1	BY AUTHORITY	
2	ORDINANCE NO.	COUNCIL BILL NO. CB13-0523
3	SERIES OF 2013	COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
4		Government and Finance
5	<u>A</u>	BILL
6 7 8 9 10 11	For an ordinance submitting to a vote of the qualified and registered electors of the City and County of Denver at a special municipal election to be held in conjunction with the state odd-year election of November 5, 2013, a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver concerning election procedures	
12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE	CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:
13	Section 1. There is hereby submitted to the properly qualified and registered electors of	
14	the City and County of Denver for their approval or rejection at a special municipal election to be	
15	conducted at the same time and in conjunction with the state odd-year election to be held in the	
16	City and County of Denver on November 5, 2013, a proposed amendment to the Charter of the	
17	City and County of Denver, as follows:	
18 19	Effective upon publication and filing	with the Secretary of State pursuant to the
20	Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado, the following sections of the 2002	
21	Charter of the City and County of Denver shall be and are hereby amended to read	
22	as follows:	
23 24	Amend section 2.1.1 by deleting the language	e stricken and adding the language underlined, to
25	read as follows:	
26		
27	§ 2.1.1 Term and qualifications.	
28 29 30 31 32	is elected and qualified. The Mayor shall of the City and County of Denver for the	d County of Denver; over at least thirty (30)
33 34	Amend section 3.1.3 by deleting the language	stricken and adding the language underlined, to
35	read as follows:	

§ 3.1.3 Qualifications.

Each Councilmember shall be a citizen of the United States; a resident of the City and County of Denver for the two (2) years immediately preceding the member's election; a qualified elector of the City and County of Denver; over at least twenty-five (25) years of age and if elected from a Council District, the second year of residency shall have been within the district.

Amend subsection 8.1.2 (E) by adding the language underlined, to read as follows:

#### § 8.1.2 Powers and duties of Clerk and Recorder.

(E) *Elections*. The conduct, management, and control of the registration of voters, and of the holding of elections, canvassing the returns thereof and issuing certificates of election, and of all other matters pertaining to elections in the City and County of Denver shall be vested exclusively in and exercised by the Clerk and Recorder. The powers secured under this section are plenary and self-executing. The Clerk and Recorder may adopt rules governing the conduct of elections consistent with the requirements of the Constitution and election laws of the State and with the Charter or any ordinance adopted pursuant to the Charter.

Repeal section 8.1.4 by deleting the language stricken:

# § 8.1.4 Transition Provision.

The first election of the Clerk and Recorder shall occur at the general municipal election to be held on May 1, 2007 in accordance with the procedures and requirements of this Charter, and the Clerk and Recorder so elected shall take office on July 16, 2007. Until the elected Clerk and Recorder takes office, all powers and duties heretofore vested by this Charter in the appointed Clerk and Recorder shall continue to be exercised by the appointed Clerk and Recorder, and all powers and duties heretofore vested by this Charter in the Election Commission shall continue to be exercised by the Election Commission.

Amend section 8.2.4 by deleting the language stricken and adding the language underlined, to read as follows:

# § 8.2.4 Qualifications of elective officers.

Except as herein otherwise provided, when elected, officers shall be citizens of the United States; residents of the City and County of Denver for the two (2) years immediately preceding their elections; qualified to register to vote in the City and County of Denver and not less than at least twenty-five (25) years of age.

Repeal sections 8.2.8, 8.2.9, and 8.2.10 by deleting the language stricken, as follows:

# 8.2.8 Acceptance of nomination; withdrawal.

Any person nominated under this article shall file an acceptance with the Clerk and Recorder at least fifty five (55) days before the day of election, and in absence of such acceptance the name of the candidate shall not appear on the ballot. Any person who has been nominated may, not later than forty eight (48) days before the day of election, withdraw by filing with the Clerk and Recorder a request therefor in writing, and no name so withdrawn shall be placed upon the ballot.

#### § 8.2.9 Preparation of ballots.

The Clerk and Recorder shall cause ballots for each City and County general and special election to be prepared, printed, and authenticated. The ballots shall contain a complete list of the offices to be filled and the names of the candidates nominated therefor, together with the submission clause or ballot title only of any initiative, referendum, Charter amendments, or other referred measure. The order of any initiative, referendum, Charter amendment, or other referred measure shall be as specified by the City Council and shall comply with the Constitution and general laws of the State.

#### § 8.2.10 Form of ballot questions.

At any election at which any initiative, referendum, Charter amendment, or other referred measure shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors, the official ballot shall, by proper words to be provided by ordinance, show the nature of the initiative, referendum, Charter amendment, or other referred measure to be voted upon, and shall give to each voter the right to show clearly his or her intention to vote yes or no on each initiative, referendum, Charter amendment, or other referred measure, and in case any separate or alternative proposition or propositions be submitted, the ballot shall be prepared so as to enable the voter to express his or her intention in regard to each proposition. For ordinances that are placed on the ballot as a result of an initiative or referendum petition, the official ballot shall include the ballot title submitted by the petitioners' committee and approved by the Clerk and Recorder as provided in Subsection 8.3.2(C).

Repeal sections 8.2.13 and 8.2.14 by deleting the language stricken, as follows:

#### § 8.2.13 Election Judges.

Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, or by ordinance, the method of appointment, number, remuneration and qualifications, and powers and duties of Election Judges shall be governed by election laws of the State.

#### § 8.2.14 Election watchers.

Except as otherwise provided in this Charter or by ordinance, the method of appointment, number, remuneration and qualifications, and powers and duties of election watchers shall be governed by election laws of the state.

Repeal sections 8.2.16 and 8.2.17 by deleting the language stricken, as follows:

#### § 8.2.16 Voting and counting equipment.

The Clerk and Recorder, unless otherwise provided by ordinance, may provide for the use of State-certified voting and counting equipment.

#### § 8.2.17 Write-in votes.

No write-in vote for any office shall be counted unless the candidate has filed an an affidavit of intent to accept the office with the Clerk and Recorder at least fifteen (15) days before the day of the election and meets the qualifications as provided in the Charter for the office.

Amend Section 8.2.20 by deleting the language stricken and adding the language underlined to read as follows:

## § 8.2.20 Counting of votes; declaration of results.

As soon as the polls are closed after every general City and County election, the results shall be tabulated, and After the official abstract of votes cast for all candidates, ballot issues and questions has been certified, the following persons shall be declared elected and entitled to a certificate of election:

- (A) The candidate for the Office of Mayor who has received a majority of the votes cast for that office.
- (B) The candidate for the Office of Auditor who has received a majority of the votes cast for that office.
- (C) Each candidate for the office of District Councilmember who has received a majority of the votes cast for that office in the respective districts.
- (D) The two (2) candidates for the office of Councilmember-at-large who have received the greatest number of votes cast for that office.
- (E) The candidate for the Office of Clerk and Recorder who has received a majority of the votes cast for that office.

Amend subsection 8.2.21 (G) by deleting the language stricken and adding the language underlined, to read as follows:

# § 8.2.21 Run-off elections.

(G) As soon as the polls are closed after every run-off election, results shall be tabulated and After the official abstract of votes cast for all candidates has been certified, the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes cast at said election for the respective offices shall be declared elected and entitled to a certificate of election.

Repeal section 8.2.28 by deleting the language stricken, as follows:

#### § 8.2.28 Clerk and Recorder as candidate.

The Clerk and Recorder shall not become a candidate for any elective office other than the office of Clerk and Recorder during his or her incumbency as Clerk and Recorder.

Amend section 8.3.1 by adding the language underlined, to read as follows:

## § 8.3.1 Rights of initiative, referendum and recall reserved to the people.

- (A) The people of the City and County of Denver reserve the right to propose and enact ordinances—by initiative; to require that existing ordinances be referred to a vote of the electorate—by referendum; and to recall elected officials. The right of initiative, referendum or recall shall be exercised by petition of the registered electors of the City and County of Denver. Such petitions shall be filed with the Clerk and Recorder as follows: a petition for an initiated ordinance may be filed at any time; a petition for referendum shall be filed within ninety (90) days after final passage and publication of an ordinance; and a petition for recall shall be filed no less than six (6) months after, nor less than one (1) year before a regularly scheduled municipal election in which the office in question has been or will be filled.
- (B) An ordinance may be initiated by petition of registered electors numbering at a minimum five (5) per cent of the total vote for the office of Mayor in the last election at which a Mayor was elected.
- (C) An enacted ordinance may be referred by petition of registered electors numbering at a minimum five (5) per cent of the total vote for the office of Mayor in the last election at which a Mayor was elected.

- (D) Recall may be exercised by petition of registered electors entitled to vote for a successor and numbering at a minimum twenty-five (25) per cent of the vote cast for that office in the municipal election in which the official was elected. For Councilmember-at-large, registered electors shall number at a minimum ten (10) per cent of the total vote cast for the offices of Councilmember-at-large at the election at which the official was elected.
- (E) <u>City Council shall not amend or repeal an initiated ordinance adopted by a vote of the people within six (6) months after final passage.</u> After the first six months and within ten (10) years following final passage of any initiated ordinance adopted by a vote of the people, the initiated ordinance may be amended or repealed by City Council only by two-thirds (2/3) vote. Whenever City Council amends or repeals an initiated ordinance adopted by a vote of the people, City Council may do so only after it holds a public hearing.
- (F) <u>City Council shall not reenact an ordinance repealed by a referendum within one (1) year after repeal by a vote of the people. After the first year and up to ten (10) years following repeal of an ordinance by a referendum, the repealed ordinance may be reenacted by City Council only by two-thirds (2/3) vote. Whenever City Council reenacts an ordinance repealed by a referendum, City Council may do so only after it holds a public hearing.</u>
- Repeal subsection 8.3.2 (D), through (H) inclusive by deleting the language stricken, as follows:

## § 8.3.2 Provisions applicable to all petitions.

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- (D) Form of petitions. Each petition shall be in a style and format specified by the Clerk and Recorder. Petitions may be circulated in separate sections so long as each section conforms to the petition style and format specified by the Clerk and Recorder. Circulated copies of each petition shall state the title and have attached the full text of the proposed initiative or referendum. For recall, the circulated copies of each petition shall contain the name of the elected official whose recall is being sought, the office held by the official, and a statement of the grounds upon which recall is being sought. Each petition shall have space provided for signatures and addresses of electors as provided for by the Clerk and Recorder.
- (E) Signing of petitions. Each registered elector shall provide a signature, the date of signing, the registered elector's full residence address, and other pertinent information as deemed necessary by the Clerk and Recorder.

- (F) Procedures for verification of signatures and validity of petitions. The Clerk and Recorder for good cause shown may verify the sufficiency of the signatures and the validity of the petitions. A method for determining the validity of the identity of the electors, including the signatures, full residence address, and the other information required on petitions may be enacted by ordinance. Where no ordinance expressly pertaining thereto is enacted, the Clerk and Recorder shall establish a method for determining the identity of the electors, including the signatures, full residence address, and the other information required on petitions by ordinance or rules and regulations. The method that applies at the time the petition is approved by the Clerk and Recorder shall continue to apply for that petition, regardless of changes either in ordinance or rules. No method for determining the validity of the signatures shall be established, amended, supplemented or changed until after a public hearing in relation thereto, at which parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard.
- (G) Affidavit of circulators. When filed, the petition shall have attached a notarized affidavit of each circulator. The affidavit shall state that the circulator personally circulated the petition copy, that all signatures were affixed in the circulator's presence, that they are to the best of the circulator's knowledge genuine signatures of registered electors, and that each signer had an opportunity to read the full text and ballot title of the initiative or referendum or the stated grounds for recall. Each circulator shall be a qualified elector of the State of Colorado.

(H) Filing of petitions; determination of sufficiency; protest and hearings. After signatures have been obtained, the petitioners' committee shall file the completed petition with the Clerk and Recorder no later than close of business on a normal business day. All related petition sections shall be filed at the same time. The Clerk and Recorder shall record the same and shall hold the petition for a period of twentyfive days, during which time the Clerk and Recorder shall determine whether the petition is signed by the requisite number of registered electors. In the event the Clerk and Recorder determines that the petition contains an insufficient number of signatures, the Clerk and Recorder shall notify the petitioners' committee of the insufficiency, and the petitioners' committee may cure the insufficiency by filing an addendum to the original petition for the purpose of offering such number of additional signatures as will cure the insufficiency. Any addendum shall be filed within the time period allowed for the original petition as provided in this Charter. The Clerk and Recorder shall record and hold any addendum for an additional period of twentyfive days and verify the signatures on the addendum in the same manner as is provided for the original petition. Within the twenty-five-day period for review of the petition or any addendum thereto, a protest subscribed and sworn to under oath may be filed by a registered elector. A protestor shall identify by name the signers protested against or specify the factual and legal basis of any other alleged defects in the petition. The Clerk and Recorder shall consider the grounds of protest and may

hear evidence, after giving notice of the hearings to the petitioners' committee, the protestors, and others the Clerk and Recorder may require for the hearings. Hearings shall be concluded and findings issued as soon as practicable but not more than fifty (50) days after the filing of a protest with the Clerk and Recorder.

(I) Submission to ballot. Upon a final determination of sufficiency of any initiative or referendum petition pursuant to subsection (H) of this section, the Clerk and Recorder shall immediately notify the City Council of the determination in writing. Unless the City Council calls an earlier special municipal election, as provided in subsection 8.3.3(C) or 8.3.4(C), the Clerk and Recorder shall submit the initiative or referendum to the ballot at the next scheduled citywide election held not less than sixty days after the determination of sufficiency. Any recall petition finally determined to be sufficient by the Clerk and Recorder shall be immediately certified to the City Council for the scheduling of a recall election in accordance with subsection 8.3.5(D).

(J) Public record. From the time of filing, all petitions become public records. Upon completion of proceedings by City Council, they shall be preserved by the office of the Clerk and Recorder.

Repeal section 8.3.3 by deleting the language stricken, as follows:

# § 8.3.3 Initiative procedures.

(A) Signature requirements for initiative petitions. An ordinance may be initiated by petition of registered electors numbering at a minimum five (5) per cent of the total vote for the office of Mayor in the last election at which a Mayor was elected.

(B) Time for filing. A completed initiative petition shall be filed with the Clerk and Recorder no later than one hundred eighty days from the date of approval of the affidavit, ballot title, and petition form for the initiative as provided in Subsection 8.3.2(C).

(C) Optional submission to special election. Upon receipt of written notification that the Clerk and Recorder has determined an initiative petition to be sufficient as provided in subsection 8.3.2(I), in lieu of the Clerk and Recorder submitting the initiative to the next scheduled citywide election, the City Council may, at its discretion, call a special election to be held prior to the next scheduled citywide election for the purpose of submitting the initiated ordinance to the electorate, subject to the limitations set forth in Section 8.2.3

(D) Publication of proposed ordinance. The Clerk and Recorder shall publish the proposed ordinance in a manner consistent with the publication of other ordinances before such election is held.

(G) Restrictions on the repeal or amendment of initiated ordinances. City Council shall not amend or repeal an initiated ordinance adopted by a vote of the people within six (6) months after final passage. After the first six months and within ten (10) years following final passage of any initiated ordinance adopted by a vote of the people, the initiated ordinance may be amended or repealed by City Council only by two thirds (2/3) vote. Whenever City Council amends or repeals an initiated ordinance adopted by a vote of the people, City Council may do so only after it holds a public hearing.

Repeal section 8.3.4 by deleting the language stricken, as follows:

# § 8.3.4 Referendum procedures.

- (A) Signature requirements for referendum petitions. An enacted ordinance may be referred by petition of registered electors numbering at a minimum five (5) per cent of the total vote for the office of Mayor in the last election at which a Mayor was elected.
- (B) *Time for filing.* A completed referendum petition shall be filed with the Clerk and Recorder within ninety (90) days of passage of the ordinance to be referred.
- (C) Optional submission to special election. Upon receipt of written notification that the Clerk and Recorder has determined a referendum petition to be sufficient as provided in subsection 8.3.2(I), in lieu of the Clerk and Recorder submitting the referendum to the next scheduled citywide election, the City Council may, at its discretion, call a special election to be held prior to the next scheduled citywide election for the purpose of submitting the ordinance to the electorate, subject to the limitations set forth in Section 8.2.3
- (D) Publication of ordinance proposed for referendum. The Clerk and Recorder shall publish the ordinance proposed for referendum in a manner consistent with the publication of other ordinances before such election is held.
- (E) Restrictions on the reenactment of any ordinance repealed by referendum. City Council shall not reenact an ordinance repealed by a referendum within one (1) year after repeal by a vote of the people. After the first year and up to ten (10) years following repeal of an ordinance by a referendum, the repealed ordinance may be reenacted by City Council only by two thirds (2/3) vote. Whenever City Council reenacts an ordinance repealed by a referendum, City Council may do so only after it holds a public hearing.
- Repeal subsections 8.3.5 (A), (B), and (E) by deleting the language stricken, and relettering subsections 8.3.5 (C) and (D) as follows:

#### § 8.3.5 Recall procedures.

(A) Signature requirements. Recall may be exercised by petition of registered electors entitled to vote for a successor and numbering at a minimum twenty-five (25) per cent of the vote cast for that office in the municipal election in which the official was elected. For Councilmember-at-large, registered electors shall number at a minimum ten (10) per cent of the total vote cast for the offices of Councilmember-at-large at the election at which the official was elected. (B) Time for filing. A petition for recall shall be filed with the Clerk and Recorder not later than ninety (90) days after filing of the affidavit of the petitioners' committee initiating recall proceedings. Failure to file a petition within this period shall render the recall petition null and void. (C) Resignation of incumbent. Should the incumbent resign from office prior to the recall election and at least one other candidate is on the recall ballot, the election shall be held to fill the office. If no candidates are on the ballot, the office shall be declared vacant and filled by the Mayor for the remainder of the term. (D)(B) Setting of recall election. Within forty-five (45) days after certification of the petition the City Council shall call a special election to be held not less than sixty (60) days nor more than ninety (90) days after such certification, unless another Citywide election has been scheduled within one hundred twenty (120) days after certification. (E) Form of ballot and election procedures. The name of the incumbent sought to be recalled shall be printed as a candidate on the official ballot, unless the incumbent declines or a vacancy exists. Nominations and election of candidates shall be conducted as at a general City and County election, including a run-off election where necessary. 

**Section 2.** The voting machines and paper ballot for said election shall carry the following designation, which shall be the title and submission clause:

# REFERRED QUESTION

 Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended concerning the subject of election procedures; removing unnecessary detail from the charter regarding acceptance of nominations by candidates, preparation of ballots, form of ballot questions, election judges, election watchers, voting and counting equipment, write-in votes, and certain initiative, referendum procedures, in order for these matters to be governed by city ordinance or state law in lieu of the Charter; clarifying other powers and duties of the Clerk and Recorder to conduct of elections; and allowing the Clerk and Recorder to become a candidate for other offices during his or her incumbency as Clerk and Recorder?

Section 3. Each elector voting at the election and wishing to vote for or against the

amendment shall indicate the elector's choice by depressing the appropriate counter of the voting machine which indicates the word "YES" or the word "NO", or by appropriate marking upon paper ballots when used. Section 4. The proper officials of the City and County of Denver as are charged with duties relating to the election shall, before the election, issue such calls, make such certifications and publications, give such notices, make such appointments, and do all such other acts and things in connection with the submission of this Charter amendment to the registered electors of the City and County of Denver at the election as are required by the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado and the Charter and ordinances of the City and County of Denver. Section 5. The ballots cast at such election shall be canvassed and the results ascertained, determined, and certified in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado and the Charter and ordinances of the City and County of Denver. **Section 6.** If any section, paragraph, clause, or other portion of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance shall not be affected. COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: August 7, 2013. MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: August 13, 2013. PASSED BY THE COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_2013 - PRESIDENT APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_ - MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_\_ 2013 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER, **EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE** CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL \_\_\_\_\_\_ 2013; \_\_\_\_\_ 2013 PREPARED BY: David W. Broadwell, Asst. City Attorney; DATE: Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to § 3.2.6 of the Charter.

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BY: \_\_\_\_\_\_, Assistant City Attorney DATE: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

Douglas J. Friednash, City Attorney, Denver City Attorney