

**ORDINANCE NO. 1931
SERIES 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER CHANGING THE NUMBER OF
SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR INITIATIVES AND REFERENDUMS AND
PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE ORDINANCE TO A VOTE OF THE
REGISTERED ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION**

WHEREAS, Section 7-1(c) of the City of Louisville Home Rule Charter requires an initiative petition to be signed by 5 percent of City's registered electors; and

WHEREAS, Section 7-2(c) of the City of Louisville Home Rule Charter requires a referendum petition to be signed by 2.5 percent of City's registered electors; and

WHEREAS, these signature requirements are lower than the signature requirements in many other Colorado municipalities; 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 that would increase the signature requirements to 7.5 percent for initiative petitions and 5 percent for referendum petitions.

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

Section 1. Section 7-1(c) 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 7-1. Initiative.

(c) An initiative petition shall be signed by registered electors of the City equal in number to at least seven and one-half (7.5) percent ~~five (5) percent~~ of the total number of electors of the City registered to vote as of the date established by the State statutes for determining such percentage.

Section 2. Section 7-2(c) 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 7-2. Referendum.

(c) A referendum petition shall be signed by registered electors of the City equal in number to at least five (5) percent ~~two and one-half (2-1/2) percent~~ of the total number of electors of the City registered to vote as of the date established by the State statutes for determining such percentage.

Section 3. 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 4. 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 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR INITIATIVE PETITIONS FROM 5 PERCENT TO 7.5 PERCENT OF REGISTERED ELECTORS AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR REFERENDUM PETITIONS FROM 2.5 PERCENT TO 5 PERCENT OF REGISTERED ELECTORS?

Section 5. 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 6. 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