



City of Longmont
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Este folleto provee información sobre la pregunta electoral de telecomunicaciones cual aparecerá en la papeleta de elecciones este noviembre. Para más información, comuníquese con María Tostado al 303-651-8601.



2011 Longmont Election Ballot Question 2A:

Re-establishing the City's Right
to Provide Telecommunications
Services, Advanced Services
And Cable Television Services

This information, provided by the City of Longmont, is intended to provide a factual summary, including arguments both for and against the proposal, of issues of official concern to Longmont voters. It is not intended to urge a vote in favor of or against Ballot Question 2A.

History

Since 1997, the City of Longmont has operated its own 18-mile fiber optic backbone network. The network connects the computers and telephones in City offices; is used for constant monitoring of the City's electric, water and wastewater systems; and facilitates enhanced communications for emergency services. This existing City asset has provided increased telecommunications capacity for City operations at lower cost than leasing older, third-party networks. Though widely used by City operations, the network is capable of doing more and could be leveraged to improve telecommunications service to residences and businesses within our community.

In 2005, seven years after the installation of Longmont's fiber infrastructure, Senate Bill 05-152 was passed. It resulted in the enactment of Title 29, Article 27 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, restricting the City's ability to provide telecommunications services to the community, either independently or in partnership with the private sector, unless a ballot question that reinstates that right is passed by voters in a citywide election.

The 2005 legislation restricted the use of Longmont's network. Some of the consequences of this state law are most likely unintended and affect relatively small applications. For instance, the City can't provide a free Wi-Fi hotspot at a community event because doing so would be in technical violation of this law. Cities also can't provide services to individual businesses or residential developments that are directly adjacent to community-owned telecommunications infrastructure even if those services are not available from incumbent providers. Additionally, cities are unable to provide temporary back-up services in the case of a business failure by an existing telecommunications provider, as occurred with a previous wireless company in 2009 in Longmont.



What is being asked of voters?

The City is asking to re-establish its pre-2005 right to provide telecommunications services either on its own or in partnership with other organizations. A "yes" vote will not increase Longmont's taxes but will allow the City to work with any organization to provide new advanced telecommunication services. It will also enable the City to leverage the infrastructure the community already owns, including the fiber optic network, available spare conduits and pipes, electric distribution conduits and power poles, in the delivery of these new services.

Any significant project resulting from the re-establishment of these rights would be subject to City Council approval, and its merits would be considered in an open and public process.



Those **in favor** believe:

- ▶ Cities should have local control on issues as critically vital as the telecommunications needs of their community. This important local issue should not be unduly subjected to the influence of non-local but well-funded organizations that may not have the community's best interests at heart. A yes vote will give control back to Longmont.
- ▶ Other municipalities have been successful in providing various forms of telecommunications services, and their communities have benefitted to a great extent. Longmont should not be restricted from pursuing these same opportunities.
- ▶ The right of the City to partner with others to improve telecommunications services will result in a more competitive business environment that will encourage all new and existing service providers to better compete on price and services, benefiting the entire community.
- ▶ Cities should have the right to fully leverage community-owned infrastructure in efforts to encourage economic growth, increase jobs, improve the community's ability to compete for primary employers, and support education, the arts, cultural activities and health care organizations.
- ▶ Passage of this issue may result in additional revenue to help support City services such as Police and Fire because the municipal telecommunications utility pays a franchise fee to Longmont's General Fund.

Those **opposed** believe:

- ▶ Longmont residents are satisfied with the availability, quality and costs of services provided by the current private telecommunications companies, so there is really no need for the City to get involved.
- ▶ Telecommunications services may be too complex and too competitive for municipalities to achieve any measure of success.
- ▶ Leveraging community-owned infrastructure to lower the cost and speed the deployment of new telecommunications networks is unfair to incumbent service providers. It provides opportunities for new service providers that incumbents did not take advantage of in the deployment of their existing networks.
- ▶ Municipalities should not be allowed to pursue opportunities that could result in direct competition with incumbent private-sector telecommunications companies.
- ▶ Other municipalities have struggled to provide telecommunications services. Therefore, the City of Longmont should avoid involvement in any aspect of the business.



Election Day is November 1

Here is some important election information for Longmont voters

- ▶ Deadline to register to vote: Monday, October 3
- ▶ Ballots mailed to all active registered voters: October 10–17
- ▶ Service Center at Boulder County Clerk and Recorder Office, 529 Coffman St. Drop off your completed ballot, obtain a replacement ballot or use handicap-accessible voting machine:
 - Monday through Friday, October 17–31, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Tuesday, November 1, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ▶ Drive through and drop off ballots, 500 block of Terry Street:
 - Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Monday, October 31, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Tuesday, November 1, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Ballot Question

“Without increasing taxes, shall the citizens of the City of Longmont Colorado reestablish their City’s right to provide all services restricted since 2005 by Title 29, article 27 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, described as “advanced services,” “telecommunications services” and “cable television services,” including any new and improved high bandwidth services based on future technologies, utilizing community owned infrastructure including but not limited to the existing fiber optic network, either directly or indirectly with public or private sector partners, to potential subscribers that may include telecommunications service providers, residential or commercial users within the City and the service area of the City’s electric utility enterprise?”

