



November 5, 2019 Coordinated Election

Pros and Cons for

Referred Question 2A – Department of
Transportation and Infrastructure

Referred Question 2B – Arts and Venues
Facilities

Referred Question 2C – Fire Department
Ranks and Grades

Referred Question 2D – Elected Official
Residency

Referred Question 2A – Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

Ballot Title:

Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to create the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, to require the department to perform the powers and duties formerly performed by the Department of Public Works, and to assign to the department new powers and duties in regard to transportation services, transportation safety programs, and non-motorized transportation facilities?

Major Provisions

- Creates the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- Moves the Department of Public Works to be within the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- Reorganizes the Department of Public Works to eliminate administrative overlap.
- Makes mobility a major function of the department.

Those in favor say:

- Mobility is an important issue in the city. There is currently no mention of transportation or sidewalks in the city charter.
- This measure adjusts resources to focus on mobility.
- Increases efficiency with a ‘one build’ policy. That is, the construction of items such as sewers and roads can be coordinated.
- Saves an estimated \$7 million by eliminating administrative overlap.
- Focuses Public Works on the core functions of utilities, including solid waste and sewers.
- This measure passed both committee and council unanimously.

Those opposed say:

No organized opposition was found as of this printing.

Referred Question 2B – Arts and Venues Facilities

Ballot Title:

Shall the charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to remove from the Department of General Services the management and control of facilities owned or leased by the City and County for theatre, concert, auditorium or arena purposes, in order to conform the charter to other laws of the City and County assigning the responsibility to manage such facilities to the agency known as Denver Arts and Venues.

Major Provisions

- Formalizes an existing arrangement. Venues such as the Performing Arts Center and Red Rocks are currently officially controlled by General Services, but have been managed by the existing Denver Arts and Venues department.
- This measure would reconcile discrepancies in the code regarding these facilities.

Those in favor say:

- This is an administrative change.
- It formalizes an existing arrangement.
- This reorganization is not expected to have any cost.
- This measure passed both committee and full council unanimously.

Those opposed say:

No organized opposition was found as of this printing.

Referred Question 2C – Fire Department Ranks and Grades

Ballot Title:

Shall the charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to add emergency medical technician as a rank in the fire department and to allow the chief of the fire department to assign an assistant chief to the duties of shift commander who shall serve at the pleasure of the chief?

Major Provisions

- Creates the rank of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to add to the existing ranks of the Denver Fire Department.
- Allows the Chief of the fire department to assign an assistant chief to the duties of shift commander

Those in favor say:

- This will allow the fire department to hire EMTs by creating a job title.
- Duties are currently performed by fire fighters working overtime.
- This will save money because EMTs will earn less than fire fighters.
- This will allow a better division of labor between the Denver Fire Department and Denver Health.
- The assignment of assistant chiefs to the role of shift commander will streamline command in the fire department
- There is no expected fiscal impact. The additional positions will be offset by the savings from not using fire fighters on overtime.
- This measure passed both committee and full council unanimously.

Those opposed say:

No organized opposition was found as of this printing.

Referred Question 2D – Elected Official Residency

Ballot Title:

Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to require elected officials to maintain residency in Denver, and, if a district Council member, in the district throughout the term of office?

Major Provisions

- Makes residency in the City of Denver or, for council members, the relevant council district a requirement for elected officials.
- Mandates a declaration of vacancy if an official moves from the city or, in the case of council members, the district.

Those in favor say:

- Current language only requires residency at time of election.
- Currently an elected official may leave the city or district without losing their position.
- Elected officials should be close to the citizens that they represent.

Those opposed say:

No organized opposition was found as of this printing.

*THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF DENVER encourages the active and informed participation of Denver residents in government to increase understanding of major public policy issues. We are not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side. The pro and con statements are a compilation of the material by proponents and opponents of the ballot issue. **Tax-deductible contributions are gratefully accepted.***