

Age Minimums to Hold Office

Reading the notes from the public comment meeting there was a lot of reference to minimum age of 25 for eligibility to hold elected office. There was also a lot of mention for the age of 21. There was no explanation from anyone on reasoning for these numbers.

State statute states that the minimum age to hold elected office is 18. The vast majority of home rule municipalities throughout Colorado default to this state statute. Keystone would be in the minority by increasing the minimum age. This would also go against a major goal of the commission to be as inclusive as possible and to encourage engagement from as many community members as possible. A common comment has been “if you are old enough to go to war, you should be old enough to hold office to make those decisions.” There has also been concern stated that it will be difficult to fill council seats and we would be restricting the potential number of participants by raising the minimum age.

By raising the minimum age for holding elected office an argument can be made that there is a minimum amount of “life experience” needed to be qualified to hold office, however this is very arbitrary. Higher elected offices such as State Representative, State Senator and Governor have minimum limits of 25 and 30 respectively.