



City Council

July 14, 2026
Packet Addendum # 1

**ORDINANCE NO. 1928
SERIES 2026**

AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE CITY'S 0.125% HISTORIC PRESERVATION SALES TAX FOR AN ADDITIONAL TEN-YEAR PERIOD; EXPANDING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION SALES AND USE TAX MAY BE SPENT TO INCLUDE CITY PROGRAMS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE AND PRESERVE THE CITY'S HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE; INCREASING THE PORTION OF SUCH TAX ALLOCATED TO THE LOUISVILLE MUSEUM CAMPUS FROM 20% TO 30%; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THIS ORDINANCE TO A VOTE OF THE CITY'S REGISTERED ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, the City of Louisville ("City") is a Colorado home rule municipal corporation duly organized and existing under laws of the State of Colorado and the Louisville City Charter ("City Charter"); and

WHEREAS, the members of the Louisville City Council ("City Council") have been duly elected and qualified; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution, also referred to as the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights ("TABOR"), requires voter approval for any new tax, any increase in any tax rate, the creation of any debt, and the spending of certain funds above limits established by TABOR; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 12 and Section 4-8 of the City Charter, the City may authorize the imposition of new taxes and the increase of a tax rate by ordinance upon approval of the registered electors of the City; and

WHEREAS, TABOR requires that the City submit ballot issues, as defined in TABOR, to the City's registered electors on specified election days before action can be taken on such ballot issues; and

WHEREAS, November 3, 2026, is one of the election dates at which TABOR ballot issues may be submitted to the registered electors of the City pursuant to TABOR; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted a resolution calling a special election for November 3, 2026, which will be conducted as a coordinated election pursuant to the Uniform Election Code of 1992, as amended; and

WHEREAS, by Ballot Issue 2A, approved at the November 4, 2008 election, the voters of the City approved the levy of a 0.125% sales tax, collected for a ten-year period commencing January 1, 2009, with the net proceeds of such 0.125% percent sales tax to be collected, retained and spent exclusively for historic preservation purposes within

historic Old Town Louisville; and

WHEREAS, by Ballot Issue 2D, approved at the November 2, 2010 election, the voters of the City approved the levy of a permanent use tax of 3.50% to supersede the City's then-current use tax, with the net proceeds of such tax to be allocated such that revenues from a rate of 0.125% are used for historic preservation purposes consistent with said Ballot Issue 2A approved at the November 4, 2008 election; and

WHEREAS, by Ballot Issue 2F, approved at the November 7, 2017 election, the voters of the City approved the continuation of the temporary 0.125% sales tax for an additional ten-year period and expanded the purposes for which the historic preservation sales and use tax may be spent, including authorizing the expenditure of up to 20% of the funds on operating and maintaining the Louisville Museum Campus and authorizing expenditures of the historic preservation sales and use tax outside historic Old Town Louisville if approved by the affirmative vote of not less than five members of the entire City Council; and

WHEREAS, the temporary 0.125% sales tax will expire on December 31, 2028, unless it is continued by approval of the City's voters; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that it should refer to the voters at the November 3, 2026 special election a TABOR ballot issue to: (1) continue the City's temporary sales tax for an additional ten years; (2) expand the purposes for which the historic preservation sales and use tax may be used to include programs and capital improvements that promote and preserve the City's history and cultural heritage; and (3) increase the portion the historic preservation sales and use tax allocated to operating and maintaining the Louisville Museum Campus from 20 percent to 30 percent per year.

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

Section 1. A special municipal election will be held in the City of Louisville, County of Boulder, State of Colorado on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, as part of a coordinated election (the "**Election**").

Section 2. Pursuant to the applicable provisions of the laws of the State of Colorado and the City Charter, the City Council hereby submits to the registered electors of the City at the Election the ballot issue specified in Section 3 of this ordinance.

Section 3. The following ballot issue, certified in substantially the form set forth below, is hereby referred to the registered electors of the City and shall appear on the ballot of the Election:

BALLOT ISSUE_____

SHALL CITY OF LOUISVILLE TAXES BE INCREASED \$1.5 MILLION IN 2029 AND THEN ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE GENERATED FROM THE CONTINUATION OF THE CITY'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION SALES TAX OF 0.125% BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2029, AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2038; WITH THE NET PROCEEDS OF SUCH SALES TAX, ALONG WITH THE CITY'S EXISTING 0.125% HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE TAX, TO BE UTILIZED FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PURPOSES CONSISTENT WITH BALLOT ISSUES APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN 2008 AND 2017, AND, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2027, SHALL THE CITY ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO: (1) EXPEND ANY FUNDS FROM SUCH HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX ON CITY PROGRAMS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE AND PRESERVE THE CITY'S HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND (2) INCREASE THE PORTION OF SUCH TAX ALLOCATED TO OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE LOUISVILLE MUSEUM CAMPUS FROM 20% TO 30% PER YEAR; AND SHALL THE CITY BE PERMITTED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND EXPEND ALL REVENUES DERIVED FROM SUCH TAX AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Section 4. If a majority of the registered electors voting at the Election vote “yes” in response to the ballot issue specified in Section 3 of this ordinance, the issue shall be deemed to have passed and the Louisville Municipal Code shall be amended as set forth in this Section:

a. Effective January 1, 2029, Subsection A of Section 3.20.200 of the Louisville Municipal Code, regarding the sales tax levy, is hereby amended to read as follows (words added are underlined; words deleted are ~~stricken through~~):

Sec. 3.20.200. Levy of tax; rate.

A. There is hereby levied, and there shall be collected and paid, a sales tax equal to 3.15 percent of the purchase price of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services, except that:

1. For the ten-year period beginning on January 1, 2024, there is hereby levied, and there shall be collected and paid, an additional sales tax of three-eighths of one percent of the purchase price of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services, as authorized at the November 7, 2023 election, and

2. For the ten-year period beginning on January 1, ~~2029~~ 2019, there is hereby levied, and there shall be collected and paid, an additional sales tax of one-eighth of one percent of the purchase price of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services, as authorized at the ~~November 7, 2017~~ November 3, 2026 election, and

3. For the ten-year period beginning on January 1, 2024, there is hereby levied, and there shall be collected and paid, an additional sales tax of one-eighths of one percent of the purchase price of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services, as authorized at the November 7, 2023 election.

b. Effective January 1, 2027, Sections 3.20.605.A, B, and F of the Louisville Municipal Code are hereby amended to read as follows (words added are underlined; words deleted are ~~stricken through~~):

Sec. 3.20.605. Historic preservation tax and fund.

A. The historic preservation fund is established as a special revenue fund to account for revenues derived from the temporary one-eighth of one percent sales tax for historic preservation purposes ~~imposed for the ten-year period beginning on January 1, 2019~~, and from the one-eighth of one percent rate of use tax allocated to such fund.

B. Revenues from such temporary one-eighth percent sales tax and such one-eighth percent rate of use tax shall be deposited into the historic preservation fund and the net proceeds of such one-eighth percent rate of sales and use tax shall be collected, retained and spent exclusively for the following purposes; provided, that prior to January 1, 2019, such funds shall be spent exclusively within historic Old Town Louisville, which area includes the "Historic Old Town Overlay District" and "Downtown Louisville" as defined by the city zoning map and ordinances, in order to preserve the unique charm and character of historic Old Town Louisville; and provided, further, that on and after January 1, 2019, any funds within the historic preservation fund may be spent within historic Old Town Louisville or within any other area within the boundaries of the City, as existing from time to time, provided that any expenditure of such funds outside historic Old Town Louisville is approved by the affirmative vote of not less than five members of the entire city council:

1. Provide incentives to preserve historic resources, including funding of programs to identify and attempt to preserve buildings which qualify for listing on the Louisville Register of Historic Places;

2. Provide incentives to preserve buildings that contribute to the historic character of Louisville but do not qualify for listing on the Louisville Register of Historic Places, with such buildings to be treated the same as historic buildings but with lower priority;
3. Provide incentives for new buildings and developments within Louisville to limit mass, scale, and number of stories; to preserve setbacks; to preserve pedestrian walkways between buildings; and to utilize materials typical of historic buildings, above mandatory requirements;
4. For city staff time to administer these programs; ~~and~~
5. For operating and maintaining the Louisville Museum Campus, subject to the limitation that, on the city's annual fiscal year basis, no more than thirty percent (30%) ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ of the net proceeds of such one-eighth of one percent rate of tax shall be used for such operation and maintenance purposes; and
6. For City programs and capital projects that promote and preserve the City's history and cultural heritage.

F. Following a recommendation by the Historic Preservation Commission, All ~~all~~ incentive funding decisions and expenditures described in subsection B of this Section shall be approved by the City Council. Incentive programs and the procedures applicable to the administration and receipt of such incentives shall be as provided by City Council ordinance or resolution, the provisions of which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this section and applicable ballot issues ~~2A approved at the November 4, 2008.~~

Section 5. Total City tax revenues are estimated to increase by up to \$1.5 million in the first full year in which the sales tax provided for in this ordinance is in effect. However, the revenues from said sales tax may be collected and spent, regardless of whether said revenues, in any year after the first full year in which said sales tax is in effect, exceed the estimated dollar amount stated above, and without any other limitation or condition, and without limiting the collection or spending of any other revenues or funds by the City of Louisville, under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution or any other law.

Section 6. The provisions of this ordinance relating to the amendment to Section 3.20.200.A of the Louisville Municipal Code shall take effect following passage and approval thereof as provided in Section 4, on January 1, 2029. The amendment to Sections 3.20.605.A, B, and F of the Municipal Code of the City of Louisville shall take effect following passage and approval thereof as provided in Section 4, on January 1,

2027.

Section 7. If any portion of this ordinance is held to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council and the registered voters of the City hereby declare that they would have passed and approved this ordinance and each part hereof irrespective of the fact that any one part be declared invalid.

Section 8. The repeal or modification of any provision of the Municipal Code of the City of Louisville by this ordinance shall not release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, forfeiture, or liability, either civil or criminal, which shall have been incurred under such provision, and each provision shall be treated and held as still remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings, and prosecutions for the enforcement of the penalty, forfeiture, or liability, as well as for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree, or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits, proceedings, or prosecutions.

Section 9. 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 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

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SERIES 2026**

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WHEREAS, the members of the Louisville City Council ("City Council") have been duly elected and qualified; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution, also referred to as the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights ("TABOR"), requires voter approval for any new tax, any increase in any tax rate, the creation of any debt, and the spending of certain funds above limits established by TABOR; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 12 and Section 4-8 of the City Charter, the City may authorize the imposition of new taxes and the increase of a tax rate by ordinance upon approval of the registered electors of the City; and

WHEREAS, TABOR requires that the City submit ballot issues, as defined in TABOR, to the City's registered electors on specified election days before action can be taken on such ballot issues; and

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WHEREAS, by Ballot Issue 2A, approved at the November 4, 2008 election, the voters of the City approved the levy of a 0.125% sales tax, collected for a ten-year period commencing January 1, 2009, with the net proceeds of such 0.125% percent sales tax to be collected, retained and spent exclusively for historic preservation purposes within

historic Old Town Louisville; and

WHEREAS, by Ballot Issue 2D, approved at the November 2, 2010 election, the voters of the City approved the levy of a permanent use tax of 3.50% to supersede the City's then-current use tax, with the net proceeds of such tax to be allocated such that revenues from a rate of 0.125% are used for historic preservation purposes consistent with said Ballot Issue 2A approved at the November 4, 2008 election; and

WHEREAS, by Ballot Issue 2F, approved at the November 7, 2017 election, the voters of the City approved the continuation of the temporary 0.125% sales tax for an additional ten-year period and expanded the purposes for which the historic preservation sales and use tax may be spent, including authorizing the expenditure of up to 20% of the funds on operating and maintaining the Louisville Museum Campus and authorizing expenditures of the historic preservation sales and use tax outside historic Old Town Louisville if approved by the affirmative vote of not less than five members of the entire City Council; and

WHEREAS, the temporary 0.125% sales tax will expire on December 31, 2028, unless it is continued by approval of the City's voters; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that it should refer to the voters at the November 3, 2026 special election a TABOR ballot issue to: (1) continue the City's temporary sales tax for an additional ten years; (2) expand the purposes for which the historic preservation sales and use tax may be used to include programs and capital improvements that promote and preserve the City's history and cultural heritage; and (3) increase the portion the historic preservation sales and use tax allocated to operating and maintaining the Louisville Museum Campus from 20 percent to 30 percent per year.

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Section 1. A special municipal election will be held in the City of Louisville, County of Boulder, State of Colorado on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, as part of a coordinated election (the "**Election**").

Section 2. Pursuant to the applicable provisions of the laws of the State of Colorado and the City Charter, the City Council hereby submits to the registered electors of the City at the Election the ballot issue specified in Section 3 of this ordinance.

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Section 4. If a majority of the registered electors voting at the Election vote “yes” in response to the ballot issue specified in Section 3 of this ordinance, the issue shall be deemed to have passed and the Louisville Municipal Code shall be amended as set forth in this Section:

a. Effective January 1, 2029, Subsection A of Section 3.20.200 of the Louisville Municipal Code, regarding the sales tax levy, is hereby amended to read as follows (words added are underlined; words deleted are ~~stricken through~~):

Sec. 3.20.200. Levy of tax; rate.

A. There is hereby levied, and there shall be collected and paid, a sales tax equal to 3.15 percent of the purchase price of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services, except that:

1. For the ten-year period beginning on January 1, 2024, there is hereby levied, and there shall be collected and paid, an additional sales tax of three-eighths of one percent of the purchase price of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services, as authorized at the November 7, 2023 election, and

2. For the ten-year period beginning on January 1, ~~2029~~ 2019, there is hereby levied, and there shall be collected and paid, an additional sales tax of one-eighth of one percent of the purchase price of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services, as authorized at the ~~November 7, 2017~~ November 3, 2026 election, and

3. For the ten-year period beginning on January 1, 2024, there is hereby levied, and there shall be collected and paid, an additional sales tax of one-eighths of one percent of the purchase price of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services, as authorized at the November 7, 2023 election.

b. Effective January 1, 2027, Sections 3.20.605.A, B, and F of the Louisville Municipal Code are hereby amended to read as follows (words added are underlined; words deleted are ~~stricken through~~):

Sec. 3.20.605. Historic preservation tax and fund.

A. The historic preservation fund is established as a special revenue fund to account for revenues derived from the temporary one-eighth of one percent sales tax for historic preservation purposes ~~imposed for the ten-year period beginning on January 1, 2019~~, and from the one-eighth of one percent rate of use tax allocated to such fund.

B. Revenues from such temporary one-eighth percent sales tax and such one-eighth percent rate of use tax shall be deposited into the historic preservation fund and the net proceeds of such one-eighth percent rate of sales and use tax shall be collected, retained and spent exclusively for the following purposes; provided, that prior to January 1, 2019, such funds shall be spent exclusively within historic Old Town Louisville, which area includes the “Historic Old Town Overlay District” and “Downtown Louisville” as defined by the city zoning map and ordinances, in order to preserve the unique charm and character of historic Old Town Louisville; and provided, further, that on and after January 1, 2019, any funds within the historic preservation fund may be spent within historic Old Town Louisville or within any other area within the boundaries of the City, as existing from time to time, provided that any expenditure of such funds outside historic Old Town Louisville is approved by the affirmative vote of not less than five members of the entire city council:

1. Provide incentives to preserve historic resources, including funding of programs to identify and attempt to preserve buildings which qualify for listing on the Louisville Register of Historic Places;

2. Provide incentives to preserve buildings that contribute to the historic character of Louisville but do not qualify for listing on the Louisville Register of Historic Places, with such buildings to be treated the same as historic buildings but with lower priority;
3. Provide incentives for new buildings and developments within Louisville to limit mass, scale, and number of stories; to preserve setbacks; to preserve pedestrian walkways between buildings; and to utilize materials typical of historic buildings, above mandatory requirements;
4. For city staff time to administer these programs; ~~and~~
5. For operating and maintaining the Louisville Museum Campus, subject to the limitation that, on the city's annual fiscal year basis, no more than thirty percent (30%) ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ of the net proceeds of such one-eighth of one percent rate of tax shall be used for such operation and maintenance purposes; and
6. For City programs and capital projects that promote and preserve the City's history and cultural heritage.

F. Following a recommendation by the Historic Preservation Commission, All ~~all~~ incentive funding decisions and expenditures described in subsection B of this Section shall be approved by the City Council. Incentive programs and the procedures applicable to the administration and receipt of such incentives shall be as provided by City Council ordinance or resolution, the provisions of which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this section and applicable ballot issues ~~2A approved at the November 4, 2008.~~

Section 5. Total City tax revenues are estimated to increase by up to \$1.5 million in the first full year in which the sales tax provided for in this ordinance is in effect. However, the revenues from said sales tax may be collected and spent, regardless of whether said revenues, in any year after the first full year in which said sales tax is in effect, exceed the estimated dollar amount stated above, and without any other limitation or condition, and without limiting the collection or spending of any other revenues or funds by the City of Louisville, under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution or any other law.

Section 6. The provisions of this ordinance relating to the amendment to Section 3.20.200.A of the Louisville Municipal Code shall take effect following passage and approval thereof as provided in Section 4, on January 1, 2029. The amendment to Sections 3.20.605.A, B, and F of the Municipal Code of the City of Louisville shall take effect following passage and approval thereof as provided in Section 4, on January 1,

2027.

Section 7. If any portion of this ordinance is held to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council and the registered voters of the City hereby declare that they would have passed and approved this ordinance and each part hereof irrespective of the fact that any one part be declared invalid.

Section 8. The repeal or modification of any provision of the Municipal Code of the City of Louisville by this ordinance shall not release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, forfeiture, or liability, either civil or criminal, which shall have been incurred under such provision, and each provision shall be treated and held as still remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings, and prosecutions for the enforcement of the penalty, forfeiture, or liability, as well as for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree, or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits, proceedings, or prosecutions.

Section 9. 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 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

From: [Diana Langley](#)
To: [Peggy Leech](#)
Cc: [Genny Kline](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed charter amendments on initiatives
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 4:01:31 PM

Good afternoon Peggy,

Thank you for your email to the City Council regarding the potential charter amendment ballot measures. Please see responses to your questions below. I also copied the City Clerk, Genny, on this response as she may have more to add. Thank you.

Diana Langley (she/her)
City Manager
303.335.4530 (office)
720.762.7488 (cell)
dlangley@LouisvilleCO.gov
LouisvilleCO.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Peggy Leech <pegleech@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 11:56 AM
To: City Council <Council@louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Proposed charter amendments on initiatives

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Louisville City Council Members,

I know there will be a first reading on Tuesday July 14 on certain proposed charter amendments. I have heard of some objections to the proposed amendments regarding initiatives and referendums. I think it would be good to have practical information presented and discussed so voters can better understand. Here are some questions:

In addition to talking about percentages, could we also talk actual numbers of signatures required? Are we talking hundreds, thousands? How easy and/or onerous are the current requirements vs proposed requirements in terms of numbers? As of July 6, 2026, there were 16,203 Active Registered Voters in the City. A 2.5% increase in the number of signatures required is 405. For an initiative, the number of signatures required would increase from 810 (5%) to 1,215 (7.5%). For a referendum, the number of signatures would increase from 405 (2.5%) to 810 (5%).

Could we have a good description of referendums and how they work? The City's website has information in initiatives, referendums, and recalls - <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/government/departments/city-clerk-s-office/city-election-information/initiatives-referendum-recall>.

What is the current timing on initiatives, and how onerous would it be to have a review of the language before gathering signatures? Without this review, is it possible for voters to pass an initiative that conflicts with the charter or state law? The above noted website also includes a link to initiative information, including a timeline (p. 14 of the document). From staff's perspective, we don't think it is too onerous to schedule a meeting prior to the proponents filing the petition forms. Also, the way the ballot title is written, the petitioners would not have to comply with any suggested changes. With or without the review, it is possible for voters to pass an initiative that conflicts with the charter or state law.

What is the impetus for possibly referring these measures to the ballot? Is there a lot of citizen input asking for this?

The proposed charter amendments are a result of suggested modifications from staff and/or City Council.

I plan to be watching the discussion on Tuesday, and I hope some of this practical information is included.

Thank you,
Peggy Leech, Ward 3
209 S Lincoln Ave

From: [Helen Moshak](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Problems with Ordinance 1930: Need to Align Seating and Budget Timelines
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 7:48:00 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of City Council,

While Louisville is considering changes to its seating timeline, it is important to understand how those changes interact with the City's existing budget calendar. Ordinance No. 1930 would seat newly elected council members only after election certification, but because Charter § 8-5 requires the budget to be adopted by November 30 and certification often occurs weeks later, this shift would leave incoming officials unable to vote on the budget they will be responsible for carrying out. In practice, it means an outgoing council—potentially including members who did not run again or were replaced—would set the City's spending priorities for the entire year. The budget is not a procedural document; it is the City's policy engine, determining which programs grow, which projects advance, and which community priorities receive investment. Newly elected leaders should have a voice in shaping that plan.

If Louisville wants to modernize its seating timeline, aligning the budget timeline is the natural companion step. I respectfully ask you to pause on Ordinance No. 1930 until it can be paired with an amendment to Charter § 8-5 that shifts budget adoption to December. Taking both steps together ensures that the leaders chosen by Louisville voters are the ones guiding the City's direction and carrying forward the community's priorities.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Moshak

Louisville Resident

From: [Helen Moshak](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Signature Threshold Increases
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 8:31:45 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Leh and Members of City Council,

Louisville's strength comes from its residents—their engagement, their willingness to participate, and their belief that local government should remain accessible and accountable. Initiative and referendum powers are the clearest expression of that belief. They give voters a direct voice when they feel unheard and a meaningful way to shape policy between elections. Ordinance No. 1931 would significantly weaken that voice. Raising initiative signatures from 5% to 7.5% is a 50% increase, and raising referendum signatures from 2.5% to 5% doubles the requirement. These are not minor adjustments; they create meaningful hurdles that make it more difficult for residents to take action when they believe something needs attention. With thousands of Louisville voters already participating in municipal elections, narrowing their ability to engage between elections risks sending an unintended message about the value of their voice in local decision-making and whose voice matters.

Direct democracy is not a burden—it is a safeguard. Louisville's Home Rule Charter was approved by 71% of voters precisely because it protected accessible, community-driven governance. Changing these thresholds now risks undermining trust and discouraging participation at a moment when democratic engagement is already under strain nationally. Protecting voter access is how Louisville keeps faith with its residents and preserves the integrity of its charter. I respectfully urge you to keep the existing signature requirements and reject Ordinance No. 1931 so that Louisville's voters retain a clear, achievable path to shape the future of their city.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Moshak

Louisville Resident

From: [Matt Jones](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Keep direct democracy in Louisville strong - no ballot initiative and referendum on ballot.
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 10:18:14 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor and council members,

Keep Louisville's direct democracy strong at a time of national efforts to raise barriers to the ballot box. Please don't place referendum and initiative increased signature requirements on the November ballot. Let's keep Louisville the unique place it is.

The Louisville Charter Commission purposely set the initiative and referendum signature requirement low to ensure strong direct democracy access and council responsiveness. It was part of a strong ethics and responsiveness requirements theme. The Charter Prefatory Synopsis preamble documents this theme, some examples:

- "The Charter also assures the right of the citizens to vote on important matters,..."
- "...the Commission has sought to include in the Charter important protections for the citizens."
- "Commission members are also mindful of the following values, and believe that they have been reflected in the Charter:
 - The government is formed by the citizens, and the citizens have the right to control the government through their elected representatives or, when appropriate, by direct democracy."

This theme is a big reason that the Charter passed by 71%. Louisville isn't just anywhere. It's unique. Let's keep it that way and preserve direct democracy access.

While other communities have higher percentage signature requirements, the objective of the Charter Commission was to have a lower, more responsive, percentage. Others have similar percentages to Louisville. Erie and Superior are the most recent cities to approve a home rule city charter, and they set the initiative and referendum percentages at 5% of registered voters. Boulder requires 10% of the average turnout of the last two municipal elections. Doing the math that is equivalent to 5.2% of registered voters. The State of Colorado initiatives require 5% of the last Secretary of State turnout. That is equivalent to 2.85% of registered voters.

Please don't join the national effort to undermine direct democracy and raise a barrier to the ballot box. It's a really bad look. [This article](#), "Politicians take aim at ballot initiatives", from the Brennan Center for Justice which fights voter suppression describes state efforts to increase initiative signature percentage requirements.

Protect strong direct democracy that Louisville residents were promised and deserve.
Do not refer an initiative and referendum signature to the ballot.

Thanks,
Matt Jones

From: [heather gardner](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed increase to the # of signatures needed
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 3:08:07 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Louisville City Council Members,

Democracy is messy and expensive. We elected you to represent our interests as you steer our city toward the future. That you want to increase the number of signatures needed to get citizen initiatives on the ballot effectively also places a limit on citizens' voices. That is antithetical to your duty to represent us. I acknowledge that ballot initiatives are expensive. That's the price we pay to live in a democracy. At this point when our democracy is actually being threatened nationally, it is all the more important that we uphold our democratic institutions and values locally.

Thank you.

Heather Gardner
1158 Lafarge Ave, Louisville, CO 80027
303-880-1238

Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is painting that speaks. - Plutarch

From: [tamar krantz](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Diana Langley](#); [Kathleen Kelly \(Email\)](#); [Genny Kline](#)
Subject: Do not send charter ammentments to ballot that erode democracy
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 5:21:50 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Our Charter makes it possible for residents to bring issues directly to voters. Please don't make that harder by placing increased signature requirements for initiatives and referendums on the November ballot. And please do not add another barrier to direct democracy by adding a new unnecessary requirement for a public meeting.

I hope you will reject the initiative to "Align initiative and referendum signature requirements with surveyed municipalities."

- First, alignment with surveyed municipalities should be removed from the title of this discussion item unless the need for alignment is explained. Since we do not work with other municipalities on this, there is no need for alignment.
- Second, the staff analysis and ordinance provide insufficient reason for making this change. Only two reasons are provided for increasing the number of signatures. The only explanation provided in the staff analysis is alignment with other municipalities and the second reason, provided in the ordinance itself is that "city council is of the opinion" that this should be done.
- Finally, a balanced approach would include consideration of drawbacks, such as taking away voice from residents.

I hope you also will reject the initiative to "Add a review and comment requirement for initiatives".

- First, the staff analysis explains that this will help petitioners send a "clean" copy to the city clerk. The process of review and approval of form is already built into the procedure, so this is completely unnecessary to achieve that goal. Please let the public know specifically why the existing process is insufficient.
- Second, the staff analysis gives the reason that "this would help the City understand the petitioners' position as well as alleviate some of the petition edits

that are needed prior to final petition approval by the City Clerk.” The petition edit process is already built into the initiative process and would be better improved by adding more detail and perhaps more examples to the “Citizen Initiative Guidelines” document. “Helping the City understand” is not a very believable reason for adding a review and comment period. There is a requirement that the clerk create a summary of the initiative that is understandable to residents. It seems to me that “the City” should also be able to understand a summary. If anything, council should require a meeting of themselves, with staff and the public to allow staff and the public a chance to ask questions so they can thoroughly understand the council’s position on this measure!

- Third, considering that alignment with other municipalities is important (for reasons that are not explained in the analysis) then this would make Louisville an outlier. A brief search shows that there is no other municipality in Colorado other than Denver that requires this!
- Finally, the staff analysis is not balanced. There is no discussion of the possible drawbacks to this proposed requirement. For one, it adds to a tight election schedule and makes direct democracy much more difficult. (Ironical that this is so easy for council to do yet council is asking to add more roadblocks to a complex process). Also, this could lead to more special elections by making it harder for petition proponents to meet a tight schedule for November elections.

Please protect direct democracy and do not add these initiatives to our November ballot!

--

Tamar Krantz
She/her

From: [Cathern Smith](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please do Not Raise the Barriers to Direct Democracy
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 11:27:33 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Leh and Members of City Council,

Please do not move forward with any of the proposed changes to the City Charter that raise the barriers to direct democracy. We are living through a time when the fundamental principles that form the basis of democracy are being whittled away. When properly functioning, governmental bodies take direction from their community and encourage dialogue. Raising the initiative signature requirement from 5% to 7.5% is a 50% increase. And, raising the referendum signature requirement from 2.5% to 5% doubles the requirement. It is also worth noting that (1) you are poised to survey the community about the Marshall Fire Remembrance and yet feel comfortable embarking in a project to revise the City Charter without prior direct engagement with the community; and (2) the Staff Survey did not look at the relationship between the signature collection method (i.e., electronic versus human canvassers) and the percentage signature requirement. I know that some of the cities surveyed with higher collection percentages allow for electronic signature collection.

From the beginning Louisville's City Charter has recognized the importance of open government, the rights of citizens to vote on important matters, and direct democracy. The Charter is a document of limitation and its Prefatory Synopsis states:

... The Commission members have sought to prepare a Charter which provides for an open government in which every member of the community has an opportunity to participate ... The Charter also assures the right of the citizens to vote on important matters and which holds the City's elected and appointed officials to the highest ethical standards. ... The Commission recognizes that the Charter is a document of limitation on the home rule powers available to the City and its citizens. Therefore, the Commission has sought to include in the Charter important protections for the citizens. ...

Direct democracy is one of the clearly defined values framed in the City charter. In the charter, the citizens of Louisville have not ceded all of their power to the Council. Instead, "(t)he government is formed by the citizens, and the citizens have the right to control the government through their elected representatives or, when appropriate, by **direct democracy**." (emphasis added.)

From time to time, citizens of Louisville have exercised their rights to direct democracy by collecting sufficient signatures to raise important matters through initiatives and referendums. Some of the initiatives are defeated, and some are not. But that is not the point when evaluating the state of the City's democracy. Citizen engagement and participation is the right measure. Please preserve the existing levels by leaving the City charter alone.

Best regards,
Cathern Smith
Ward III

From: [Cathern Smith](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Helen Moshak](#)
Subject: Please pause Ordinance No. 1930 and Pair it with a Charter Amendment
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 11:34:17 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Leh and Members of City Council,

Helen Moshak makes a good point. For the reasons stated in her comment, I join Helen in "respectfully ask[ing] you to pause on Ordinance No. 1930 until it can be paired with an amendment to Charter § 8-5 that shifts budget adoption to December."

Also, note that Helen's comment is an example of why citizen engagement makes us better.

Better together,
Cathern Smith
Ward III

From: [Kevin Lombardo](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Petition Signature Proposal
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 12:17:10 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

City Council,

I would just like to send a note to let you know that I am extremely opposed to increasing the number of signatures required for initiative and referendum petitions, especially against the backdrop of the very real, current threats to our national democracy. While I do agree that our petition process is flawed, those problems are more about the ridiculous process of having to get in-person wet signatures after a very brief explanation of an initiative/referendum. I would be supportive of a revised process that allows for easier, more-informed signature gathering so we don't end up with ballot measures that make residents feel like they've been lied to. Increasing the number of signatures for petitions solves none of that, and looks more like a tone deaf attempt at making it harder for citizen-led initiatives to have a place in our democratic process.

Here's hoping this item doesn't make it to a second reading!

Best,
Kevin Lombardo