

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO. _____
SERIES OF 2025

COUNCIL BILL NO. 25-1054
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
Finance and Business

A BILL

For an ordinance submitting to a vote of the qualified and registered electors of the City and County of Denver at a special municipal election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, the question of whether the City shall be authorized to issue general obligation bonds, notes, or other obligations for the purpose of financing and/or refinancing repairs and improvements to City parks and recreational infrastructure and facilities; providing the form of the ballot question; providing for other details in connection therewith; and ratifying action previously taken.

(1) **WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver (the "City") is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing as a home-rule municipality under Article XX of the Constitution (the "Constitution") and the laws of the State of Colorado (the "State") and the City Charter (the "Charter"); and

(2) **WHEREAS**, the members of the City Council of the City (the "City Council") have been duly elected and qualified; and

(3) **WHEREAS**, Article X, Section 20 of the Constitution ("TABOR") requires voter approval for the creation of any debt, the imposition of any new tax, any tax rate increase, any mill levy increase above that for the prior year, the extension of an expiring tax, and for collecting, retaining and expending certain moneys above limits established by TABOR; and

(4) **WHEREAS**, Section 7.5.1 of the Charter provides that no general obligation bonds shall be issued until the question of issuing the bonds shall have been submitted to a vote of the qualified and registered electors of the City and a majority of those voting upon the question by ballot shall have voted in favor of issuing such bonds; and

(5) **WHEREAS**, the City Council, after consultation with the Mayor and other appropriate municipal officers, has determined that the question of whether the City shall be authorized to issue general obligation bonds, notes, or other obligations ("Obligations") for the purposes and in the manner set forth in this ordinance should be submitted to the qualified and registered electors of the City at the special municipal election called by this ordinance to be held on November 4, 2025 (the "Election"); and

(6) **WHEREAS**, TABOR also requires the City to submit ballot issues (as defined in TABOR) to the City's electors on limited election days before action can be taken on such ballot

1 issues; and

2 (7) **WHEREAS**, November 4, 2025 is one of the election dates at which ballot issues may
3 be submitted to the City's qualified and registered electors pursuant to TABOR; and

4 (8) **WHEREAS**, the Denver Clerk and Recorder (the "Clerk") is conducting a coordinated
5 election pursuant to the Uniform Election Code of 1992 (the "Uniform Election Code"), being articles
6 1 through 13 of title 1, Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended ("C.R.S."), on November 4, 2025;
7 and

8 (9) **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 8.2.1 of the Charter, Section 15-4 Denver Revised
9 Municipal Code, Section 1-1-102 of the Uniform Election Code, Section 31-10-102.7, C.R.S., and
10 this ordinance, the City Council may elect to utilize the provisions of the Uniform Election Code in
11 order to participate in the coordinated election on November 4, 2025; and

12 (10) **WHEREAS**, the City Council hereby determines that it is necessary to submit to the
13 qualified and registered electors of the City, at the coordinated election to be held on November 4,
14 2025, the question of authorizing Obligations in the amounts specified in Section 3 below and the
15 extension of the imposition of an ad valorem property tax as previously approved at the City's bond
16 elections in 2007, 2017 and 2021 for the payment of such Obligations for the purpose of financing
17 or refinancing repairs and improvements to City parks and recreational infrastructure and facilities
18 (the "Denver Parks and Recreational Improvements"); and

19 (11) **WHEREAS**, the City Council hereby determines that the Denver Parks and
20 Recreational Improvements will enhance property and facilities owned and/or operated by the City
21 for the benefit of its residents and taxpayers, including without limitation, City parks, open space,
22 playgrounds, recreational centers, pools, and other public infrastructure and facilities; and

23 (12) **WHEREAS**, it is necessary to set forth certain procedures concerning the conduct of
24 the Election.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF**
26 **DENVER:**

27 **Section 1.** All action heretofore taken (not inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance)
28 by the City and the officers thereof, directed towards the Election, and the objects and purposes
29 herein stated is hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

30 **Section 2.** Unless otherwise defined herein, all terms used herein shall have the
31 meanings defined in the Uniform Election Code.

32 **Section 3.** Pursuant to Section 8.2.3 of the Charter, the City Council hereby determines to
33 call a special election to be conducted pursuant to the Uniform Election Code as part of the

1 coordinated election being conducted by the Clerk on November 4, 2025. The City Council hereby
2 determines that at the Election, there shall be submitted to the qualified and registered electors of
3 the City the following question:

4 Denver Parks and Recreation Bonds

5 WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX, SHALL CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER DEBT BE
6 INCREASED \$174,750,000, WITH A MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST OF \$357,000,000, TO
7 BE USED FOR REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY PARKS AND RECREATIONAL
8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- 9 • CREATION OF A SOUTHEAST RECREATION CENTER AND SKATE PARK AND A NEW
10 EMPORIA NEIGHBORHOOD PARK, AND DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE
11 PARK HILL OPEN SPACE INTO ONE OF DENVER'S LARGEST PARKS;
- 12 • EQUIPMENT UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS,
13 AND OTHER OPEN SPACES, INCLUDING GARLAND, HARVEY, HIRSHORN, LINDSLEY,
14 PLATT, AND SUN VALLEY RIVERFRONT PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS, LA PLAZITO DE
15 MONTBELLO, THE SOUTHWEST AUTO PARK TENNIS COURT, AND A BIKE PUMP
16 TRACK IN SOUTHWEST DENVER;
- 17 • ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS TO SLOANS LAKE; AND
- 18 • IMPROVEMENTS AND UPGRADES TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND POOLS,
19 INCLUDING ECHO LAKE LODGE, MONTBELLO RECREATION CENTER AND
20 AZTLAN, COOK PARK, EISENHOWER, SOUTHWEST OUTDOOR, AND
21 WASHINGTON PARK INDOOR POOLS;

22 BY THE ISSUANCE AND PAYMENT, OR REFINANCING, OF GENERAL OBLIGATION
23 BONDS, NOTES, OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS; AND SHALL THE TAXES AUTHORIZED AT
24 THE CITY'S BOND ELECTIONS IN 2007, 2017 AND 2021 BE EXTENDED AND
25 AUTHORIZED TO PAY OR REFINANCE THE DEBT AUTHORIZED AT THIS ELECTION IN
26 ADDITION TO THE DEBT AUTHORIZED AT SUCH PRIOR ELECTIONS; AND SHALL CITY
27 AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE INCREASED WITHOUT LIMITATION AS TO RATE
28 BUT NOT MORE THAN A COMBINED EXTENDED MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$41,257,045
29 ANNUALLY, WITH THE CITY TO PUBLICLY REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURES ANNUALLY?

30 **Section 4.** The Clerk is hereby appointed as the designated election official of the City for
31 purposes of performing acts required or permitted by law in connection with the Election.

32 **Section 5.** The officers and employees of the City are hereby authorized and directed to

1 take all action necessary or appropriate to effectuate the provisions of this ordinance.

2 **Section 6.** If a majority of the votes cast on the question to authorize Obligations and the
3 extension of the City's authorization to levy ad valorem property taxes submitted at the Election shall
4 be in favor of issuing Obligations and levying ad valorem property taxes as provided in such
5 question, the City, acting through the Mayor and City Council, shall be authorized to proceed with
6 the necessary action to issue Obligations and levy ad valorem property taxes in such manner and
7 with the Obligations containing such terms consistent with such question, as the City Council may
8 determine. Any authority to contract Obligations or to levy ad valorem property taxes, if conferred by
9 the results of the Election, shall be deemed and considered a continuing authority to contract the
10 Obligations and levy the ad valorem taxes so authorized at any one time, or from time to time, and
11 neither the partial exercise of the authority so conferred, nor any lapse of time, shall be considered
12 as exhausting or limiting the full authority so conferred.

13 **Section 7.** If a majority of the votes cast on the question authorize the issuance of
14 Obligations and the extension of the City's authorization to levy an ad valorem property tax as
15 described in the question set forth in Section 3 above, the City intends to issue such Obligations in
16 the approximate aggregate principal amount of \$174,750,000 to pay the costs of financing or
17 refinancing certain public improvements described in the election question (the "Project"), including
18 the reimbursement of certain costs incurred by the City prior to the execution and delivery of such
19 Obligations, upon terms acceptable to the City, as authorized in an ordinance to be hereafter
20 adopted and to take all further action which is necessary or desirable in connection therewith. The
21 officers, employees and agents of the City shall take all action necessary or reasonably required to
22 carry out, give effect to and consummate the transactions contemplated hereby and shall take all
23 action necessary or desirable to finance the Project and to otherwise carry out the transactions
24 contemplated by the ordinance. This ordinance is intended to be a declaration of "official intent" to
25 reimburse expenditures within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.150-2.

26 **Section 8.** Pursuant to Article XX of the State Constitution and the Charter, all State
27 statutes that might otherwise apply in connection with the provisions of this ordinance (including,
28 without limitation C.R.S. § 31-11-111) are hereby superseded to the extent of any inconsistencies
29 or conflicts between the provisions of this ordinance and such statutes. Any such inconsistency or
30 conflict is intended by the City Council and shall be deemed made pursuant to the authority of Article
31 XX of the State Constitution and the Charter.

32 **Section 9.** If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this ordinance shall for any
33 reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section,

1 paragraph, clause or provision shall in no manner affect any remaining provisions of this ordinance.

2 **Section 10.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed
3 to the extent only of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any ordinance
4 or part of any ordinance heretofore repealed.

5
6 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: July 22, 2025

7 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: N/A

8 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: 08/04/2025

9 *Amursh P. Sandora* - PRESIDENT

10 APPROVED: *Michael C. Johnston* - MAYOR 08/06/2025
Michael C. Johnston (Aug 6, 2025 13:54:35 MDT)

11 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
12 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
13 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

14 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL: _____; _____

15 PREPARED BY: Bradley T. Neiman, Assistant City Attorney DATE: July 24, 2025

16 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the
17 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed
18 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §
19 3.2.6 of the Charter.

20
21 Katie J. McLoughlin, Interim City Attorney

22 BY: *Jonathan Griffin*, Assistant City Attorney DATE: 07/24/2025
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