# 2026 CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE VACANCY ELECTION

## Information for Candidates and Campaigns

*Wednesday, August 5, 2026*

DENVER **CLERK** & **RECORDER**

Denver Votes!

# Agenda

- Vacancy Overview and Special Election Timeline
- Qualifications to Hold Office
- Online Candidate Resources
- Denver Municipal Candidate Guide
- Campaign Finance
- Existing 2027 Municipal Candidates
- Petition Circulation and Submission Process
- Contact Information

# Vacancy Overview & Election Timeline

- **August 5**
  City Council meets and adopts a resolution declaring a vacancy and sets a Special Election date.
  Candidate filing opens, candidate petition pick-up, and Fair Election Fund qualifying period begins.
- **August 20**
  Nomination petitions due
- **September 2**
  Lot drawing to determine candidate ballot order
- **September 4**
  Ballot certification; Candidate filing deadline (campaign finance), end of FEF qualification period
- **November 3**
  Election Day
- **November 24**
  Election certification date
  Councilmember-elect sworn in to office (serves through July 19, 2027)

# Qualifications to Hold Office

- **Councilmember:** Must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the City and County of Denver for the two (2) years immediately preceding the member's election, a qualified elector of the City and County of Denver, at least twenty-five (25) years of age by the date of the election.... (Charter § 3.1.3)
- No person who has been convicted of willful evasion of City or State taxes; or who has been convicted of malfeasance in office, bribery or other corrupt practices, shall be qualified for membership in the Council. (Charter § 3.1.5)

DENVER CLERK & RECORDER

Denver Votes!

# File Campaign Paperwork

1. Municipal candidate affidavit,
2. Municipal committee treasurer affidavit,
3. Candidate financial disclosure,
4. Candidate contact form,
5. Acceptance of Nomination and Statement of Ballot Name*

Deliver to DCR office **or** email completed forms to campaignfinance@denvergov.org

DENVER CLERK & RECORDER
CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING
HON. PAUL D. LÓPEZ

**Municipal Candidate Affidavit**

I, _____
Name of Candidate

DENVER CLERK & RECORDER
CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING
HON. PAUL D. LÓPEZ

**Municipal Treasurer Affidavit**

I, _____
Name of Treasurer

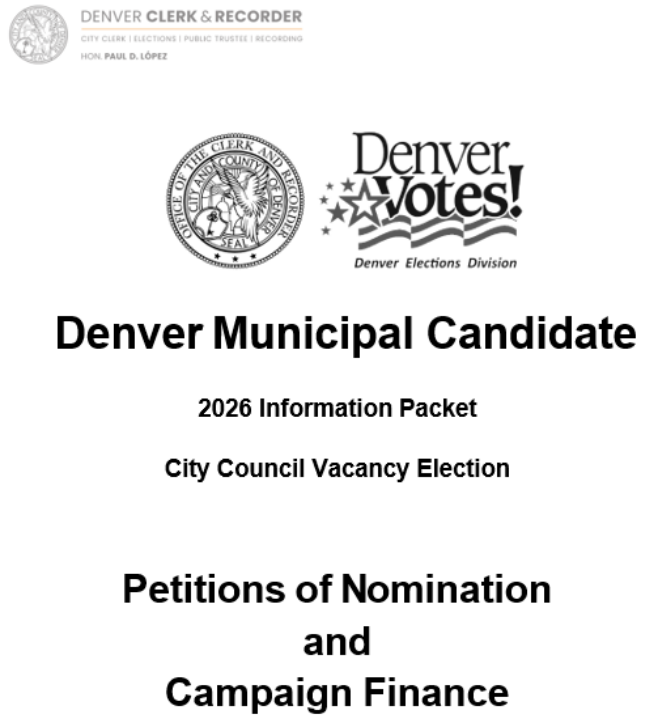
DENVER CLERK & RECORDER
CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING
HON. PAUL D. LÓPEZ

**Candidate Financial Disclosure**

All candidates, including incumbent officeholders who become candidates for re-election, must file a financial disclosure statement within ten (10) days after becoming a candidate.

# Online Candidate Resources

- Campaign & Candidate Resources Page
  - **Special Election page**
  - Access to candidate guide and required forms
  - View candidate tracker
  - Information on Poll Watchers and Election Judges
- Campaign Finance
  - Access to guides and calendar
  - All reports are submitted through SearchLight
- Data and Maps
  - General voter registration data and maps
  - Request option for custom data and maps using online



# Campaign Finance

- **Special Election page:** FEF Requirements, Contribution Limits, FEF Payment Schedule, and FAQs
- No candidate debate requirement for FEF participating candidates in a special vacancy election.
- Questions regarding campaign finance or the Fair Elections Fund?
  - **Nick Mahon**, Campaign Finance Administrator
  - **Email campaignfinance@denvergov.org**
  - **Call 720-865-8682.**

# Already Running for 2027 Municipal Office?

- Vacancy election contribution limits are separate from 2027 limits.
- Existing candidate committee funds may be transferred to a new committee.
- New FEF qualification is required, including a new application and 100 new qualifying contributions.
- FEF funds received for the 2027 election cannot be used in the vacancy election.

# Candidate Petitions Timeline & Overview

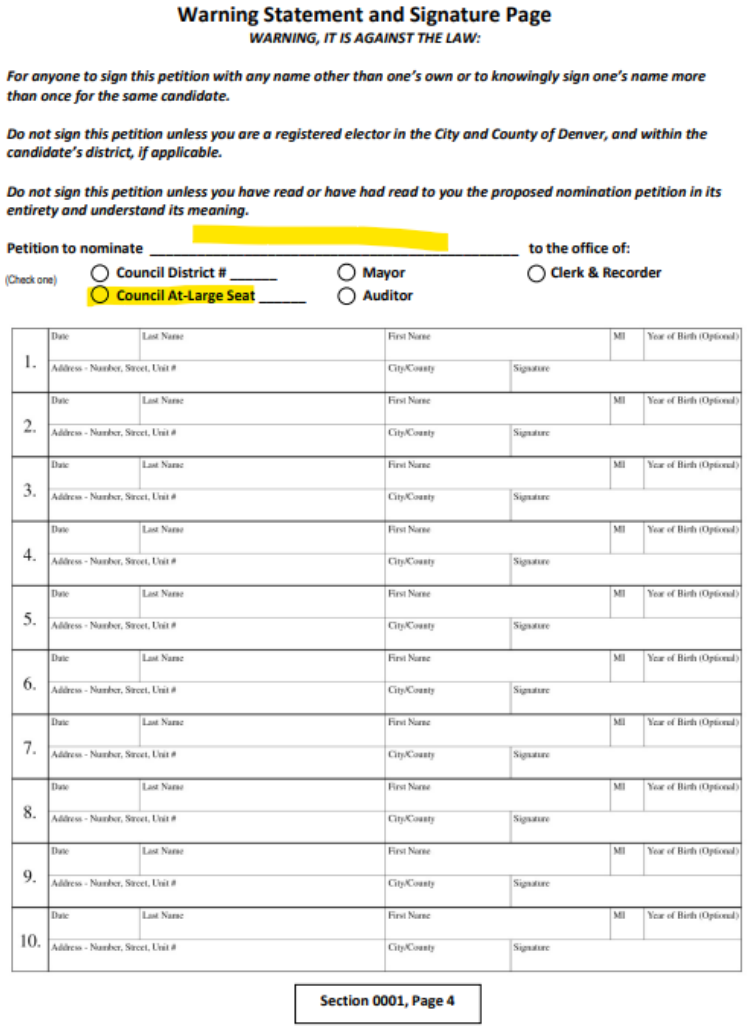
- Review **Candidate Guide** and **Clerk & Recorder rules** for details
- Free, pre-printed petition sections available at the Denver Clerk & Recorder building (200 W. 14th Ave)
- **Wednesday, August 5** – petition sections available at DCR
- **Thursday, August 20** – deadline to submit nomination petitions; deadline to "cure" petitions if initially insufficient
- 300 valid signatures are needed to qualify for the ballot
- Once petition signatures are reviewed, campaigns will receive a notice of sufficiency or insufficiency
- **Reminder**: turn in *notarized* Acceptance of Nomination and Statement of Ballot Name

DENVER CLERK & RECORDER

Denver Votes!

# Petition Circulation Guidelines

- Write candidate name on **every** page
- Select the office on **every** page
- Signers should complete all required fields of information – encourage signers to write legibly
- Electors must be registered in Denver – elector signing must complete their own line on petition (without assistance)
  - Electors with disabilities can sign (or make a mark) with assistance – the person assisting must complete the line below and indicate they assisted the line above. Circulator **may not** assist an elector in completing the information.



**Warning Statement and Signature Page**

***WARNING, IT IS AGAINST THE LAW:***

***For anyone to sign this petition with any name other than one's own or to knowingly sign one's name more than once for the same candidate.***

***Do not sign this petition unless you are a registered elector in the City and County of Denver, and within the candidate's district, if applicable.***

***Do not sign this petition unless you have read or have had read to you the proposed nomination petition in its entirety and understand its meaning.***

**Petition to nominate** _____ **to the office of:**

(Check one) ◯ Council District # _____ ◯ Mayor ◯ Clerk & Recorder

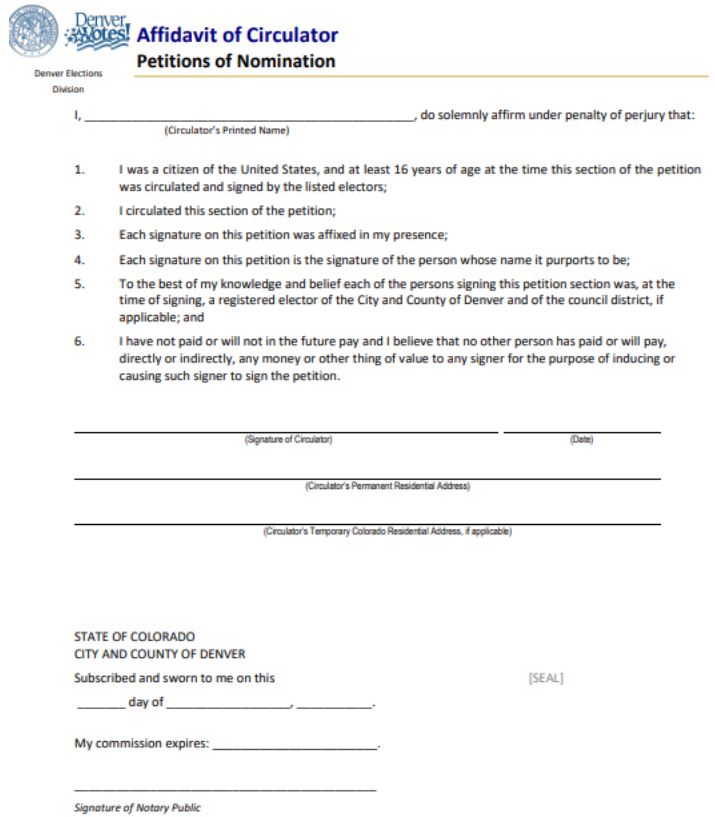
◯ Council At-Large Seat _____ ◯ Auditor

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 2. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 3. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 4. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 5. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 6. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 7. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 8. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 9. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |
| 10. | Date | Last Name | First Name | MI | Year of Birth (Optional) |
| | Address - Number, Street, Unit # | | City/County | Signature | |

Section 0001, Page 4

# Petition Circulation Guidelines

- Circulators must be U.S. citizens, at least 16 y.o.
- Petition packets **may not** be disassembled
- Required to provide a list of all circulators and notaries used when submitting petitions
- Only one circulator may circulate a given petition packet
- Circulator affidavit must be notarized – the Denver Clerk & Recorder provides notary services at no cost
- Circulator affidavit form is complete and signed by circulator in the presence of a notary – pay attention to dates! Signature date must match notary date!



Denver Elections Division

**Affidavit of Circulator**

**Petitions of Nomination**

I, _____, do solemnly affirm under penalty of perjury that:
(Circulator's Printed Name)

1. I was a citizen of the United States, and at least 16 years of age at the time this section of the petition was circulated and signed by the listed electors;
2. I circulated this section of the petition;
3. Each signature on this petition was affixed in my presence;
4. Each signature on this petition is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be;
5. To the best of my knowledge and belief each of the persons signing this petition section was, at the time of signing, a registered elector of the City and County of Denver and of the council district, if applicable; and
6. I have not paid or will not in the future pay and I believe that no other person has paid or will pay, directly or indirectly, any money or other thing of value to any signer for the purpose of inducing or causing such signer to sign the petition.

_____ _____
(Signature of Circulator) (Date)

_____
(Circulator's Permanent Residential Address)

_____
(Circulator's Temporary Colorado Residential Address, if applicable)

STATE OF COLORADO
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

Subscribed and sworn to me on this _____ day of _____, _____. [SEAL]

My commission expires: _____.

_____
*Signature of Notary Public*

# Contact Us:

- **Petition, ballot access, or general election questions:**
  - Email elections@denvergov.org
  - Call 720-913-VOTE (8683)
- **Campaign Finance / FEF questions:**
  - Email campaignfinance@denvergov.org
  - Call 720-865-8682
- The Denver Clerk & Recorder CANNOT provide legal guidance

DENVER **CLERK** & **RECORDER**

CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING

HON. **PAUL D. LÓPEZ**

Denver Votes!