, historically marginalized communities, students

Key Activities:

- Outreach & tabling at City and community events throughout the late spring and summer.
- Outreach & education campaign via owned and paid media (i.e., City communication tools, social media, paid advertising, etc.)
- Citywide mailings (e.g., postcard, utility bill insert)

- Practice ballots
- Outreach to Spanish-speaking community, historically marginalized community members, and CSU students in collaboration with community connectors and partner organizations.

Phase 3: Voting Instruction – September-November 2025

Key Audiences: All voters, candidates, Spanish-speaking community, historically marginalized communities, students, media

Key Activities:

- Continued outreach & tabling at City and community events throughout the early fall.
- Continued outreach & education campaign via owned, paid and earned media (i.e., City communication tools, social media, paid advertising, news coverage, etc.)
- Citywide mailings (e.g., postcard, voter guide)
- Practice ballots
- Open houses and practice sessions in collaboration with community partners.
- Outreach to Spanish-speaking community, historically marginalized community members, and CSU students in collaboration with community connectors and partner organizations.

Tools & Tactics

Throughout the three phases, staff will leverage multiple channels for outreach and education, including:

- Digital: Website, FAQs, videos, social media, newsletters
- Print: Postcards/mailers, flyers, rack cards, ballot instructions & sample ballots
- Events: Community events, farmers markets, candidate sessions, forums/open houses
- Media: Local print and radio, paid advertising
- Community Outreach: in collaboration with the Equity Office & partner organizations

Election Code Committee Meeting

Final meeting of this
session.

Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk
Cecilia Good, Snr Deputy City Clerk
Sara Arfmann, Assist City Attorney II



Debrief from the February
18th Council Meeting

Election Oversight
Role/Duties of Contractor

RCV Communications Plan
and Update

Candidate Information
Session



Debrief from the February 18th Council Meeting

- A. First Reading of Ordinance No. 029, 2025, Amending 7-145 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to Clarify and **Revise the Process for Enforcement of Campaign Violations. Adopted 7-0.**
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- D. First Reading of Ordinance No. 032, 2025, Amending Section 7-165 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to **Clarify and Revise the Requirements for Petition Circulators. Adopted 7-0.**
- E. First Reading of Ordinance No. 033, 2025, Amending Chapter 7 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to **Update Various Sections Related to City Elections for consistency with the City Charter and Within Chapter 7. Adopted 7-0.**

Reading – March 4; Effective Date of Changes – March 14





Election Oversight Role/Duties of Contractor

2023 – 5 Complaints Received:

- 3 – Campaign Materials, i.e., no paid for by listed.
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process starting with a review by the Clerk and City Attorney.
- 2 – Financial
 - Would be covered by outside contractor proactively, so hopefully won't receive related complaints.

2022 – 4 Complaints Received:

- 1 – Financial
 - Would be covered by outside contractor.
- 1 – Committee Registration (violations found)
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.
- 2 – Campaign Materials
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.

2021 – 12 Complaints Received:

- 3 – Financial
 - Would be covered by outside contractor.
- 4 – Committee Registration (violations found)
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.
- 5 – Campaign Materials
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.

2019 – 19 Complaints Received:

- 10 – Campaign Materials, i.e., no paid for by listed.
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process starting with a review by the Clerk and City Attorney.
- 7 – Financial
 - Would be covered by outside contractor.
- 2 – City Process
 - Would be covered under new enforcement process.

A. Proactive review of Campaign Finance Reporting and Related Compliance

- Ensure numbers make sense (starting and ending balances).
- Ensure timeliness of filing and follow up on missing reports.
- Ensure contributions are within limits.
- Ensure contributions are given by allowed donors.
- Make periodic checks of donations made to ensure accuracy of information reported.
- Ensure all contributions meet City code requirements.
- Ensure revised reports are filed to address issues found.
- Work with Candidates and Committees to get voluntary compliance.

If needed, report unresolved issues found to City Clerk staff for enforcement.

A. Items that may be outside of the scope

- Periodically ask for samples of materials to check for “paid for by” requirements.
- Periodically look at election-related Facebook pages to check for “paid for by” requirements.
- Periodically check election signs to check for “paid for by” requirements.
- Pursue checks on potential issues reported such as text messages with no “paid for by” information added.

Proactive review of Campaign Finance Reports.

- 9 reports due per committee
- If we have 12 candidates and 3 committees:
 - 135 reports to be reviewed
 - @ 3 hours each = 405 hours (recognize that some will take longer due to investigation and follow-up, and some will take less time).
 - \$100/hour
- \$40,500
- Additional funding might be required if proactive work outside of campaign finance is desired

Next Steps

- Will come to Council to request an appropriation for the outside contractor on April 1st.
- Will also include an appropriation for any extra needed for the coordinated election based on County estimate.
- Will write a Scope of Work and go out for written proposals – won't have to go through the full RFP process
- Want to have them hired and ready to go by May 1

Who would make an ideal candidate?

- City Clerk Consultant
- Outside Attorney
- Election judge
- Community member who has election experience



Candidate Information Session

- April 2, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers
- Agenda
 - General City Information
 - Full-Service City, History-Past and Present, Structure
 - Council
 - Direct Reports, Council Duties, Council Schedule, District Boundaries, Boards and Commissions, Council Compensation
 - Election Timelines and Requirements
 - Candidate Affidavit, Committee Registration, Nomination Petition, Campaign Finance and Reporting
 - Review of pertinent Code changes
 - Complaint and enforcement information
 - Outside contractor role
 - Ranked Voting
 - General information
 - Video
- Does anyone from Council want to participate?



Baw Baw Shire Council



RCV Communications Plan and Update



Ranked Choice Voting Update – Communications Plan

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Next Election: November 4, 2025 - Regular Election Coordinated with Larimer County

			
November 2025 Election Ballot What voters can expect to see on the November 4, 2025 ballot.	Voters Information for Fort Collins voters.	Candidates Information for current and prospective City Council candidates.	Ranked-Choice Voting Information about Fort Collins' transition to ranked voting in 2025.
Ballot	Voters	Candidates	Ranked-Choice Voting

			
Results & Data Election results and voter turnout.	Election Basics General information about Fort Collins elections.	Petitions Information and guidelines for ballot questions and other petitions.	Committees Information on candidate, issue and political committees.

Ranked Choice Voting Update

- State of the City event
 - Had a lot of great discussions
 - Was interesting to see where people are as far as what they know
 - Found some new tools! (rcv123.org)
 - People liked the materials we had
 - FC Vote T-shirts

 - Next touchpoint – Candidate Information Session on April 2
 - 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers
 - Video will be ready!

 - PSD and CSU
 - Both are excited to help share the word through newsletters and other avenues.
- PSD newsletters goes to 77,000 people!
- CSU will help educate students, parents, faculty, etc.

City Council					
Rank up to 5 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.	First choice	Second choice	Third choice	Fourth choice	Fifth choice
	1	2	3	4	5
Candidate Apple	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate Banana	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate Candy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate Donut	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate Egg	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate Fig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write in _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

King County

- Events
 - State of the City - **Done**
 - Candidate Information and Orientation Sessions
 - Open Streets
 - Lagoon Series
 - Larimer County Fair and Farmer's markets
 - Library (when they have events planned)
 - Super-Issue meetings
 - Collaboration with League of Women Voters
 - CSU events (ASCSU, Strayer Center)
 - Senior Center Outreach
 - Collaboration with the Equity Office and related events



Better Ballot North Carolina

- Volunteer description is posted and accepting applications. We have received 3 so far
- Will work through the City's Volunteer Coordinator with help of Davina in the Clerk's Office
- Will ensure all volunteers are identified and go through the same process
- Will include volunteer training, as well as RCV training



East Idaho News

Website and forms updated for 2025 Effort

Mayor Candidates – None

District 1 Candidates – 2

District 3 Candidates - None

District 5 Candidates - 1

Recall inquiry – 1 – No details given

Candidate Information Session – April 2, 6:00 p.m.

Staff Report at Council Meeting – June 3rd

Additional Code Amendments

- Redistricting
- Other?

Other Topics “Bike Rack”

- Public Financing of Campaigns



Questions?