

WELD COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

Guidelines for public input.

Thank you for attending our community meeting. Your input regarding the Weld County Home Rule Charter is valuable so we wanted to share some information with you about how this meeting is structured:

- *Please sign in with your name and address. This helps us know who attended the meetings as well as gives us correct spellings of names for the minutes.*
- *All meetings will be recorded, and the recordings will be posted on the Home Rule Charter section of the Weld County web site.*
- *When making comments during the meeting, please speak into the microphone when recognized by the committee chairwoman. If you feel more comfortable submitting your question in writing, please write your question on an index card, which we will provide, and hand it to committee staff.*
- *Comments should relate to the topic at hand – the Weld County Home Rule Charter. Comments may be time-limited to: 1) stay on topic or 2) allow for all participants attending the meeting the opportunity to make comment.*

What is “county home rule” and how is it different than “municipal home rule?”

County home rule was authorized by Colorado voters in 1970 as an amendment to the Colorado Constitution. It allows counties who adopt a charter to establish the structure of their governments. A county home rule charter may change how a job is done or which official does that job, so long as the duties of the county governments are performed. For example, a county charter can require the appointment of the treasurer instead of election, but his or her job duties would remain the same. Other structural changes the county charter might make include: setting salaries of all elected officials locally rather than through the Colorado General Assembly, organizing departments and divisions, limiting growth in annual tax revenue, setting stricter qualifications for elected officials, setting terms of elected officials at longer than two full consecutive terms, and eliminating certain official positions (as long as the official’s duties are performed by someone else).

In contrast, municipal home rule is “functional,” meaning municipalities who have adopted home rule charters may alter functions of their governments. For example, a home rule municipality may enact ordinances affecting topics of purely local concern which are supreme to conflicting State laws. Additional powers of home rule municipalities include: imposition and collection of sales and business taxes, election procedures, expanded land use and condemnation powers, and greater ability to control the processes for acquisition and disposal of public property.

What is the difference between the Weld County Home Rule Charter and the Weld County Administrative Code?

Weld County Home Rule Charter

The Weld County Home Rule Charter (“the Charter”) became effective January 1, 1976. The Charter’s Preamble sets forth the reasons why the People of Weld County voted in 1975 for its adoption: to avail the citizens of Weld County self-determination in county affairs as permitted by the Colorado Constitution and the laws of the State of Colorado; to provide uncomplicated, un-burdensome government responsive to the people; and to provide for the most efficient and effective county government possible.

The Charter attains the goals listed in the Preamble by establishing a structure and organization of county government in Weld County that:

1. Broadly accepts the grants of powers and authority provided statutory *and* home rule counties in State law;
2. Vests administrative, executive and legislative powers granted by State law in a five-member Board of County Commissioners, including the authority to adopt an Administrative Code by ordinance; and vests powers granted and duties required by State law in an elected Assessor, Clerk and Recorder, and Sheriff, and in an appointed Coroner and Treasurer;
3. Creates four departments of Weld County government;
4. Establishes a County Council to set annual salaries of County elected officials, fill vacancies in offices of the Board of County Commissioners, consider the suspension of elected officials who are subject to recall petition or have been charged or indicted for the commission of a crime, and review all aspects of county governments and make periodic reports to the people relating to expenditures, efficiency, responsiveness, adherence to law, and other matters the Council deems advisable;
5. Sets a 5% annual tax levy growth limitation and limits certain capital expenditures; and
6. Reserves unto the people of Weld County the right of initiative and referendum.

Amendments to the Charter must be approved by a majority vote of the registered electors who vote upon such amendments at either a general or special election.

What is the Weld County Administrative Code?

The Weld County Administrative Code (“the Code”) is approved by ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Code addresses policies and procedures for County officers and employees to follow in their work, and establishes various rules and regulations governing activities of Weld County citizens. Policies and procedures for County officers and employees address, for example, general administration of county offices, human resources, social media, purchasing and accounting, and emergency management. The rules and regulations governing activities of Weld County citizens address, for example, traffic, operation of marijuana facilities, installation of culverts and cattle guards, which land uses may occur in various zones of the County, and the subdivision of real properties located in the County.