



## Ballot Issue Fact Sheet – 2C Charter Amendment for Franchise Agreements

Shall Ordinance No. 21, Series of 2018, be approved? Ordinance No. 21, Series of 2018, if approved, amends section 11.4 of the City of Aspen Home Rule Charter to allow the grant of a franchise by City Council and repealing the requirement that the grant of franchise be approved by the vote of the electorate?

Yes/For [ ]

No/Against [ ]

### What is the City Charter?

[The City Charter is the document](#) that establishes the government structure for the City of Aspen.

### What is a franchise agreement?

A franchise agreement in reference to our local government refers to a right granted by the City of Aspen to a person or corporation, to provide a public service such as a taxi permit, bus route, cable TV service, an airline's use of a public airport, business license or corporate existence. Aspen's current franchise agreements are with Source Gas, Comcast, and Holy Cross.

### What is this ballot question asking?

Currently the Aspen Charter requires that franchise agreements be adopted by a vote of the electorate. This was a provision of the original charter that is quite rare among local governments. Franchise agreements are complex and if the voters fail to pass them, multiple legal issues can arise. This ballot question eradicates these complications and brings the City of Aspen Charter up-to-date. The passage of this question would allow Council to approve future franchise agreements without a public vote.