

Election — November 1, 2011

City of Longmont Ballot Question



League of Women Voters of Boulder County

The League of Women Voters is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side.

LONGMONT QUESTION 2A CITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES, SHALL THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, RE-ESTABLISH 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 WITH THE CITY AND THE SERVICE AREA OF THE CITY'S ELECTRIC UTILITY ENTERPRISE?

Background

In 1997, the City installed a fiber optic backbone network, with the goal of supporting the City's economic vitality through enhanced telecommunications services. In 1998 the City began licensing the use of dark (unused) fiber capacity in its network. The system was completed in 2008.

In 2005 the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation which provides that before a local government may provide telecommunications services, advanced services, or cable television services, a majority of voters must approve. In 2009, a proposal by the city to provide advanced services and cable television services including the provision of high speed internet services was not approved by voters.

Major Provisions

Question 2A would allow the City to utilize its existing infrastructure to develop services and provide them to the community, and would allow the city to provide fiber-optic broadband.

Those IN FAVOR say

1. The proposal would allow the City to recoup its investment in fiber optics, as other U.S. cities have done.
2. Using the City's network could stimulate business retention and economic development and enhance community services such as education, health care, and public safety.

Those OPPOSED say

1. Longmont would better serve its residents by cutting its losses and selling its largely unused fiber infrastructure to a private firm.
2. Private-sector telecommunications companies are more experienced and efficient.

Copyright © 2011 League of Women Voters of Boulder County. All rights reserved.

To order more copies: 303-499-4544

This information is also available at lwvbc.org