

# Proposed Revisions to the Castle Rock Election Code

May 19, 2026



# Castle Rock Municipal Code

## Chapter 2.01, Article I

- Existing Articles II through IV address mail ballot, coordinated, and polling place elections, while Articles VI and VII address election controversies and offenses
- Because these Articles do nothing more than echo State law, they can be repealed in their entirety and replaced by revised Article I
- We recommend that the Council adopt the following State Statutes by reference:
  - The Uniform Election Code of 1992 (UEC) to govern the Town's regular elections
  - The Municipal Election Code of 1965 (MEC) to govern the Town's special elections

# Castle Rock Municipal Code

## Chapter 2.01, Article I

- Incorporation by reference prevents the headache of trying to keep up with the changes made by the Colorado Legislature
- Revised Article I also includes Town-specific laws which, among other things:
  - Address the role of the Election Commission
  - Establish the rules governing write-in candidates and the cancellation of elections; and
  - Outline the process by which Town Council authorizes the Douglas County Clerk to conduct coordinated elections

# Castle Rock Municipal Code

## Chapter 2.01, Article II

- Campaign finance is regulated by Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution and the Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA), Section 1-45-101, et seq., C.R.S.
- However, the FCPA provides that these requirements do not apply to home rule municipalities that adopt charters, ordinances, or resolutions addressing the same subject matter
- Revised Article II, which takes the place of existing Article V, takes advantage of this exception by addressing the disclosure of election campaign expenditures and contributions in Town elections

# Castle Rock Municipal Code

## Chapter 2.01, Article II

- Revised Article II sets out a detailed process for the Town Clerk to follow in processing complaints alleging violations of the Article
- It also amends the Code to regulate the registration of and reporting by political committees and small-scale issue committees and the regulation of independent expenditures.
- Several important features of the existing code are retained, including the absence of restrictions on individual and aggregate contributions to candidate and ballot issue campaigns.

# Castle Rock Municipal Code

## Chapter 2.01, Article III

- Revised Article III addresses the powers expressly reserved to municipal voters by the Colorado Constitution:
  - Recall elected officials;
  - Initiate home rule charter amendments;
  - Initiate ordinances; and
  - Reconsider ordinances through referendum.
- Each of these powers is exercised through citizen petition, which, if successful, results in the matter being presented to voters at an election.

# Castle Rock Municipal Code

## Chapter 2.01, Article III

- Revised Article III simplifies and standardizes the exercise of these powers by Town voters by:
- Creating a separate Code section for each reserved power;
- Creating a standard petitioning process for all of the reserved powers;
- Incorporating all key language from the Charter relating to each of the reserved powers into the Code;
- Providing that the Town Clerk will determine the sufficiency each petition; and
- Clarifying the role of petition proponents as to the development and circulation of petition sections.

# Recommendation

- The Town Clerk and Town Attorney recommend that the Town Council move forward with the adoption of revised Chapter 2.01
- If the Town Council agrees, the Town Clerk and Town Attorney will finalize the draft ordinance and bring it forward for approval at an upcoming meeting
- Any questions or comments?