

## 2021 CANDIDATE INFORMATION

The City of Durango will conduct its regular biennial election on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021, to elect three (3) City Council members.** Council members are elected at-large to represent all residents of the City. The top three vote getters from the final field of candidates will be elected to four-year terms. **The terms of office will commence on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.**

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 April 6, 2021 (Election Day)
- a resident of Durango, or a territory recently annexed to Durango, for the twelve (12) consecutive months prior to April 6, 2021.

Candidates for City Council are nominated by petition, without regard to political party affiliation. Petitions are obtained from the City Clerk. One to three electors of the City may be designated on the petition as a committee to fill a vacancy in nomination. This designation is optional.

**Nomination petitions may be circulated beginning Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Petitions must be returned to the City Clerk by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, but, if completed earlier, can be filed with the Clerk before the deadline. Each petition must be signed in ink by at least 25 registered electors who live in the City of Durango. Each registered elector signing a petition must add to their signature the full address of their residence (*including City and County*), the date on which they signed the petition, and must print their name in the space provided.**

Only one person can circulate a nomination petition. The circulator of a petition will affirm (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 they are 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 25 signatures of registered City electors. A registered City elector may sign only three nomination petitions no matter how many people are seeking candidacy.

**Each nomination petition must be filed with the City Clerk no later than Tuesday, February 9, as mentioned above. Every such petition must have endorsed thereon the notarized 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 residence and *the name of the candidate in the form it is to appear on the ballot.* The candidate's name on the ballot may be a nickname or include a nickname, but it cannot contain any title or degree identifying the candidate's business or profession. **Placement of candidates' names on the ballot will be determined by drawing of lots on February 16, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. 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 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 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 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 days after such objection is sustained.

### **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 through February 12, 2021**, by submitting to the City Clerk a written, signed affidavit withdrawing from such nomination. Forms for this purpose are in the packet that will be available beginning January 14, 2021 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 persons who signed said petition will be notified immediately of the candidate's withdrawal. The vacancy committee can fill vacancies in nominations. 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 found in your candidate packet. Report forms are included in the manual. **All reports for this election are filed ONLY with the City Clerk.**

As a candidate for City Council, you will be required to file a *Candidate Affidavit* within 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."**

Link to the Colorado Campaign and Political Finance Manual:

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

**The known dates when financial reports must be filed relative to this election are:**

**Tuesday, March 16**

**Friday, April 2**

**Thursday, May 6**

### **Miscellaneous**

Attached for your use is a copy of the election calendar.

This election will be conducted by mail ballot and administered by the Durango City Clerk. Ballots will be mailed on or before March 19, 2021, to all **active registered** electors of the City. Inactive registered electors of the City will have to provide identification and apply for a ballot in person.

Voter registration is accomplished at the La Plata County Clerk's office, 679 Turner Drive, Suite C, or by going online to: [www.govotecolorado.com](http://www.govotecolorado.com). Only U.S. citizens who are 18 years old and have resided inside the City of Durango for the 22 days preceding the election can register and participate in this election. Registered electors of the County who have moved into the City and resided in the state for 22 days preceding the election must change their legal address of residency with the County Clerk on or before April 6. Registered electors of the City who have moved to another City address since the November 2020 election also need to complete a change of address with the County Clerk before signing a nominating petition.

Applications for absentee ballots can be obtained by calling (375-5010 or 375-5015) or stopping by the City Clerk's office, 949 East Second Avenue. Only registered electors who will be out of town during the election period and have another address we can send a ballot to will need to apply for absentee ballots since ballots will be mailed to all active, registered electors at their address of record per voter registration records of the County Clerk.

**The walk-in polling locations will be: Durango City Clerk's office and the La Plata County Clerk and Recorder's office, 679 Turner Drive, Ste C,** for those registered electors who prefer to personally deliver their ballot rather than mail it. All ballots must be received in either of the offices by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, to be counted.

### **Suggested Campaign Do's and Don'ts**

Should your campaign activities involve a mass mailing, contact the main post office for up-to-date information about postal service bulk mailing regulations and opportunities. The telephone number is 247-3434. An advance call would be worthwhile, as the person responsible for bulk mail may not work a traditional 8-to-5 schedule. **Candidate Committees can not accept contributions from a corporation. Corporations may make a donation to a PAC fund which in return can donate to a Candidate Committee.**

City regulations allow political signs subject to the following stipulations.

Political signs:

- ◆ shall not be located closer than two hundred (200) feet to any designated polling place;
- ◆ shall not be placed within any public rights-of-way; and
- ◆ For political sign information, please refer to the City's Land Use and Development Code Section 3-6-3-1-C-11 found here: [Sign Code](#)

If you have any questions about sign regulations, contact the Planning and Community Development office at (970) 375-4850.