

ORDINANCE O-2026-47

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, AT A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LONGMONT HOME RULE CHARTER CONCERNING THE REALIGNMENT OF THE STAGGER BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL ELECTED FROM WARDS AND THE MEMBERS OF LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL ELECTED FROM THE CITY AT LARGE

WHEREAS section 13.12 of the City of Longmont Home Rule Charter (“Charter”) provides that the Charter may be amended at any time in the manner provided by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS section 9 of Article XX of the Colorado Constitution provides that the Colorado General Assembly shall provide, by statute, procedures under which the registered electors of any city may adopt, amend and repeal a municipal home rule charter; and

WHEREAS the Colorado General Assembly has adopted Part 2 of Article 2 of Title 31 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (“C.R.S.”) to implement section 9 of Article XX of the Colorado Constitution, by providing statutory procedures to facilitate adoption and amendment of municipal home rule charters; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. section 31-2-210(1)(b), provides that proceedings to amend a home rule charter may be initiated by an ordinance adopted by the governing body, including a ballot title for the proposed amendment, submitting the proposed amendment to a vote of the registered electors of the municipality; and

1 WHEREAS section 2.5 of the Charter provides that three members of the Longmont City
2 Council are elected from the city at large (“at-large councilmembers”) and three are elected from
3 one of three wards (“ward councilmembers”); and

4 WHEREAS section 3.6 of the Charter provides that the terms of such councilmembers are
5 currently staggered such that in one electoral cycle two ward councilmembers and one at-large
6 councilmember are elected and in the next electoral cycle one ward councilmember and two at-
7 large councilmembers are elected; and

8 WHEREAS the Longmont City Council is of the opinion that electing all ward
9 councilmembers in one electoral cycle and all at-large councilmembers another electoral cycle
10 could preserve the purpose and intent of the stagger while simplifying it and making it less
11 confusing for the registered electors of the City of Longmont which councilmembers they will
12 have the opportunity to elect in a given electoral cycle; and

13 WHEREAS it is the intent of the Longmont City Council that the ballot question referred
14 to herein is expressly contingent on the concurrent approval by the voters of a ballot question
15 requiring the use of ranked choice voting to elect the mayor and the members of City Council
16 when possible, and therefore the failure of the ranked choice voting ballot measure would result
17 in the failure of the ballot question referred to herein; and

18 WHEREAS the Longmont City Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the
19 City to submit to the registered electors of Longmont this proposed Charter amendment.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO,
21 ORDAINS:

1 Section 1

2 Under section 13.12 of the Charter, Article XX, section 9 of the Colorado Constitution,
3 and C.R.S. section 31-2-210, at a special municipal election to be held on November 3, 2026, there
4 shall appear on the ballot the question of approving the following proposed Charter amendment to
5 amend section 3.6 of the Charter, terms of office, to realign the stagger between the ward
6 councilmembers and the at-large councilmembers of the City of Longmont, as follows:

7 Section 3.6 – Terms of Office.

8 Terms of newly elected councilmembers shall begin at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday in
9 December following a regular city election. Except as otherwise provided in this section,
10 the terms of the councilmembers shall be for four years, except that councilmember elected
11 as mayor, whose term shall be for two years. To realign the stagger between the ward
12 councilmembers and the at-large councilmembers, the term of the at-large councilmember
13 elected to a full term in the regular city election in 2027 shall be two years, and the term of
14 the ward two councilmember to be elected in the regular city election in 2029 shall be two
15 years. At each succeeding election the council members, except the mayor, shall be elected
16 for four-year terms.

17 Section 2

18 The ballot title for the proposed Charter amendment shall read as follows:

19 SHALL THE CITY OF LONGMONT HOME RULE CHARTER BE AMENDED BY
20 AMENDING SECTION 3.6 OF THE CHARTER TO REALIGN THE CYCLE ON WHICH
21 MEMBERS OF THE LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL ARE ELECTED SO THAT THE THREE
22 COUNCILMEMBERS ELECTED AT-LARGE ARE ELECTED IN ONE ELECTORAL CYCLE
23 AND THE THREE COUNCILMEMBERS ELECTED FROM WARDS ARE ELECTED IN

1 ANOTHER ELECTORAL CYCLE, WITH SUCH ELECTORAL CYCLES ALTERNATING
2 FROM THEN ON, WITH SUCH REALIGNMENT CONTINGENT UPON VOTER
3 APPROVAL OF THE MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 CITY OF LONGMONT
4 BALLOT REQUIRING THE USE OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING TO ELECT CITY
5 COUNCIL MEMBERS WHEN POSSIBLE?

6 YES _____

7 NO _____

8 Section 3

9 Pursuant to C.R.S. section 31-2-210(4), the governing body shall, within 30 days of the
10 adoption of this Ordinance, publish notice of an election on the proposed Charter amendment. The
11 notice shall contain the full text of the proposed Charter amendment set forth in Section 1 of this
12 Ordinance. The election shall be held not less than 60 nor more than 120 days after publication of
13 the notice. If a majority of the registered electors voting thereon approves the amendment, the
14 amendment shall be deemed approved.

15 Section 4

16 Pursuant to C.R.S. section 31-2-208, a certified copy of the amendment shall be filed with
17 the City Clerk and Colorado Secretary of State within 20 days after approval of the Charter
18 amendment. The amendment shall take effect on the date of such filing.

19 Section 5

20 Pursuant to C.R.S. section 31-2-211, the election shall be held as nearly as practicable in
21 compliance with the Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965.

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Section 7

Introduced this 28th day of July, 2026.

/s/ Susie Hidalgo-Fahring
MAYOR

/s/ Dawn E. Quintana
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Cristi Campbell
PROOFREAD

8/12/2026
DATE

/s/ Dawn E. Quintana	8/12/2026
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	DATE

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