



November 8, 2016 Election

Ballot Issue: County	County Broadband Exemption from SB 05-152
Ballot Language	<p>Without increasing taxes, shall the citizens of Larimer County Colorado re-establish Larimer county’s right to provide any and all services and facilitates restricted since 2005 by Title 29, Article 27 of the Colorado revised Statues described as “Advanced Services” (high-speed internet), “Telecommunications Services,” and “Cable Television Services,” including but not limited to any new and improved broadband services and facilitates based on future technologies, utilizing existing or new community owned infrastructure including but not limited to the existing fiber optic network, either directly , or indirectly with public or private sector partners, to potential subscribers that may include telecommunications service providers, residential or commercial users within the boundaries of Larimer County?</p> <p align="center">_____ YES _____ NO</p>
Chamber Position	The Chamber is Recommending a YES vote.
The Basics	<p>In 2005 the Colorado Legislature passed, Senate Bill 05-152 (SB-152), which removed local government’s authority to provide high-speed internet, telecommunication and cable services in competition with the private sector.</p> <p>Many areas of the County are underserved by the incumbent telecommunications providers. Fort Collins, Loveland, and Estes Park are moving forward with programs to enhance the delivery of broadband services within their urban growth or utility service areas. The areas of the County that are outside of the city’s areas of influence will be solely dependent on the incumbent telecommunications service providers for the quality of broadband services.</p> <p>Where local governments’ authority for participation in the delivery of telecommunications services are limited by SB 05-152, there is little or no competition for the delivery of these services. Without competition, there is no incentive for incumbent service providers to invest in upgrading infrastructure and services to these areas. The lack of</p>

	<p>investment in infrastructure results in substandard or unavailability of high speed internet or broadband service in rural areas of Larimer County.</p> <p>The Proposal To re-establish the County’s legal ability to provide cable television, telecommunications, and advanced services (high speed internet) either directly or indirectly.</p>
Connection to Business	Access to high speed internet is important to business, and passage of this issue allows the county to be a partner in finding those technology solutions and could open the door for better service in the rural and underserved areas of the county.
Arguments for the Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of the issue would open up the options for the County to partner with our local communities. • In recent years, Estes Park, Fort Collins, Loveland, Wellington have passed ballot measures opting out of SB 05-152 restrictions, however, currently there is not a county-wide exemption. • This ballot measure will also impact those municipalities that have already passed a SB 05-152 exemption, as it will enable Larimer County to support broadband efforts within these cities/towns. • The LLAC and the Board did support the November 2015 ballot issue that set aside SB 05-152 for the City of Fort Collins, but with the caveat that “this support is strictly limited to this ballot issue and in no way endorses the development of a broadband utility at this point in time.”
Arguments Against the Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County shouldn’t be in the advanced services business.
Resources	http://www.larimer.org/news/newsDetail.cfm?id=4328
Where We Stand	GOOD GOVERNMENT BASIC PHILOSOPHY: The Chamber believes that business should expect government to be predictable, efficient in the delivery of services, reasonable in imposition of costs, be accessible and responsive, open and transparent, accurate and timely, be open to understanding the views of business, focus on basic services, be conscious of actions that impact business climate, be mindful of property rights and avoid mandates when possible.