

**ORDINANCE NO. 1930
SERIES 2026**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER CONCERNING THE DATE ON WHICH THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS TAKE OFFICE FOLLOWING AN ELECTION AND PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE ORDINANCE TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, Section 3-4(b) of the City of Louisville Home Rule Charter provides that the Mayor and Councilmembers shall take office at the first meeting following their elections; and

WHEREAS, election results are not final until they have been certified in accordance with State law, which shall occur no later than twenty-two days after the election pursuant to the Uniform Election Code of 1992; and

WHEREAS, it is increasingly taking longer for election results to be certified for reasons related to increased voter turnout, the use of mail ballots, and requirements relating to military and overseas voting; and

WHEREAS, in many circumstances, the election results will not be certified by Council's first meeting following the election; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-5(b) of the City of Louisville Home Rule Charter allows the City Council to initiate a Charter amendment by ordinance, approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Council, submitting the proposed amendment to a vote of the registered electors of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that it should refer to the voters at the November 3, 2026 special election a Charter amendment providing that the Mayor and Councilmembers shall take office following certification of election results, as opposed to the first meeting following the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO:

Section 1. Section 3-4(b) of the City's Home Rule Charter is hereby amended to read as follows (words to be added underlined; words to be deleted ~~stricken~~):

Section 3-4. Term of Office; Time of Taking Office; Oath.

(b) The Mayor and each Councilmember shall take office at the first regular meeting of the Council following their election certification of the election results, and shall continue in office until their successors have been elected and

take office, or a vacancy is earlier established.

Section 2. The Charter amendment provided for herein shall be submitted to a vote of the registered electors at the November 3, 2026 special municipal election to determine whether the amendment shall take effect.

Section 3. The Charter amendment provided for herein shall not take effect unless and until a majority of the registered voters voting at the November 3, 2026 special election vote “yes” in response to the following ballot title, in substantially the form set forth below:

SHALL THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE HOME RULE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT THE MAYOR AND EACH COUNCILMEMBER SHALL TAKE OFFICE AT THE FIRST REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWING CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION RESULTS, AS OPPOSED TO THE FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING THE ELECTION?

Section 4. If any article, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each part or parts hereof irrespective of the fact that any one part or parts be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 5. All other ordinances or portions thereof inconsistent or conflicting with this Ordinance, or any portion hereof, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict.

**INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED ON FIRST READING AND ORDERED
PUBLISHED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2026.**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING WILL BE THE ____ DAY OF
_____, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. AT LOUISVILLE CITY HALL, 749 MAIN STREET,
LOUISVILLE, CO 80027.**

Christopher M. Leh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Genny Kline, City Clerk

PASSED AND ADOPTED, BY AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF THE ENTIRE CITY COUNCIL, ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Christopher M. Leh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Genny Kline, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

KELLY PC

By: _____
Melinda Culley, Deputy City Attorney