

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-75

A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Boulder County referring to the November 5, 2019 election ballot the question of extending the term limits from three to five consecutive terms for the office of the Boulder County Coroner.

Recitals:

A. The voters statewide adopted an amendment to the state constitution in 1994 which imposed term limits on every state and local elected office (Article XVIII, Section 11, Colorado Constitution).

B. Although the amendment failed in Boulder County, it is applicable to countywide elected offices in Boulder County as well as statewide.

C. By the terms of subsection 2 of that constitutional amendment, the voters of a county can vote to eliminate or modify the state-imposed term limits in a November election by a majority vote approving such a question referred to the ballot by the board of county commissioners of that county.

D. In November 2005, the Board referred to the voters of the County, and a majority of the voters approved, the modification of state-imposed term limits applicable to various offices of elected County officials, including the office of Boulder County Coroner, to enable a person elected to such offices to seek to and, if elected, serve a third consecutive term, as set forth in Resolution 2005-88.

E. The Boulder County Coroner Emma Hall has initiated a request that this Board consider placing a question on the November 2019 election ballot seeking to modify term limits applicable to the office of Boulder County Coroner, to enable a person elected to such office to seek to and, if elected, serve a maximum of five consecutive terms.

F. This Board finds that, through the term limits provided in Article XVIII, Section 11, Colorado Constitution, the voters of the state have imposed upon the voters of Boulder County a restriction on their right to vote for the candidate of their choice in each county election, a restriction which the majority of voters of Boulder County did not favor.

G. Pursuant to the provisions of Article XVIII, Section 11(2), this Board desires to refer to the November election the question of the modification of term limits for the Boulder County elected office of the Boulder County Coroner, extending said limitation from three to five consecutive terms.

H. This Board held a public hearing on this matter on September 5, 2019.

Therefore, the Board resolves:

1. There shall be referred to the November 5, 2019 election ballot the question of the modification of term limits for the Boulder County elected office of the Boulder County Coroner to enable a person elected to such office to seek to and, if elected, serve for a maximum of five consecutive terms.

2. The Board shall take further action by resolution to set a ballot title for the proposal described herein. For purposes of Section 1-11-203.5, C.R.S., as amended, such resolution shall serve to set the ballot title for such proposal.

A motion to this effect was made by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and passed by a ____ vote.

[Signature page follows]

ADOPTED on this ____ day of _____, 2019.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BOULDER COUNTY:**

Elise Jones Chair

Deb Gardner, Vice Chair

Matt Jones, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-76

A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Boulder County setting and certifying the ballot title for the measure for the November 5, 2019 election.

Recitals:

A. The Board has adopted Resolution No. 2019-75 approving the following County referred ballot measure proposal:

A proposal to extend the term limits for the office of the Boulder County Coroner from three terms to five consecutive terms.

B. Through this Resolution, the Board desires to determine the ballot title for the measure referred for placement on the ballot for the November 5, 2019 election.

C. Pursuant to Sections 30-11-103.5 and 31-11-111(3), C.R.S., as amended, the Board must fix a ballot title according to the following guidelines: consider the public confusion that might be caused by a misleading title; avoid a title for which the general understanding of the effect of a "yes" or "no" vote would be unclear; no conflict with titles selected for any other measure that will appear on the County ballot in the same election; and the title shall correctly and fairly express the true intent and meaning of the measure.

D. The Board finds that the ballot title set forth below meets the statutory guidelines.

E. Based upon the proposals this ballot measure, the Board desires to consider and adopt an appropriate ballot title for the proposal in Resolution No. 2019-75.

F. Through this Resolution, the Board also desires to certify the ballot measure and its title to the County Clerk for publication of the ballot title on the ballots for the voters for the November 5, 2019 election, on or before September 6, 2019.

G. Subject to any amendments, modifications, or additions that the Board desires to make and of which the County Clerk is notified prior to the September 6, 2019 ballot certification deadline, the Board desires to proceed to certify the County ballot measure according to the approved ballot title to the County Clerk for placement on the ballot for the November 5, 2019 election.

Therefore, the Board resolves:

1. In accordance with the statutory guidelines, the Board sets the following ballot title for the measure proposed in Resolution No. 2019-75:

County Question 1A (Coroner Term Limit Extension to Five Terms):

Shall the term limits for the office of Coroner of Boulder County, as imposed by state law and in Article XVIII, Section 11, of the Colorado Constitution and later modified by the voters of the County to authorize three consecutive terms, be further modified to permit an elected officeholder in that office to seek and, if elected, serve a maximum of five consecutive terms?

Yes _____ No _____

2. For purposes of Section 1-11-203.5, C.R.S., as amended, this resolution shall serve to set the ballot title for such proposal.

3. The Board hereby certifies the ballot measure and ballot title to the November 5, 2019 election ballot.

4. Upon approval of this Resolution, the County's designated Election Officer, Michelle Krezek, Commissioners' Deputy and Designated Election Officer, shall forthwith transmit this Resolution to the Boulder County Clerk and Recorder, in both .pdf and MS Word formats, for placement of the foregoing ballot measures by title on the November 5, 2019 election ballot.

A motion to this effect was made by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and passed by a _____ vote.

[Signature page follows]

ADOPTED on this ____ day of _____, 2019.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BOULDER COUNTY:**

Elise Jones Chair

Deb Gardner, Vice Chair

Matt Jones, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board



Office of the Boulder County Coroner

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August 26, 2019

Boulder County Commissioners
Boulder County Colorado

Dear Commissioners,

Over the course of the last year and a half I have been asked many times why the Coroner has term limits in Boulder County. Through these interactions it has become apparent that the community has a vested interest in the future leadership of the Boulder County Coroner's Office. It has also been apparent that there is support for the opportunity of the Coroner to serve more than three consecutive terms.

Therefore, I have put a lot of thought into the future of the Boulder County Coroner's Office. I know it takes a lot of time and effort to establish a great team and a good working rhythm once there is turnover of leadership in a small 24-hour office. I have worked diligently to create a professional office that I believe has earned the trust and respect of its shareholders; law enforcement, the district attorney's office, medical professionals and the community as a whole.

In the present day we find ourselves in a crucial time in government, especially for public safety offices, where the public scrutiny is constant. This is a time where honesty, transparency and consistency is imperative; it takes experienced and visionary leaders of organizations to withstand the test of these changing times.

Having served as the Boulder County Coroner for nearly nine years I know my skills and experience, along with my passion and commitment, are invaluable to the community. In summary, I would like to request the opportunity to place an item on the 2019 fall ballot asking the voters to extend the term limits for the Office of Coroner to five terms. I appreciate all the support you have provided the Coroner's Office and hope to receive your approval on this request as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emma R. Hall".

Coroner Emma R. Hall

EMMA R. HALL
Coroner



JOE PELLE
Sheriff

Boulder County Sheriff's Office

August 26, 2019

Board of County Commissioners
Boulder County Colorado

Dear Commissioners:

I have recently been speaking with our Elected Coroner Emma Hall about her upcoming term limits. Her current term expires in 2022, and Emma will not be able to run again. If we are to do anything about that it would be ideal to put an item on the ballot this fall to extend her term limits. Emma would like to have the opportunity to run again.

I believe the Office of Coroner is much like the Office of Sheriff. It requires career experience, training, and certification. It is non-partisan and non-political. There is no reason that term limits on such a position contribute anything to the efficiency or effectiveness of the office. This office should be occupied by a career professional, and not for political gain. The Office of Sheriff currently has a five-term limit. I see no reason why the Office of Coroner should not have similar limits, which would allow for a professional person to occupy the office for a substantial amount of time, providing stability for the community and the employees there.

The last few years have gone very well in our working relationship with the Coroner's Office and Emma's staff. I see no reason for a forced leadership change in a field without a huge candidate pool. I support placing an item on the fall ballot asking the voters to extend the term limits for the Office of Coroner to five terms. The same limits as are currently on the Office of Sheriff. I am hoping you would consider placing that question on the ballot this fall.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Joe Pelle