

Ballot Measure Referral - Creation of a Board of Transportation and Infrastructure – Councilwoman Ortega

Referred Question:

Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to create the Board of Transportation and Infrastructure to advise the Manager with respect to the policy and operation of the Department and shall review and comment on the proposed annual budget for the Department?

Summary:

This ordinance refers to a public vote a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver creating a Board of Transportation and Infrastructure. Members of this board will represent a variety of transportation and infrastructure interests and shall serve in an advisory capacity regarding the policy and operations of the Department.

The board will consist of nineteen members – six appointed by the Mayor and thirteen appointed by the members of City Council (one by each member). Board members must reside in the district of their appointing council member, and the two board members appointed by at-large council members must reside in the City and County of Denver. Board members will serve without pay.

Ballot Measure Referral – Supplemental Spending Ordinances – Councilwoman Kniech

Referred Question:

Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to give the city council authority to initiate a supplemental appropriation or transfer, following consultation with the Manager of Finance?

Summary:

This ordinance refers to a public vote a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver giving city council the authority to initiate a supplemental appropriation or transfer.

Currently, City Council is unable to initiate a spending proposal to address pressing city needs in the middle of a fiscal year. This amendment would resolve this issue by granting Council the power to authorize an appropriation of new or excess revenue, or to authorize a transfer of underspent funds during the fiscal year.

Ballot Measure Referral – Council Authority to Procure Professional Services – Councilwoman Ortega

Referred Question:

Shall the Denver Charter be amended to give the legislative branch certain specified powers currently reserved to the executive branch by giving the Denver city council the authority to procure for professional services without executive branch approval?

Summary:

This ordinance refers to a public vote a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver giving city council the authority to hire professional services without the approval of the executive branch.

Currently, City Council is unable to hire professional services without the approval of the executive branch. This ordinance would give City Council the authority to contract for professional services that they deem necessary to aide the Council in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. These professional services are intended to provide subject matter expertise and not represent Council in disputes against other bodies of government. Examples of professional services needed in the past were: the American Planning Institute for complete independent review of the I-70 expansion, participatory budgeting experts, and attorneys to review complicated contracts that come before the body.

Procurement Procedure:

This ordinance does not determine the procurement process, but language is included to provide by a supplemental ordinance the process by which City Council will hire professional services.

Ballot Measure Referral – Council Consent on Mayoral Appointees – Councilwoman Sawyer

Referred Question:

Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to give the city council authority to consent to mayoral cabinet appointments?

Summary:

This ordinance refers to a public vote a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver giving city council the authority to consent to Mayoral appointments to cabinet-level positions.

Currently, Mayoral appointments to cabinet-level positions are vetted solely through the executive branch, and do not need Council approval or consent. This ordinance will require Council consent for the following cabinet-level positions: the Manager of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Manager of Parks and Recreation, the Manager of Finance, the Manager of Safety, the Sheriff, the Chief of Police, the Chief of the Fire Department, the Director of Excise and Licenses, the Manager of General Services, the Manager of Human Services, the Manager of Aviation, the Manager of the Department of Public Health and Environment, the Manager of Community Planning and Development, and the City Attorney.

The ordinance outlines a process by which Council must take action on the nomination of an appointee. The Mayor must submit their nomination to the City Council. City Council has 30 days to take action on the appointee. If Council does not take action on the appointee within 30 days then the appointee is approved. If Council rejects the appointee, then the Mayor shall nominate another person for the office.

Ballot Measure Referral – Voter approval of development on land designated as a city park or conservation easement – Councilwoman CdeBaca

Referred Question: Shall the voters of the City and County of Denver adopt a measure prohibiting the following without the approval of voters in a regularly scheduled municipal or special election:

- Any commercial or residential development on land designated as a city park and land protected by a City-owned conservation easement except where consistent with park purposes, conservation easement purposes, or for cultural facilities and
- Any partial or complete cancellation of a City-owned conservation easement unless for the purpose of creating a new park?

Summary:

This ordinance refers to a public vote a proposed amendment to the Denver Revised Municipal Code to require voter approval of commercial or residential development on land designated as a City Park and land protected by a conservation easement, and any partial or complete cancellation of a conservation easement unless for the purpose of creating a new park.

Currently, the Manager of Parks and Recreation has the authority the manager of parks and recreation has the power and authority to adopt rules and regulations for the management, operation and control of city park land, including the power to adopt rules and regulations for the designation and preservation of natural areas contained within said city park land. The proposed ordinance would prohibit the Manager of Parks and Recreation from abandoning a City-owned conservation easement without the approval of the voters.

Prohibitions do not apply to construction or improvement to buildings with uses related to cultural facilities or for park or recreational purposes.

Modernizing Open Meetings Requirement Language Amendment - Councilwoman Sawyer

Referred Question: Shall Article III, Part 3, of the Charter of the City and County of Denver to remove outdated language and allow for modernization of the conduct of city business?

Summary: This ordinance refers to a public vote a proposed amendment to the Denver Charter to remove outdated language that prevents the city from being able to conduct its business in a modern capacity.

Currently, the Charter requires that Council meetings must occur on Monday nights in Council chambers, with open doors, and with proper notice. This amendment consolidates language and modernizes requirements that Council must meet in order to fulfill its duty to meet and conduct business in a way that is accessible to the public.
