



CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate Qualifications, Petitioning and Campaigning Process

Candidate Qualifications:

As stated in the Colorado Municipal Election Code (copy available in the City Clerk's office), a candidate for the Durango City Council must be:

- a registered elector
- eighteen (18) years old by Election Day
- a resident of Durango, or a territory recently annexed to Durango, for the twelve (12) consecutive months prior to Election Day.

Candidates for City Council are nominated by petition, without regard to political party affiliation on forms supplied by the City Clerk. Petitions are not issued prior to the 55th day before the election. One (1) to three (3) registered electors of the City may be designated on the petition as a committee to fill a vacancy in nomination. Such designation is optional, and further information about vacancy committees is contained on page 2, Withdrawal from Candidacy of the candidate information packet.

Nomination petitions may be circulated only between the 55th day and the 35th day before the election and must be returned to the City Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on the 35th day before the election. Petitions must be signed in ink by at least twenty-five (25) registered electors who live in the City of Durango. Each registered elector signing a petition must add to his signature, his residence (*including City and County*), date on which he signed the petition, and must print his name in the space provided.

Only one (1) person may circulate a nomination petition. The circulator of a petition affirms (by completing the affidavit contained on the petition) that each signature thereon is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be and that each signer has stated to the circulator that he is a registered elector of the City. The circulator's affidavit must be notarized; **THE CIRCULATOR DOES NOT SIGN AND COMPLETE THE AFFIDAVIT EXCEPT IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC.**

A petition is valid only if it contains at least twenty-five (25) signatures of registered City electors. A registered City elector may sign only three nomination petitions equal to the number of Council

positions to be filled at the election. For example, no matter how many people are seeking candidacy, if there were two (2) Council positions to be filled at the election, a registered City elector could sign only two (2) nomination petitions.

Each nomination petition must be filed with the City Clerk no later than the thirty-fifth day prior to the election, as previously mentioned. Every such petition must have endorsed thereon the notarized Candidate Oath and Acceptance of Nomination, which is printed on the back of the nomination petition. **AGAIN, EXECUTION OF THIS SWORN STATEMENT MUST BE DONE IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC.** The statement must reflect the address of the candidate's place of residence and the name of the candidate in the form it is to appear on the ballot. On the ballot the candidate's name can be a nickname or include a nickname, but it cannot contain any title or degree identifying the candidate's business or profession of the candidate. Placement of candidates' names on the ballot will be determined by drawing of lots. Candidates and/or their designees are encouraged to attend and witness the drawing.

All nomination petitions will be preserved by the City Clerk for a period of two (2) years and will be open to public inspections under proper regulation of the City Clerk.

All nomination petitions that are in apparent conformity with requirements of the Colorado Municipal Election Code, as determined by the City Clerk, are valid unless objection thereto is made in writing within three (3) days after the filing of same. If objection is made, notice will be mailed immediately to the candidate who may be affected by the objection. The Clerk will rule on any objections within at least forth-eight (48) hours after objections are filed. Remedies or cures of objections that are upheld will be accomplished through an amendment to the original petition, or by filing a new petition within three (3) days after such objection is sustained, but in no event later than the eighteenth day before the election.

Withdrawal from Candidacy:

Any person who has been nominated and has accepted that nomination in the manner described may cause his/her name to be withdrawn from such nomination at any time prior to the twenty-eighth day before the election by submitting to the City Clerk a written, signed affidavit withdrawing from such nomination. Forms for this purpose are available in the City Clerk's Office. Upon receipt of a candidate's affidavit of withdrawal, the Clerk will immediately notify the person(s) designated as the vacancy committee on the nomination petition. If no vacancy committee was designated on the petition, the first three (3) persons who signed the petition will be notified immediately of the candidate's withdrawal. Vacancies in nominations can be filled by the vacancy committee. Detailed information regarding this procedure can be secured from the City Clerk if needed.

Fair Campaign Practices Act/Campaign and Political Finance Reporting:

All candidates, organized committees supporting a candidate for City Council, and issue committees are subject to requirements of the Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) and the Campaign and Political Finance Law (CPF).

A copy of the Secretary of State's most recent publication regarding these financial reporting requirements is available online at

<http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/CampaignFinance/files/CPFManual.pdf>

Report forms are included in the manual. **All reports for this election are filed ONLY with the City Clerk.**

Candidates for City Council are required to file a Candidate Affidavit within ten (10) days of becoming a candidate. Per legal definition, "A person is a candidate for election if the person has publicly announced an intention to seek election to public office...and thereafter has received a contribution or made an expenditure in support of the candidacy."

Suggested Campaign Do's and Don'ts:

Should your campaign activities involve a mass mailing, contact the Durango post office for up-to-date information about postal service bulk mailing regulations and opportunities. The telephone number is 247-3434.

City regulations allow political signs, subject to the following stipulations.

Political signs:

- ◆ shall pertain to a specific election and shall be displayed not earlier than thirty (30) calendar days prior to that election, or 30 prior to the day ballots are mailed;
- ◆ shall not be located closer than two hundred (200) feet to any designated polling place;
- ◆ shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area and no more than one (1) sign per land parcel is permitted for each candidate or issue;
- ◆ shall not be placed within any public rights-of-way; and
- ◆ shall be removed within three (3) days after the election day.



MAIL BALLOT ELECTION CALENDAR
April 7, 2015 Regular Municipal Election

January 6	Applications for Absentee Voting available
February 11	First day for circulating nominating petitions
March 3	Deadline for returning nominating petitions 4:30 p.m.
March 4	Drawing of lots for placement of candidates' names on ballot*
March 6	Last day candidate may amend/correct nomination petition
March 9	Deadline for candidate to withdraw Deadline to file Notice of Intent for Write-in Candidate
March 17	First FCPA report due by 4:30 p.m.
March 19	Deadline to cancel election**
March 23	Deadline to mail ballots to all active, registered City electors
March 24	Walk-in poll opens in City Clerk's office
March 30	Deadline to apply for absentee ballot at 4:30 p.m. FCPA report due by 4:30 p.m.
April 7	Election Day All valid ballots received by 7 p.m. will be counted
April 21	Oath of Office administered at regular meeting of City Council
May 7	Final FCPA report due by 4:30 p.m.

* 11 a.m. in Council Chambers

** election will be cancelled if there are no issues and no more than two candidates seeking office