

# Two questions. One result.

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Question 1: **COUNCIL TERM LENGTHS**

Question 2: **FREQUENCY OF REDISTRICTING**

“You’ll likely recognize many of the names or faces supporting this effort – they don’t stand to personally gain from these amendments passing. They just feel these are important steps for the community to take.”

– *Sandy Prichard*,  
Community Leadership Group,  
Senior Center Director

### QUESTION 1: COUNCIL TERM LENGTHS

On April 6, 2010, you’ll have the opportunity to vote on two proposed changes to the Town Charter. Voters will decide two amendments with one possible outcome; one amendment affects the other.

**The Community Leadership Group** wants you to know why these amendments are important to Castle Rock. The Community Leadership Group is a committee of former Mayors, Councilmembers, business leaders and residents active in Castle Rock who regularly meet to discuss local issues and advocate for needed change.

Last year, members of the Community Leadership Group started looking at the Town Charter to explore areas of Councilmember term lengths and the frequency of redistricting. After thoroughly researching and considering these issues, interviewing past and current Councilmembers and discussing various options, the Community Leadership Group is proposing to amend the Town Charter to establish a four-year term of office for Councilmembers (rather than two-year terms) and require review of the districts every six years (rather than every three years). In fact, others agree with these amendments, and the Castle Rock Economic Development Council recently endorsed this proposal.

#### Why do we need to change what we have?

Often times, two years doesn’t give a Councilmember adequate time to see projects through to fruition. Four-year terms would provide the stability for Castle Rock to have greater influence on state and regional issues.

Now, more than ever, people are conscientious about budgets. We want to save where we can or cut wherever we have unnecessary spending. A simple move to extend Council terms from two to four years would save the Town and its residents \$20,000 or more each year that an election isn’t held – or, every other year.

“Most other communities already have four-year Councilmember terms in place and find that they work well in providing consistency for work projects.”

– *Pam Ridler*,  
Community Leadership Group,  
President/CEO Chamber of Commerce

Four-year Council terms are prevalent throughout most Colorado municipalities – by far, the majority of local governments have found four-year terms widely accepted.

The time allows for leaders to see infrastructure projects completed, grant applications submitted, special projects initiated and much more. Frequently, initiating and planning a major project can take up to two years. Councilmembers want to complete projects that they’ve promised their constituents.

“Four-year Council terms provide several advantages ... with less frequent turnover, there is a greater consistency among Councilmembers. The education process, in turn, is less demanding. Simply put, we’d accomplish more in any given period since we wouldn’t have to stop and re-educate and bring new members up to speed every two years.”

– *Millie Bennett*,  
Community Leadership Group, former Mayor

“We’re not inventing something new ... right now, Castle Rock is not part of the mainstream and, when it comes to continuity on projects throughout the state, four-year terms would be a tremendous benefit for us.”

– *Ernie Fazekas*, Community Leadership Group,  
Director, Folkestad Fazekas Barrick & Patoile P.C.

“These two simple amendments would greatly improve the efficiency of the way Town Council operates.”

– *Ray Waterman*, Community Leadership Group, former Mayor

# REMEMBER TO VOTE!

This is a mail-in ballot election and the Town Clerk must receive all ballots by Tuesday, April 6, at 5 p.m. For more information go to [www.CRgov.com/April2010vote](http://www.CRgov.com/April2010vote).

“Going to four-year terms would provide continuity and experienced leadership for the Town.”

– *Jim Folkestad*, Community Leadership Group, Director, Folkestad Fazekas Barrick & Patoile P.C.

## QUESTION 2: FREQUENCY OF REDISTRICTING

Along with changing term lengths, voters will be asked to consider the frequency of redistricting. Redistricting is the process of redrawing district boundaries to reflect population changes in neighborhoods so the number of potential voters is balanced between districts. Right now, Castle Rock evaluates redistricting every three years. This worked well when our population was steadily and quickly increasing every year. Now that growth trends have leveled out, it's not necessary to make subtle boundary changes as often. This also provides voters time to get to know their representatives and work with them on issues important to Castle Rock.

### What do other communities do?

The vast majority of all Colorado municipalities have four-year Council terms. It's unusual to have two-year terms and a Mayor elected every year. A change to Castle Rock's length of terms would further allow for teamwork and consistency with other municipalities throughout the state. There is a benefit to working on common efforts with other local leaders in Colorado.

Castle Rock's Mayor is chosen by the Council and is elected for one year, but may be re-elected. Under this proposal, the Mayor would serve two years, making the Council more stable.

“I am in favor of four-year terms for many reasons. Job education, knowing the responsibilities of each Town department, and responding to their district's needs. The expense of holding biennial elections will save as much as \$20,000 or more of your money.”

– *Bill Shaneyfelt*,  
Community Leadership Group,  
former Councilmember

### What does a Yes vote mean?

If voters approve these two amendments, they will be phased in. Redistricting was just completed for 2010. If the ballot question passes, the next redistricting would occur in 2015 (instead of 2013), and then every six years thereafter.

The move to four-year Council terms would be graduated – Councilmembers elected in 2010 would serve two years; those in 2011, three years; and those in 2012 and thereafter, four years. The charter amendment would not change statewide term limits; representatives would be restricted to two four-year terms.

If voters approve four-year Council terms, elections eventually would occur only in even-numbered years. Redistricting, then, would occur only in odd-numbered years, and never in an election year.

Currently, an election is held each April for Councilmembers who serve two-year terms. Council then selects a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem each year.

“Going from three to six years has advantages in that it allows greater stability for voters within a certain district and also allows voters to better know and work with their Councilmembers.”

– *Al Wonstolen*,  
Community Leadership Group, former Councilmember

The Community Leadership Group consists of former Mayors, Councilmembers, business leaders and residents active in the community. The steering committee from the Community Leadership Group working on these two charter amendments consists of the following members:

*Millie Bennett*      *Ernie Fazekas*      *Jim Folkestad*      *Sandy Prichard*  
*Pam Ridler*      *Bill Shaneyfelt*      *Ray Waterman*      *Al Wonstolen*

On April 6, you'll have the opportunity to vote on two proposed Town Charter amendments. The change in redistricting frequency would be contingent upon the change in Council terms passing. This will be a mail ballot election. **Watch for these two questions:**

**Question 1: Council Term Lengths**      **Question 2: Frequency of Redistricting**

For more information, go to [CRgov.com/April2010vote](http://CRgov.com/April2010vote).