

Town Clerk Report Regarding Future Elections – June 16th, 2026

The Town of Lake City currently holds its regular elections on the Tuesday following the first Monday in April of even-numbered years. Staff would recommend that the Board consider putting a ballot question on the upcoming November election to move from April elections of even-numbered years to November elections of even-numbered years, to allow for future elections to be coordinated with Hinsdale County.

Many municipalities in the State coordinate their elections with their Counties to save time and money for the Town and its staff. Just this past April, 3 towns approved moving their election dates to November of even years for these reasons, including Del Norte, Eaton, and Federick.

Staff believes that if the question passed, it would save the Town in future election costs. The estimated cost to coordinate with the Hinsdale County Clerk's office should be between \$3,000-4,000, with the cost being based on the number of voters as well as the size of the ballot. In contrast, the past election conducted solely by the Town in April 2026 cost the Town around \$10,000.

Additionally, voter participation in Colorado typically receives a higher turn-out during even-year elections vs. odd-year elections. Coordinating with the county would help reduce any confusion between county and town elections and simplify the election process for residents by aligning with the general statewide elections.

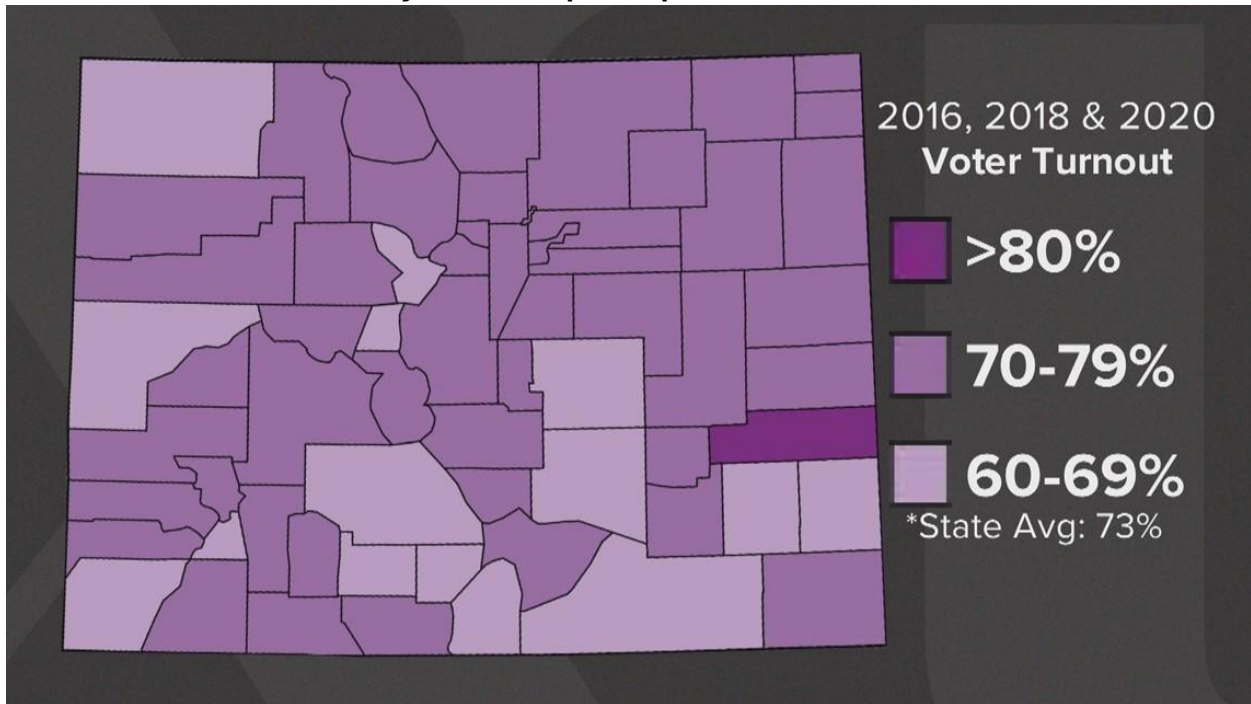
To ensure that the terms of the current elected officials would not be shortened as a result of this transition, the terms of the current elected officials would be extended by approximately 7 months.

I do understand and appreciate that this will put some additional workload on the Hinsdale County Clerk's Office. I would offer that the Town of Lake City's staff be available to help wherever possible during the election to ease this process.

Suggested Ballot Questions:

Shall the Town of Lake City's Regular Municipal Elections be moved from the First Tuesday in April of Even-numbered years to the Tuesday in November of even-numbered years when general statewide elections are held to promote increased voter participation, reduce town election expenses, and allow the Town to participate in elections coordinated by Hinsdale County?

**In the last three even-year elections, the state's average voter turnout was 73%.
No county had voter participation lower than 60%.**



**In the last three odd-year elections, the state's average voter turnout was 37%.
No county had voter participation higher than 60%.**

