



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
DENVER EDUCATION FUND

# Denver Special Election January 30, 2007 Pros and Cons

## **Charter Amendment 1A**

Amends Denver Charter to make the Clerk and Recorder an elected position and gives the office the power to conduct elections. Eliminates the Election Commission and includes election staff within Career Service.

### **Referred by City Council**

All Charter amendments must be sent to the voters for approval. This amendment will be the only item on the ballot in the special election.

If the change is approved, the first election for Clerk and Recorder will take place in May 2007, with the Clerk taking office July 16, 2007.

The winner must have a majority of the votes cast. If no candidate has a majority in May, there will be a second election in June between the top two candidates.

On July 16, current Election Commission employees will fall under the jurisdiction of Career Service. Those determined to be qualified will be retained as part of the staff of the Clerk and Recorder.

The Clerk can appoint a Director of Elections and also a Deputy, neither of whom will be part of the Career Service system. (Three consecutive four-year terms would be the maximum allowed for the elected Clerk and Recorder.)

### **Those in favor say:**

1. Denver's Election Commission is an outdated structure not suited to the 21st century. Under the proposed system, a single executive will have authority and clear responsibility. If elections do not go smoothly in the future, voters will know whom to replace.
2. Recent elections in Denver have made it clear that Election Commissioners and management employees lack the necessary judgment and expertise to handle the election process, which continually grows more complex. We need radical change, not small adjustments. Some people were not able to vote in November 2006. That cannot be excused.

3. If the charter change passes in January, Denver will have its new Clerk in July 2007, with time to prepare for elections in November 2007, August 2008 (primary) and November 2008 (presidential). Any delay now will make it harder to prepare for effective future elections. It is important that all Denver votes count in every election.
4. Most Colorado counties use this proposed system.

**Those opposed say:**

1. This charter change addresses only one of many recommendations made to prevent a repeat of the November 2006 election errors. Funds spent on this special election should have been used instead to implement other proposed changes.
2. With one elected person in charge of elections, no public meetings will be required by the State Open Records law. Important decisions could be made with little oversight or public participation. The benefits of checks and balances, which are important to the integrity of elections, will be lost.
3. Other Colorado counties with an elected Clerk and Recorder responsible for elections also have election troubles. There is no magic in an elected Clerk.
4. If Denver voters reject this Amendment, they instead could choose new Election Commissioners in May 2007 when the current terms expire.
5. The public needs more time to consider whether this is the best solution for Denver elections.

**Ballot drop-off information:**

If you prefer not to mail your ballot, the Denver Election Commission will make 12 sites available for voters to drop off their ballots for the Tuesday, January 30, Special Municipal Election. All sites will have secure ballot boxes monitored by Election Judges.

**DEC headquarters at 303 W Colfax Ave:**

<b>Mon, Jan 15 - Fri, Jan 19</b>	<b>8 am–5 pm</b>
<b>Mon, Jan 22 - Fri, Jan 26</b>	<b>8 am–7 pm</b>
<b>Mon, Jan 29</b>	<b>8 am–7 pm</b>

**Other Drop-Off Locations (below):**

<b>Mon, Jan 22 - Fri, Jan 26</b>	<b>10 am–7 pm</b>
<b>Mon, Jan 29</b>	<b>10 am–7 pm</b>

Athmar Recreation Center, 2680 W Mexico Ave  
 Barnum Recreation Center, 360 Hooker St  
 District 3 Police Station, 1625 S University Blvd  
 Eisenhower Rec Ctr, 4300 E Dartmouth Ave  
 Harvey Park Rec Ctr, 2120 S Tennyson St  
 Montbello Rec Ctr, 15555 E 53<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
 Montclair Rec Ctr, 729 Ulster Way  
 Scheitler Rec Ctr, 5031 W 46 Ave  
 Tattered Cover Bookstore, 1628 16 St  
 Tattered Cover Bookstore, 2626 E Colfax Ave  
 Wellington Webb Municipal Office Bldg, 201 W Colfax Ave

**Election Day, January 30, drop-offs:**

**All locations above 7 am–7 pm**

**Curbside on Court Place  
between Colfax and 14<sup>th</sup> 7 am–7 pm**

**All ballots must be returned to the DEC by 7 pm on Jan 30. Any ballots received after 7 pm Jan 30 will not be counted regardless of postmark.**

## **Savvy voters make a *DIFFERENCE!***

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