

Ballot Access Modernization Committee

January 20, 2022 Proposed Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members

(Councilmember Black and Clerk López- 5 Min.)

2. Review Problem Statement

(Councilmember Black - 5 Min.)

Ballot Measures to change the City Charter or the Municipal Code can be put on the Denver municipal ballot through the citizen initiative process and by Denver City Council referral. The processes are inconsistent, and the timing is often condensed which can limit public engagement, council discussion, and analysis. This Ballot Access Modernization Committee will examine the processes, identify challenges, look at best practices including the state level, consult with experts and engage with community members to explore opportunities for improvement ensuring a fair and open process.

3. Presentation by Mr. David Broadwell, Esq.

(For Presentation Only- 15 Min.)

4. Hon. Paul López, Denver Clerk & Recorder, Issues Experienced in 2021.

(For Presentation Only- 20 Min.)

- Confusion surrounding citizen referendum
- Nine petitions scheduled to be filed on the same day and requiring verification within same 25-day period
- Department of Finance correction to fiscal analysis in Municipal Information Booklet
- Concerns about validity and accuracy of Municipal Information Booklet
- Concerns with ballot numbers being reused
- Training and compliance for petition circulators
- Timeline for creating fiscal analysis- **Councilmember Black**

5. Items Identified for Change:

(For Presentation Only- Councilmember Black and Clerk López - 10 Min.)

- Timeline - Consider aligning with state's timeline for both citizen-initiated and council-referred
 - Consider Council's review and comment period
 - Consider changes to timeline for verification of signatures
 - Consider changing timeline for fiscal analysis
 - Consider creating council rule defining deadline to file to align more closely with elections timelines
- Single Subject & Ballot Titles
 - Align with state single-subject requirement
 - Create a ballot title setting board to ensure clear and concise language
- Petitions

- Consider requiring fiscal analysis to appear on petition prior to circulation
- Consider training and compliance for circulators
- Explore a signature requirement from each council district
- Consider online petition endorsement signatures
- Review signature threshold (candidate and ballot initiative)
- Consider verification of random sampling of signatures
- Municipal Information Booklet
 - Align Municipal Information Booklet with state “blue book” model. Possibly including objective fiscal and operational analysis, and qualitative description of economic impact
 - Review public comment period for Municipal Information Booklet (MIB)
 - Review and consider timeline for challenges and hearings
- Other
 - Consider cleaning up 15-11(b)(1)- replace citywide election with Municipal General, Coordinated, and/or General Election
 - Consider a Council super-majority requirement to refer a charter change
 - Review and define the ballot numbering process

6. Items Identified for Discussion and Recommendations Today:

(Action Will be Taken- Councilmember Black and Clerk López- 30 Min)

- Consider Single Subject Rule
- Review & Define Citizen Referendum Process
- Defining the Ballot Numbering Process
- Discuss Training and Compliance Rules for Petition Circulators and Petition Committees
- Discussion Related to Online Petition Endorsement Process

7. Committee Discussion on Future Agenda Items:

- Review and discuss Ballot Title Board options
 - Consider creating a Title Board to mirror state law
- Review and discuss changes to Municipal Information Booklet
 - Consider creating standards for information included, requiring fiscal analysis, updating timelines etc

8. Adjourn