

### Municipal General Election Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023

# Municipal Election Basics: Running for Office in 2023 Candidate Information Packet

#### **City of Greeley**

Office of the City Clerk 1000 10th Street Greeley, CO 80631 Open Monday—Friday, 8am to 5pm

greeleygov.com/government/cc/elections cityclerk@greeleygov.com

Main Phone: 970-350-9740

FAX: 970-350-9828



Dear Prospective Candidates and Campaigns,

Thank you for considering public office or seeking to understand how the process works. I am Heidi Leatherwood, City Clerk for the City of Greeley. I also serve as the City's Designated Election Official (DEO).

Candidates for local office undertake an important role in the election process. This is a crucial step in understanding how municipal government works and influencing the future of the community. This guide is one source of information provided to assist you.

Please contact our office if you have questions about the process of candidacy for municipal office or placing something on the ballot. Since we are a home rule city, Greeley's charter and codes may provide for additional or more restrictive provisions than the State Statutes.

The City of Greeley coordinates the election with Weld County, so we work very closely with their office.

Please note that the City Clerk's Office assists the public and potential candidates with election processes but <u>cannot provide legal advice</u>. Consult an attorney for specific legal guidance.

Throughout this election season, candidates who have filed their intent to run will receive email updates and other communications.

Thank you for your service and interest in the City of Greeley.

Sincerely,

Heidi Leatherwood, City Clerk

#### **Greeley City Clerk's Office**

Contact for Candidate filing, campaign finance reporting, placing a question on the ballot, petition processes, and basic election questions

Phone: 970-350-9740

章 Fax: 970-350-9828

Email: cityclerk@greeleygov.com

greeleygov.com/government/cc/elections

The City Clerk's Office is in Greeley City Hall at 1000 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Open business days from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

#### Weld County Clerk & Recorder

Contact for election administration questions and voter lists

Phone: 970-304-6525

@ Email: elections@weldgov.com

Fax: 970-304-6566

www.weldvotes.com

If you need materials provided by the City of Greeley in an alternative format or in another language, contact us:

Phone: 970-350-9740

Email: cityclerk@greeleygov.com

**Español (Spanish)** - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 970-350-9740.

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## Section 1: Introduction to 2023 Greeley Elections

#### **TOPICS:**

- Voting in Greeley in 2023

  Overview of key election elements and voter procedures.
- Elective Officers in 2023
   Information about the duties and responsibilities of the offices on the ballot.
- 2023 Election Calendar Key dates and timelines for the election.
- Laws Applicable to Greeley Elections

Provisions of City Charter and Ordinance as well as state statute governing the conduct of elections.

Greeley Ward Map
 City and ward boundaries.
 Downloadable maps & ward lookup tool are also on the City elections website.







#### Voting in Greeley in 2023

#### Election Day: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

This will be a coordinated mail ballot election conducted with the Weld County Clerk and Recorder. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters starting October 16, 2023.

#### City Offices on the ballot in 2023

- Mayor (at-large office elected by all City voters)
- Ward I Council Member (elected by residents of Ward I)
- Ward IV Council Member (elected by residents of Ward IV)
- At-Large Council Member (elected by all City voters)

There may also be City questions on the ballot in 2023.

#### Voter Registration

Eligible voters must be registered to vote in the 2023 Municipal Election. Ballots are mailed out to registered voters. Please update voter registration after moving or changing a name, or if a prior registration becomes inactive.

- Voters with a Colorado ID or Driver's License can register to vote online up until 8 days before the election.
- Any voter can submit a paper registration form by mail, email or in person to the County Elections Office or the Greeley City Clerk's Office.
- Voters choosing to vote in person can also register when voting, including on Election Day.

#### **Voting Options**

Eligible Greeley voters can decide how to cast their ballot in this mail ballot election. Voters who are registered at least 8 days before October 30 will have a ballot mailed to them.

#### Ballots can be returned:

- **By mail.** Affix proper postage and mail the ballot in, allowing enough time for the ballot to be received by Election Day. It does not matter when a ballot is postmarked, it must be received by Election Day to count.
- In a ballot drop box. City Hall has a drive through drop box available to voters behind the building. Other drop boxes are located around the county and all boxes are open through 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Voters who are not registered in time to receive a mail ballot or who wish to vote in person may do so at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder or other designated voting locations. All ballot drop boxes and in person voting locations will be listed on the City elections webpage this fall.

Voters can sign up for the **BallotTrax system** through Weld County to be notified of where their ballot is in the election process from the time it is printed until it is accepted and counted. Visit **weldvotes.ballottrax.net/voter/** to sign up.

#### **Elective Officers in 2023**

#### **Mayor**

Candidates for Mayor are nominated by registered electors residing anywhere in City limits and are voted on citywide. The term for Mayor is two years.

The Mayor presides over meetings of the City Council and has the same right to speak and vote as all council members. The general roles and responsibilities of the Mayor are outlined in **Section 3-2** of the City Charter, and include applicable emergency powers.

#### **Time Commitment**

A candidate for Mayor can expect to spend an average of 20-30 hours per week on City business if elected. This time includes preparation for and participation in regular meetings, work sessions, boards and committee meetings. The Mayor is in regular contact with the City Manager.

As the ceremonial head of City government, the Mayor attends a variety of community events on behalf of the City and the Council.

#### Compensation

The position of Mayor is compensated at \$1,500.00 per month

#### Councilmembers

Candidates for Council are nominated by registered electors either, a) residing anywhere within City limits for the at-large seat, or b) residing in the ward the candidate wishes to represent for the seats for Wards I and IV. The term for councilmember is four years.

The corporate authority and legislative powers of the City are vested in the Mayor and 6 Councilmembers and extend to all subjects of legislation not forbidden by the U.S. Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, or other provisions of the City Charter.

#### **Time Commitment**

Prospective Councilmembers can also expect to spend an average of 15-30 hours per week on City business. As with the Mayor, this time includes preparation for and participation in the regular meetings and work sessions of Council that occur most weeks and meetings, interviews, and other obligations. Time commitments can vary depending on their own availability and experience.

#### Compensation

With the start of the next term of office for each seat, the position of Council Member is compensated at \$1,050.00 per month.

\*Appendix B includes additional information about the responsibilities and scope of the work of elected officials in Greeley.



Deadline	ACTION		
Upon candidacy	Candidate Affidavit due within ten (10) days of becoming a candidate (C.R.S. 1-45-110(1))		
Tuesday, August 8	First day Nomination Petitions may be circulated (C.R.S. 1-4-805 & 31-10-302)		
Thursday, August 10	Start of minimum residency for Ward candidates (Greeley Charter §2-4)		
Monday, August 28	Last day Nomination Petitions may be circulated (File with City Clerk by 5:00 p.m. City Hall, 1000 10 <sup>th</sup> St.) (C.R.S. 1-4-805 & 31-10-302)		
Friday, September 1	Last day Nomination Petition signatures, if determined by the City Clerk to be insufficient, may be amended, corrected, or replaced (C.R.S. 1-4-805)		
Tuesday, September 5	Last day to submit an affidavit of withdrawal to end a candidacy (C.R.S. 31-10-303)		
Thursday, September 7	Last day to Draw by lot for candidate order on the ballot		
Friday, September 8	Last day to certify the City's ballot order and contents to the Weld County Election Office (C.R.S. 1-5-203(3)(a))		
Monday, October 16	First day mail ballots may be sent to registered electors and made available at the Weld County Election Office (C.R.S. 1-7.5-107(3)(a))		
Monday, October 16	24-hour Ballot boxes open through Tuesday, November 7		
Tuesday, October 17	Campaign report due to City Clerk per Fair Campaign Practices Act (C.R.S. 1-45-108(2)(a)(II))		
Monday, October 23	Voter Service and Polling Centers must be open		
Friday, November 3	Campaign report due to City Clerk per Fair Campaign Practices Act (C.R.S. 1-45-108(2)(a)(II))		
Tuesday, November 7	ELECTION DAY		

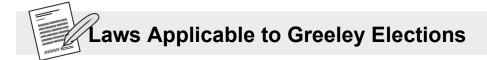
Tuesday, November 28	New elected officials are sworn in at the next Council meeting after their election (Greeley Charter 2-3)
Tuesday, December 12	Campaign report due to City Clerk per Fair Campaign Practices Act (C.R.S. 1-45-108(2)(a)(II))
ANNUALLY	Campaign report due (if applicable) on November 1 of each year following election (C.R.S. 1-45-108(2)(a)(II))



### **Greeley Ward Map**

City and ward boundaries. Downloadable maps & ward lookup tool are also on the City elections website.

https://greeleygov.com/government/cc/elections



#### **Greeley City Charter**

The City Charter is the document establishing the form of government for the City of Greeley. The entire Charter is accessible online at **Charter of City of Greeley** 

- Article II. Elective Officers includes provisions establishing the elected officials of the City, and their terms and qualifications.
- Article VIII. Election outlines the general provisions under which City elections shall be held.
- Relative to ballot questions:
  - Section 1-6 of Article I addresses amending the Charter.
  - Article IX. Initiative and Referendum outlines provisions for those two types of actions.
  - o Article X. Recall details recall provisions for City elected officials.

#### Greeley Municipal Code

The Greeley Municipal Code (GMC) is the book of laws for the City of Greeley. After adoption, City ordinances are codified into the GMC.

The full current online City Code is available at Greeley Municipal Code

• Title 2. Administration and General Government, Chapter 2. Elections, includes provisions governing wards and precincts, ballot question procedures, and general elections provisions.

#### Colorado Revised Statutes

The City of Greeley has adopted the following election codes by reference:

- Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965 (CRS Title 31, Art. 10)
- Uniform Election Code of 1992 (CRS Title 1, Arts. 1-13)
- Colorado Mail Ballot Election Act (CRS Title 1, Art. 7.5)

In any election, the City Council selects the election code or act provisions to be followed. However, no statutory provisions supersede the provisions of the City Charter.

#### Section 2:

## **Running for Office**

#### **TOPICS:**

- How to File for Office
   Helping interested individuals
   prepare to file for office and
   know what is expected.
- Candidate Checklist
   Tool to track needed items.
- Campaign Finance Requirements
   Overview of campaign finance reporting needs.
- Campaigning
   Guidelines
   Information about guidance
   helpful to campaigns.







#### **How to File for Office**

#### **Qualifications**

To run for a municipal office, including Mayor or a City Council seat, a candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Citizen of the United States
- 21 years of age
- No other elective office held
- No felony convictions
- Resident of Greeley for the one-year period immediately prior to the election (and resident of Ward for 90 days prior to the election for Ward candidates)

#### Term Limits

The Greeley Charter, in Section 2-9, provides for the following term limits:

- Two (2) consecutive four-year terms for Council Member positions.
- Four (4) consecutive two-year terms for the Mayoral position.

#### Conflicts of Interest

City officials and their immediate families are prohibited from having any financial interest in City contracts or purchases. Please contact the City Attorney's Office regarding questions about any potential conflict of interest at (970) 350-9757.

#### Candidate Affidavits

Someone is considered to have become a candidate when they:

- 1. Publicly announcing their candidacy or intent to seek public office; and
- 2. Receive a contribution or make an expenditure in support of their campaign.

Within 10 days of becoming a candidate, a **candidate affidavit form** must be filed with the City Clerk's Office. The original candidate affidavit must be notarized and submitted. A Candidate Committee must be formed before accepting contributions or making expenditures.

All municipal offices are non-partisan, so no political party should be indicated on the candidate affidavit. Be sure to note which office is being sought on affidavit, including the ward if applicable.



#### How to File for Office

#### Getting on the Ballot

#### **Nomination Petitions**

Filing to appear on the ballot is done through the submission of nomination petitions. These petitions must be circulated only from August 8 to August 28, 2023, and signed by at least 25 registered Greeley electors (residing within Ward for Ward candidates; residing within the city at large for Mayor and At-large candidates.)

#### **Key Reminders**

- Must use the form provided by the City Clerk's Office these will be available online as well as in person at City Hall starting August 8, 2023.
- A qualified elector can only sign one nomination petition for each separate office on the ballot. This means an eligible voter can sign a nomination petition for a mayoral candidate and a candidate for council member in their ward, but cannot sign petitions for two different mayoral candidates, for instance.
- Petition circulators must personally observe each signature petitions cannot be left unattended.
- All pages of a nomination petition packet are one instrument pages cannot be separated, or all signatures will be invalidated.
- Each signer must complete ALL required information.
- 25 valid signatures of qualified voters are required, but it is a good idea to get more than this number in case any signatures are found to be invalid.
- The nomination petition must include a notarized affidavit signed by the circulator. This must be notarized before it is turned in to the Clerk's Office.
- Completed nomination petitions must be filed in person with the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on August 28.
- If the Clerk's Office's initial review of the submitted signatures finds the nomination petition is insufficient, the petition must be amended, corrected, or replaced by 5 p.m. on September 1.



## Candidate Checklist

Candidate Qualifications
Verify the following qualifications are met:
☐ A citizen of the United States.
☐ At least 21 years of age.
☐ A resident of Greeley for at least one year immediately preceding the Nov. 2 election and for
Ward candidates, also a resident of that Ward for 90 days immediately preceding the election.
☐ No other elective office held
☐ No felony convictions.
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Candidate Forms and Timeline
All forms must be FILED WITH the City Clerk's Office
☐ Completed Candidate Affidavit due to the City Clerk within ten (10) days of becoming a
candidate. Must be signed and notarized before submission.
☐ If creating a new committee for campaign finance purposes, fill out the New Committee
Registration Form and submit to the City Clerk before accepting contributions or making
expenditures, otherwise update or confirm that your committee information is correct.
Completed Nomination Petition signed by at least 25 registered electors residing in the City of
Greeley and within Ward for Ward candidates.
(Nomination Packets will be available online and at the City Clerk's Office starting August 8, 2023)
☐ Nomination Petition circulated ONLY from August 8 to August 28.
☐ Nomination Petition filed with the City Clerk no later than August 28 at 5 p.m.
☐ Affidavit of Circulator completed and signed before a Notary Public.
☐ Acceptance of Nomination completed and signed by Candidate before a Notary Public.
Campaign Finance Reporting
All forms must be FILED WITH the City Clerk's Office
☐ If creating a new committee for campaign finance purposes, fill out the New Committee
Registration Form and submit to the City Clerk before accepting contributions or making
expenditures.
☐ Fair Campaign Practices Act filing due: October 17; November 3, and December 12; November
1, 2024 (and annually thereafter as long as account is open and until a termination report is filed).
Submit one of the following forms each filing period:
$\square$ If you did <u>not</u> receive any contributions, did not make any expenditures, <u>AND</u> are not carrying
over a balance in your campaign account during the reporting period, complete the Candidate
Statement of Non-Receipt of Contributions and Non-Expenditure of Funds Form.
$\square$ If you only spent your own money $\underline{AND}$ did not receive any contributions during the filing
period, complete the Statement of Personal Expenditures by a Candidate Form.
☐ If you received contributions or made expenditures during the reporting period, complete the Report of
Contributions and Expenditures Packet
Communication and Experimental Communication



#### **Campaign Finance Requirements**

The Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) governs campaign finance activity in Greeley elections. This act is found in Colorado Revised Statutes Title I, Article 45, and applies to City of Greeley candidates running for Mayor and City Council, as well as committees supporting or opposing Greeley ballot measures.

#### **Campaign Committees**

The first step that must occur prior to accepting contributions or spending money to support a local candidate or to support or oppose a local ballot measure is the registration of a campaign committee.

#### Forms

All campaign reports must be filed with the Greeley City Clerk's Office. Fillable PDF versions of each form are linked to this document and are available on the City Clerk's website. Because most of the forms were produced by the Secretary of State for use by both state and local candidates and committees, there may be questions on forms which are not applicable to local committees and candidates.

- New Committee Registration Form
- Report of Contributions and Expenditures
  - Used for regularly scheduled filings, amended filings, and as a termination report.
  - An Excel version of the campaign finance report is available for completion and submission.
  - This report can be submitted to the City Clerk's Office in person or electronically.
- Form for Amendment(s) to Existing Committee Registration
- Candidate Statement of Non-Receipt of Contributions and Non-Expenditure of Funds
- Statement of Personal Expenditures by a Candidate

#### Public Records

Campaign reports are public records, and copies are frequently requested. Reports will be made available for public inspection in compliance with state open records statute and may be placed on the City's website for convenient access by the public.

#### **Accepting Contributions**

All contributions received must be deposited in a financial institution in a separate account with a title that includes the name of the committee.

All contributions of \$20 or more must be itemized and include the name and address of each person contributing. For contributions of \$100 or more, the occupation of employer of each contributor must be obtained and listed on campaign finance reports.



#### Campaign Finance Requirements

#### Reporting Requirements

Candidates or campaign committees must file all required reports by the deadlines required either based on the election calendar or as triggered by specific campaign activities.

In many instances, the New Committee Registration Form will be the first required form and must be submitted before accepting any donations or making any expenditures of donated funds. Only if a candidate never accepts donations from others, and only uses their own funds for expenditures, will a New Committee Registration Form not be required.

#### Filing Deadlines

3 Filing deadlines for campaign finance reports for the November 7, 2023, Municipal Election include:

•	October 17, 2023:	Covers beginning of campaign thru October 17	
•	November 3, 2023:	Covers October 18 thru November 2	
•	<b>December 12, 2023:</b>	Covers November 2 thru Dec 12	
•	November 1, 2024:	Annually thereafter until closed	
Amended reports:  If nee		If needed, may be filed at any time	

On each of these deadlines, every candidate and campaign must file one of the following:

- Candidate Statement of Non-Receipt of Contributions and Non-Expenditure of Funds
   Form If a candidate did <u>not</u> receive any contributions, did not make any expenditures, <u>AND</u>
   is not carrying over a balance in a campaign account during the reporting period.
- Statement of Personal Expenditures by a Candidate Form If a candidate only spent their own money <u>AND</u> did not receive any contributions during the filing period.
- Report of Contributions and Expenditures Packet Required from all committees and all
  candidates that received contributions or made expenditures during the reporting period.

Once a committee is opened, reporting requirements continue until a termination report is filed with a zero balance.

Who Files with the City Clerk Campaign finance reports for municipal offices and local committees for municipal candidates as well as political committees and issue committees must be filed with the City Clerk's Office, not the Secretary of State. This is different than for all other elected offices in Colorado.

#### Filing Process

Forms may be submitted in person at City Hall, by mail, or by email. Fillable electronic forms are available on the City's website, as well as the Secretary of State's website. Because the same forms are used for both state and local candidates and committees, some questions on the forms may not be applicable to municipal filers.



#### **Campaign Finance Requirements**

#### **Campaign Contributions**

There are not dollar limits on the amounts that can be accepted as a contribution, but ALL campaign contributions must be reported. Contributions are defined as anything of value given directly or indirectly to a candidate and/or committee.

- Contributions under \$20 do not need to be itemized and may be aggregated per reporting period.
- Contributions of \$20 or more must be itemized and include the name and address of the contributor.
- Contributions of \$100 or more must also include the occupation and employer of the contributor.
- Contributions of \$1,000 or more received within 30 days immediately prior to the election must be reported within 24 hours of receipt as a Notice of Major Contributor report.

#### **Prohibited Contributions**

- Corporations
- Foreign citizens, corporations, or governments
- Lobbyists
- Another candidate committee
- Loans from other individuals or entities.
- Contributions in cash or coin cannot exceed \$100
- Some LLCs

#### **Expenditures**

An expenditure is considered to have occurred as of the earliest of the date it is made, when funds are obligated, or when a contract is established.

All expenditures must be itemized in reporting and must include the name and address of the payee, as well as the purpose of the expense.

It is not permitted to give money from one candidate committee to another.

#### Campaign Finance Resources

- 2023 Candidate Information Packet
- Campaign and Political Finance Manual from the Colorado Secretary of State
- Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. Title I, Article 45
- Colorado Constitution, Article XXVIII
- Private attorney with expertise in campaign finance and the Fair Campaign Practices Act



#### **Campaigning Guidelines**

#### Write-in Candidates

Write-in votes are only counted if an Affidavit of Intent is filed with the City Clerk.

#### Voter Lists

Current lists, mailing labels, and disks of registered voters can be requested from the Weld County Elections Department at (970) 304-6525. A notice of 24 to 48 hours is requested. Requests must be in writing and or emailed to **elections@weldgov.com** and payment of charges is due with the request.

#### **Election Signs**

Frequent inquiries during the election season are those about the placement of election signs within the City of Greeley. Signs, in general, are regulated by local Ordinances. Sign provisions are included in Title 24 of the Greeley Municipal Code. The full Code, including the Sign Code Chapter, is available on the City's website at | Municipal Code | Greeley, CO | Municode Library

#### Sign Basics

- No permit is required for election signs.
- The size and number of election signs shall be governed by the Greeley Municipal Code, sec. 24-902
- Permission from the property owner or legal tenant is needed before placing on private property.
- Signs are not permitted:
  - On utility poles, telephone poles, traffic control devices, etc.
  - Public property
  - Rights-of way
  - Within 100 feet of a ballot drop box or polling place
- Signs cannot obstruct traffic site lines, nor can they create a vehicular or pedestrian obstruction or hazard.

#### Sign Complaints

Issues with signs in City rights-of-way are handled by the City of Greeley Public Works Team Contact Jerry Pickett, Streets Superintendent, at 970-350-9335

Issues with signs causing site obstructions should be directed to Leroy Baca, Traffic Operations Supervisor, 970-350-9882

## **Appendix A: Forms**

#### **Filing Forms**

- Candidate Affidavit
- New Committee Registration or
- Form for Amendments to Existing Committee Registration
- Nomination Packet (available Aug. 8)

#### **Campaign Finance Forms**

- Candidate Statement of Non-Receipt of Contributions and Non-Expenditure of Funds
- Statement of Personal Expenditures by a Candidate
- Reporting Form- Detailed Summary of Contributions and Expenditures (includes Schedules A-D, & Statement of Non-Monetary Contribution Form)
- Notice of Major Contributor
- Other forms

See Candidate Forms

## Appendix B: Candidate Resources

#### **TOPICS:**

- Greeleygov.com
- Council Policies & Procedures
- Councilmember
   Assignments to Boards &
   Commissions and other
   Regional Committees







#### **Additional Resources**

- Council Information on **GreeleyGov.com**
- Council Policies and Procedures June 2021 version;
- List of Council assignments to boards/commissions Appointments for 2022/2023 attached



## Councilmember Assignments to Boards & Commissions and Regional Committees

#### 2022-2023

Board/Committee	Meeting Day/Time	Assignment
Team of 2 Board/Commission	Monthly as Needed	Council Rotation
Interviews		
Water & Sewer Board	3rd Wed, 2:00 pm	Gates
Youth Commission Liaison	4th Mon, 6:00 pm	Clark
Historic Preservation Loan	As Needed	DeBoutez
Committee		
Police Pension Board	Quarterly	Clark
Employee Health Board	As Needed	DeBoutez
Airport Authority	3rd Thur, 3:30 pm	Payton/Clark
Visit Greeley	3rd Wed, 7:30 am	Butler
Upstate Colorado Economic	Last Wed, 7:00 am	Gates/Hall
Development		
Greeley Chamber of Commerce	4th Mon, 11:30 am	Hall
Island Grove Advisory Board	1st Thur, 3:30 pm	Butler
Weld Project Connect Committee	As Needed	Butler
(United Way)		
Downtown Development	3rd Thur, 7:30 am	Butler/DeBoutez
Authority		
Transportation/Air Quality MPO	1st Thur, 6:00 pm	Payton/Olson
Poudre River Trail	1st Thur, 7:00 am	Hall
Interstate 25 Coalition	As Needed	Olson
Highway 85 Coalition	As Needed	Gates
Highway 34 Coalition	As Needed	Olson
CML Policy Committee (Council	As Needed	Payton/Lee
or Staff)		
Gates alternate		
CML Executive Board	As Needed	Hall
opportunity		
CML - Other opportunities	As Available/Desired	