



Town of Castle Rock  
100 N. Wilcox St.  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

CRgov.com



@CRgov

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CASTLE ROCK, CO  
PERMIT NO. 26

# Amendment to the Town Charter? You decide.

## Town of Castle Rock Special Election Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017

Included you will find details about the ballot question and a brief history about the Town Charter. This was prepared and paid for by the Town of Castle Rock. It is intended as an educational document only and is not an endorsement for or against the ballot question.

### More information

Stay up to date at [CRgov.com/2017SpecialElection](http://CRgov.com/2017SpecialElection), or follow the official Facebook page for Castle Rock Town Government at [Facebook.com/CRgov](https://www.facebook.com/CRgov).

[CRgov.com/2017SpecialElection](http://CRgov.com/2017SpecialElection)

*The special election has been set for Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017.*

The Town places a high priority on keeping the community informed. You are receiving this information because a special election will be taking place this November. The acting Town Clerk on July 20 announced there was a sufficient number of valid signatures (4,472) from registered voters in a citizen-initiated petition seeking to change language in the Town Charter regarding how the Mayor is selected. At its Aug. 15 meeting, Town Council approved the ordinance setting the ballot language for the 2017 Special Election.

# Special Election 2017

### What is the Town Charter?

Castle Rock is a home-rule municipality. That means we govern our Town at the local level with a Town Charter. The Charter defines how the government will run and outlines everything from the Town's name, to Town Council elections, to the process for making local laws and more.

Adopted in 1987, the Town is bound, by law, to follow the Town Charter. It's an important document, and changing it takes a public vote.

### What is the Town's current governing body?

Town Council is the governing body of the Town. Currently, Council is made up of seven Councilmembers. Each Councilmember is elected to represent a district. These seven Councilmembers vote to select the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem among themselves. The Mayor presides over Town Council meetings as a chairperson, but has the same voting privileges as the other Councilmembers.

The citizen-initiated petition is seeking to amend the Charter to allow for an at-large, Townwide election of the office of Mayor. Read the inside of this mailer to find out more about the 2017 Special Election.

### More frequently asked questions

#### What are the Mayor's current responsibilities?

Currently, the Mayor presides over Town Council meetings as chairperson, but has the same voting privileges as the other Councilmembers. The Mayor also serves in a ceremonial role for the Town and may be asked to speak at community events and other engagements. It's important to note, these responsibilities would not change with this Charter amendment.

#### What does a Mayor at-large mean?

A Mayor at-large means the Mayor would be elected by all voters in Castle Rock. Currently, the Mayor is a Councilmember appointed by other members of Town Council as Mayor.

#### What is redistricting?

Town Charter requires that election districts reflect approximately the same number of registered voters within each district. Election district boundaries are evaluated every six years by the Town's Election Commission. The Election Commission is scheduled to reevaluate election district boundaries in 2021.

If this Charter amendment is approved by voters, redistricting would be required to change Town Council from seven to six districts.

# About the Special Election

The Mayor is currently appointed by Town Council. If approved, the amendment would change the Town Charter to allow for a townwide Mayor position elected by voters. Additionally, Town Council will be reduced to six Councilmember districts – currently there are seven districts.

At its Aug. 15 meeting, Town Council approved the ordinance setting the ballot language. The ballot title and question will read:

## Town of Castle Rock Ballot Question\_Castle Rock Charter Amendment

Shall the Town of Castle Rock Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that the Town Council, the seven-member governing body of the Town, consist of a Mayor elected by all of the electors of the Town for a four-year term, with the Mayor's service limited to two four-year terms, and six Councilmembers who are elected for four-year terms by the electors of the district where each Councilmember resides?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

### Election process

In Douglas County, all elections are coordinated by mail ballot for both the County and Town. For this election, ballots will be mailed Monday, Oct. 16.

Completed ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7. Voters should return their ballots by mail, or to one of two locations: Town Hall (100 N. Wilcox St.) or Douglas County Elections (125 Stephanie Place).

Verify your voter information, register online, or update your current registration with a new address on the state website – govotecolorado.com. Please keep in mind, Colorado law does allow voters to register through Election Day.



### What does a YES vote mean?

If the Charter amendment passes, the Town Charter will then reflect the changes approved by voters. Going forward, the seven-person Town Council will consist of a Mayor elected “at-large,” or Townwide, and six Councilmembers elected by the voters in each district.

A plan will need to be developed to specify the time frame within which the Mayor will first be elected by all Castle Rock voters, the qualifications to become Mayor, and when/how districts will be reconfigured from seven to six. Most likely, Town staff will ask Council to hold a second special election in early 2018 to determine these details.



### What does a NO vote mean?

If the Charter amendment does not pass, the Town Charter would stay the same. Since adoption in 1987, the Town Charter has outlined Town Council as seven Councilmembers including a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Each Councilmember is elected to represent a district. The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem would continue to be appointed by Town Council. Additionally, the Mayor would continue to have the same voting power as the other Councilmembers.

### Special Election - at a glance

	Current Charter – “No” vote	Amended Charter – “Yes” vote
Mayor is appointed by Town Council.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Mayor is elected by Castle Rock voters.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor has same power and responsibilities as the rest of Town Council.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Qualifications to become Mayor are identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined
Total number of Council districts	7	6
Will my current Councilmember serve a full term?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2018 Special Election		To be determined