




Elections

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Initiatives

In an effort to assist citizens with the initiative process, the City Clerk's Office has developed  [Initiative Guidelines](#), which attempt to explain the process in a simple chronological manner. The Fort Collins City Charter grants the registered electors of Fort Collins the power to propose ordinances or resolutions to the City Council, and, if the Council fails to adopt such proposed measure, to adopt or reject such ordinance or resolution at the polls.

Note: The Initiative Guidelines do not apply to Charter Amendments, which are governed by State Statute. Please consult with the City Clerk's Office regarding the

process for Charter Amendments.

2025 Hughes Stadium Property Petition #1

Hughes Stadium Property Petition #1

On April 3, 2025, the Friends of Hughes Natural Areas Initiative Committee submitted a Petition for Initiative to the City Clerk's Office.

This initiative seeks to modify the voter-approved Hughes Stadium ballot initiative language that appeared on the April 6, 2021 regular municipal election ballot, to clarify that the entire former Hughes Stadium property may be used only as a Natural Area as defined by and subject to the Rules of Article IX, Chapter 23 of the Fort Collins municipal code.

The language would be modified as follows:

That the City shall acquire the Hughes Stadium property, a 164.56-acre parcel of land legally described in Section 3 of Fort Collins Ordinance No. 123 (2018) ("Annexing the Property Known as the Hughes Stadium Property Annexation to the City of Fort Collins, Colorado") at its fair market value for the purpose of using it for (removed section: parks, recreation and open lands, natural areas, and wildlife rescue and education) A NATURAL AREA.


This initiative also seeks to amend the Hughes Stadium property ballot initiative language as follows:

That the City shall not de-annex, cease acquisition efforts, SELL, LEASE, OR OTHERWISE CONVEY TO A THIRD PARTY, or subsequently rezone the Hughes

Stadium property to any designation other than Public Open Lands without voter approval of a separate initiative referred to the voters by City Council.

The petition form approval was issued Thursday, April 10, 2025. The approval marks the start of the 63-day circulation period for the petition, which must conclude with the full submission of the petition by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, with a required 7,605 signatures.

A special election is requested, resulting in the requirement of 7,605 signatures.

 [View Full Initiative Text](#)

[2025 Hughes Stadium Property Petition #2](#)

Hughes Stadium Property Petition #2

On April 3, 2025, the Friends of Hughes Natural Areas Initiative Committee submitted a Petition for Initiative to the City Clerk's Office.

This initiative seeks to modify the voter-approved Hughes Stadium ballot initiative language that appeared on the April 6, 2021 regular municipal election ballot, to clarify that the entire former Hughes Stadium property may be used only as a Natural Area as defined by and subject to the Rules of Article IX, Chapter 23 of the Fort Collins municipal code.

The language would be modified as follows:

That the City shall acquire the Hughes Stadium

property, a 164.56-acre parcel of land legally described in Section 3 of Fort Collins Ordinance No. 123 (2018) ("Annexing the Property Known as the Hughes Stadium Property Annexation to the City of Fort Collins, Colorado") at its fair market value for the purpose of using it for (removed section: parks, recreation and open lands, natural areas, and wildlife rescue and education) A NATURAL AREA.

The petition form approval was issued Thursday, April 10, 2025. The approval marks the start of the 63-day circulation period for the petition, which must conclude with the full submission of the petition by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, with a required 5,079 signatures.

No special election is requested.

 [View Full Initiative Text](#)

Initiative Process Information and Sample Timeline

Process Start:

An initiative is commenced by one or more registered electors who file a written Notice of Intent to circulate an initiative petition. The Notice must have the full text of the proposed ordinance or resolution and state whether a special election is requested.

Petition:

Upon receipt of a Notice of Intent, the City Clerk will provide blank petition forms to be used in assembling

petition sections. The City Clerk will need to know how many petition sections the representatives plan to assemble, and how many signature lines are desired in each section. No petition may be circulated until the City Clerk has approved its form. The City Clerk has **5 days** to approve the form of a petition once it has been submitted. See the Initiative Guidelines for more information.

Circulation:

Petition circulators have **63 days** to gather signatures, at which point all sections of the petition must be filed together as one document with the City Clerk. Only persons who are eighteen (18) years of age or older may circulate a petition section for signatures. Each petition section must be carried by only one circulator; however, a circulator can carry more than one petition section.

Circulators are required to complete an affidavit, attached to each petition section, after the petition has been circulated. **The affidavit must be signed, under oath, before a notary public.** No additional signatures can be obtained on a petition section after completion of the affidavit.

Signatures:

The number of signatures required on an initiative petition depends on the type of election requested. If the petition representatives are willing to have the initiative placed on a regularly-scheduled election (held in November of odd-numbered years), the petition must contain valid signatures equal in number to 10% of the total ballots cast in the last regular city election. If the petition requests a special election, the number of signatures must equal 15% of the total ballots cast in the last regular city election.

- 2025 Regular Election - **5,079 signatures required** (10% of the 50,699 ballots cast in the November, 2023 regular election).

The number of signatures required for a Special Election will be calculated based on 15% of the ballots cast in the November, 2025 regular election.

Examination

Once the petition (all sections together) is filed with the City Clerk, the Clerk has **fifteen business days** to examine the petitions to determine if the petition is signed by the requisite number of registered electors and that the petition contains the required particulars and affidavits.

After examination has concluded, the Clerk will deem the petition **sufficient** or **insufficient**.

If an initiative petition is deemed **insufficient** after the examination or following protest proceedings (described below), the City Clerk will prepare a certificate of insufficiency, specifying the particulars of insufficiency, and will notify all of the petition representatives of such insufficiency, both verbally and by providing copies of the certificate of insufficiency. The determination will also be posted on the City's website. An insufficient petition may not be amended. It is considered null and void without prejudice to the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

When a petition is deemed **sufficient**, whether following the sufficiency determination by the City Clerk in the absence of a protest, or following protest proceedings, the City Clerk is required to certify and present the certified petition to the City Council at the next regularly

scheduled meeting. The Clerk's certification is the final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition, subject only to the protest procedure described below.

Protest Period

Any registered elector may protest a determination by the City Clerk that a petition is either sufficient or insufficient by filing a written protest, under oath, in the City Clerk's office within 7 days of the City Clerk's initial determination as to petition sufficiency. The protest must set forth with particularity the grounds of protest and the names and defects in form protested.

If a protest is filed, the City Clerk must set a hearing date within 10 days of filing of the protest. At least 5 days prior to the hearing, the Clerk is required to mail a copy of the protest to all of the designated petition representatives, together with a notice of the time for hearing.

The City Manager will appoint a hearing officer for all protest hearings, who has the power to issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witness and the production of documents. All records and hearings are public, and all testimony must be given under oath. The hearing must be summary in nature, and concluded within 20 business days after the petition was filed. Within 10 business days after the hearing is concluded, the hearing officer must decide and certify the results of the hearing. The City Clerk will make the final determination regarding the sufficiency or insufficiency of a petition and will base such determination on the protest hearing results certified by the hearing officer.

If the results of the protest hearing result in the petition being deemed insufficient, the petition representatives have an opportunity to amend the petition as described

above under "Insufficient Petition".

Sample Timeline

Assumes full time period is used at each stage:

April 1st	Notice filed
April 8th	Clerk approval of form for circulation (5 business days)
June 10th	Deadline to file all petitions signatures for review (63 days)
July 2nd	Clerk Initial Finds (15 business days)
July 9th	Protest filing deadline (7 days)
July 23rd	Hearing (10 business days from filing)
July 16th	Notice of Hearing (5 business days prior)
August 6th	Conclusion of Hearing (20 business days from filing)
August 20th	Hearing Officer Results (10 business days from hearing)

Certification and presentation to Council

Note: It would be nearly impossible to get this to Council in time to certify the ballot content by the September 5, 2025 deadline if everything took the maximum amount of time unless there is no protest filed. Ideally, first reading would occur the first Tuesday in August.

Fort Collins, Colorado USA

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Our Organization

Mayor & Council