

We meet the first Wednesday of the month



Celebrating Our 14th Year!

NOT JUST POLITICS AS USUAL

longmontdems.org

longmontareadems@gmail.com

Welcome!

LAD meets the first Wednesday of the month so

THANK YOU FOR COMING

to this special meeting!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recognize LAD Board and Electeds

Friday, May 19: Canto Comunitario Community | Evening of Singing: Songs for Peace and Protest, , 7–8:30pm, Isaak Walton Clubhouse, 18 Sunset St., Longmont.

Saturday, May 20: Coffee with (Longmont City) Council, 9–10am, OUR Center, 220 Collyer St, Longmont.

EVERY Saturday: Longmont Leads with Love Weekly Vigil, 1–2pm, 6th and Main St.

Saturday, June 3: March for Truth. Call for an impartial investigation into Russian interference in the US Election and ties to Donald Trump, his administration and his associates. marchfortruth.info

Saturday, June 3: Gun Violence Awareness Day Community Picnic, 11–1pm, Thompson Park, 5th and Bross, Longmont. **Wear Orange. Bring Food. Green Event.**

Wednesday, June 7: LAD Screening of "Healthcare for Everyone", with healthcare experts panel Q &A, Longmont Public Library.

Thursday, June 11: National Equality March. equalitymarch2017.org



Let us know if you'd like a yard or window sign:

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

<https://www.facebook.com/welcomeyourneighbors>

longmontareadems@gmail.com





***“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.”***

— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

SPEAKING OUT AT CITY COUNCIL
The Ins & Outs of Being Heard



SPEAKING OUT

- Navigating the City Structure
- How Do You Get to Speak...and When?
- Being Prepared
- Before the Meeting
- Preparing Your Comments
- Logistics
- At the Podium
- What Outcome Should You Expect?
- Follow Up



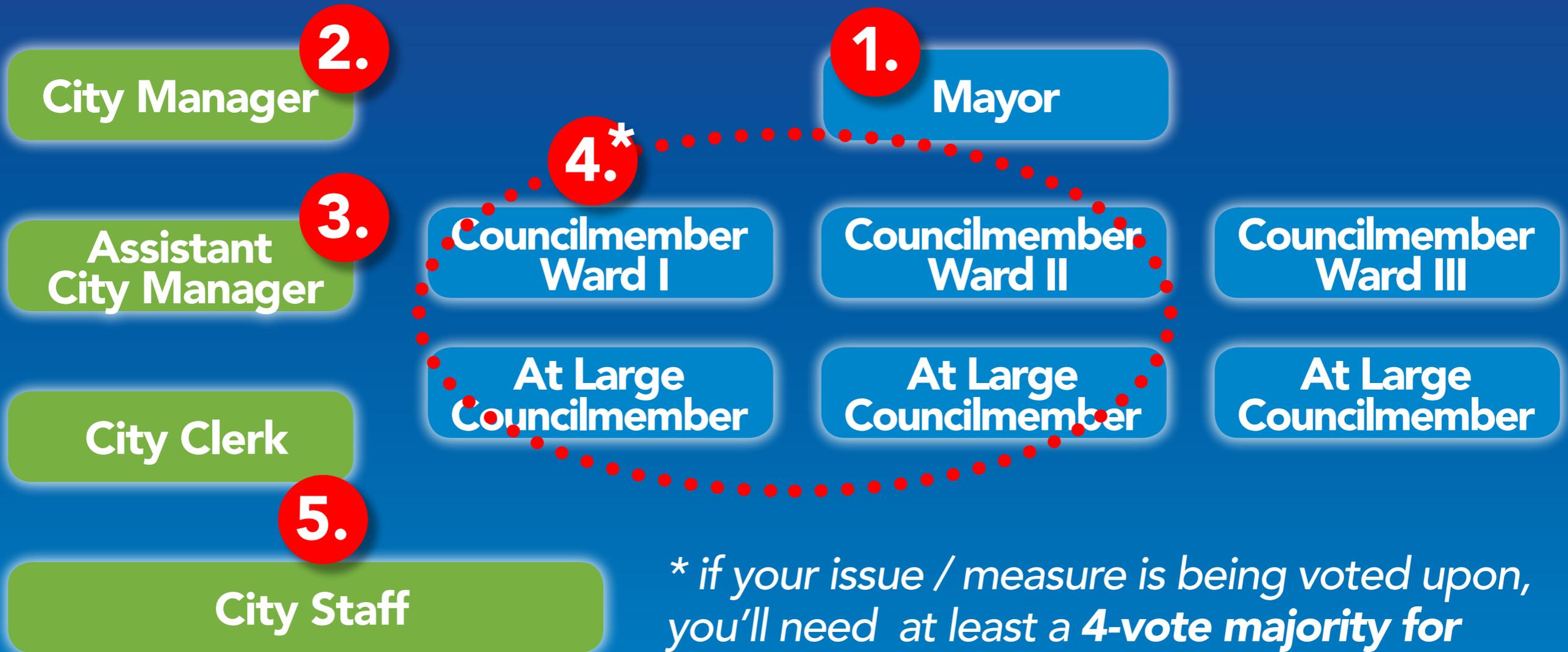
The Main Goal is to be Effective

- You want council to listen to your requests or arguments pro and con.
- Listening and understanding comes before agreement.



Navigating the City Structure

■ There are at least **five ways** to raise your issue:



** if your issue / measure is being voted upon, you'll need at least a **4-vote majority for it to pass**. The mayor's vote counts as one.*



Navigating the City Structure *(continued)*

TOP TIPS:

1. Start Building a Relationship Now

— Coffee with Council (Saturdays, 9am, go to longmontcolorado.gov

> Hover over "DEPARTMENTS, then click "Coffee with Council".

2. Be a subject matter expert

**3. Attend City Council Meetings regularly —
City Council meetings are every Tuesday evening,
7pm, City Council Chambers (4th and Kimbark,
south of Longmont Public Library)**



How Do You Get to Speak...and When?

- **Every City Council Meeting Has a Public Invited To Be Heard (PITBH) segment at the beginning of the meeting (after Proclamations, Announcements from civic groups, etc., listed on the agenda). Any topic. 3 minutes to speak. Be concise. NOTE: there is also a PITBH at the end of the meeting — generally pertaining to agenda items, but sometimes not.**
- **If and when your issue is placed on the Agenda (we'll cover this later).**



How Do You Get to Speak...and When?

(continued)

- **Every January, Council holds an Open Forum, creating a friendly environment, where council members ask questions of the public.**

Residents:

- **sign up to ask questions themselves**
- **interact directly with council members**
- **have 5 minutes instead of 3**
- ***can engage in a dialogue* with council members**



Being Prepared

- **Decide what issue you want to advocate for or against as a resident of Longmont.**
- **Research and educate yourself as to what progress has already been made (attend commission meetings like the Planning and Zoning Commission, etc.), so that you are not “blindsided” by what might be ahead.**



Being Prepared *(continued)*

...and speaking of Planning and Zoning in Longmont:

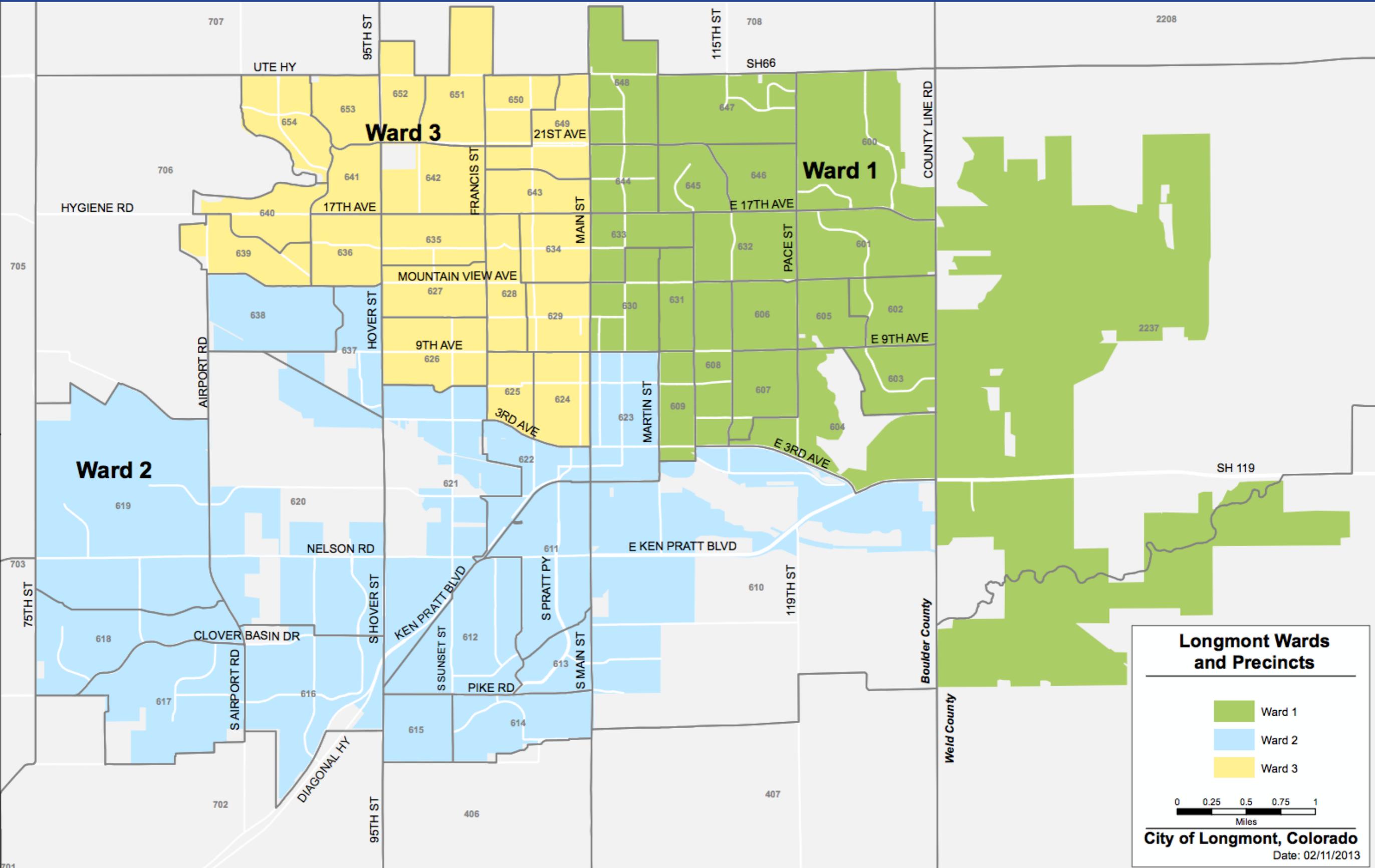
- **No developer concept plan will go to City Council unless the developer is asking for a zoning change or asking to have the land annexed.**
- **If a development request comes to Council, the concept plan cannot be changed at that time.**
- **When Planning and Zoning approve a development the decision must be appealed within 7 days.**
- **People are only notified of a planned and approved development if they live within 750 feet of the planned development.**



Being Prepared *(continued)*

- **Contact your ward representative. They read your emails. Give them a chance to think about your request /concerns.**
- **Contact staff members if you have questions. They are very helpful. Develop working relationships.**





Longmont Wards and Precincts

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3

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Miles

City of Longmont, Colorado
Date: 02/11/2013

Before the Meeting

- Read the meeting agenda ahead of time.

Go to longmontcolorado.gov

> hover over "DEPARTMENTS"

> click "City Council Agendas and Minutes"

> then click "Click to access City Council Agendas and Minutes", find the date of the meeting you will be attending and view pdf.

- Sometimes there will be a "Consent Agenda"

— If you have a concern, your ward representative can pull an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion.



Before the Meeting *(continued)*

- **If you are speaking on an item listed on the agenda, read the Council Communication prepared by Staff (listed under “information items” with the agenda). This will inform you of what progress has been made.**
- **If your item is not on the agenda, the best way to get it there is to communicate with the City Manager, the Mayor and/or City Council members.**



Before the Meeting *(continued)*

- A resident can also explain a problem, idea, or issue at PITBH, asking Council to study, then bring back to council at a study session. This is most effective if the resident has contacted city staff in advance, gotten feedback and collected information.



Before the Meeting *(continued)*

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Any item that comes from the public will be competing for time with all the items the council is already dealing with. If the new item has appeal, it should get on an agenda through the above mentioned conversations.**



Preparing Your Comments

- Write it down. Keep your points clear and your requests itemized. Avoid rambling.
- 3 main points are enough. State your mind and positions *as clearly and as simply as possible*. You don't need to have all the statistics to prove things. You are allowed to have an opinion.
- State or ask for what you want first, list your persuasive arguments, *then make your strongest statement in the conclusion*.



Preparing Your Comments *(continued)*

- Read your comments over a number of times (in front of a mirror is good practice).
- ***VERY IMPORTANT — TIME YOURSELF!:*** if you go over 3 minutes, that's when council stops listening. If your strongest point is at the end, *going over time will destroy your argument!*
- Say thanks at the end when you know you have time. Council members are your representatives. It is their job to listen to residents. Make it easy for them.



Logistics

- **Before the meeting, sign up to speak at the table just outside of Council Chambers. (The City Clerk or members of staff are usually sitting there.) Also specify what part of the agenda you are speaking to (organized by letters and numbers).
— BUT you can speak on any topic at the first PITBH. 3 minutes. Be concise.**
- **The earlier you sign up, the sooner you get to speak. 6:45pm is not unreasonable.**



Logistics *(continued)*

In order to adopt an ordinance:

- **Two readings are required at least 10 days apart.**
 - **First Reading is frequently placed on the Consent Agenda**
 - **When Council approves an ordinance on First Reading it also sets a Public Hearing and Second Reading at least 10 days into the future.**
 - **A Public Hearing is required by the City Charter prior to adoption of an ordinance.**
- **An additional PITBH is attached to a Public Hearing agenda.**



At the Podium

- Your name will be called by the mayor.
If you are first to speak you will need to push the button on the mic before you start talking. Sometimes staff members will help. The mic stays on for later speakers.
- First, state your name and address for the record (seems redundant, but they need it on the recording). *Don't start off talking without doing this — you will get interrupted.*



At the Podium *(continued)*

- Address the council, "Good evening Mayor and Council members, I am here to speak on..."
- You will see a small green light that indicates your time is starting, then a yellow one when your time is about up and finally a RED light when you must stop speaking. You have 3 minutes.
- Politeness goes a long way. Be passionate but not abusive. Remember, *the goal is to be effective.* Anger usually makes your message less important.



At the Podium *(continued)*

- **You can ask audience members who agree with you to stand in support to emphasize your points. This way the PITBH segment does not go on and on — AND Council gets a picture of how many people think a certain way.**



What Outcome Should You Expect?

- If your issue has appeal, City Council will have discussion.
- They may then direct staff to review your issue, then come back and present information.
- Once information is presented, Council could decide upon future discussion, followup on what you proposed, decide whether an ordinance is required, and possibly schedule a public meeting in the future.
- This could be a long process.



Congratulations! City Council Knows You!

Be sure to followup:

- Email your ward representative, staff, or anyone else that helped you along the way.
- If you didn't get the outcome you want, work your access and influence another way:
 - was there anything you missed when you laid the groundwork the last time?
 - if you really think your idea was good, keep it alive. Try again.



Questions?



GETTING TO KNOW
Longmont City Council



LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL SEATS INFORMATION

**Council consists of 7 seats total: Mayor, 3 Ward Rep's,
3 At Large Rep's. The election this November is for the open seats.**

Open Seats:

- **Mayor**, two year term ending November 2019
 - **Council Member, Ward 2**, four year term ending November 2021
 - **Two At Large Council Members**, four year terms ending November 2021
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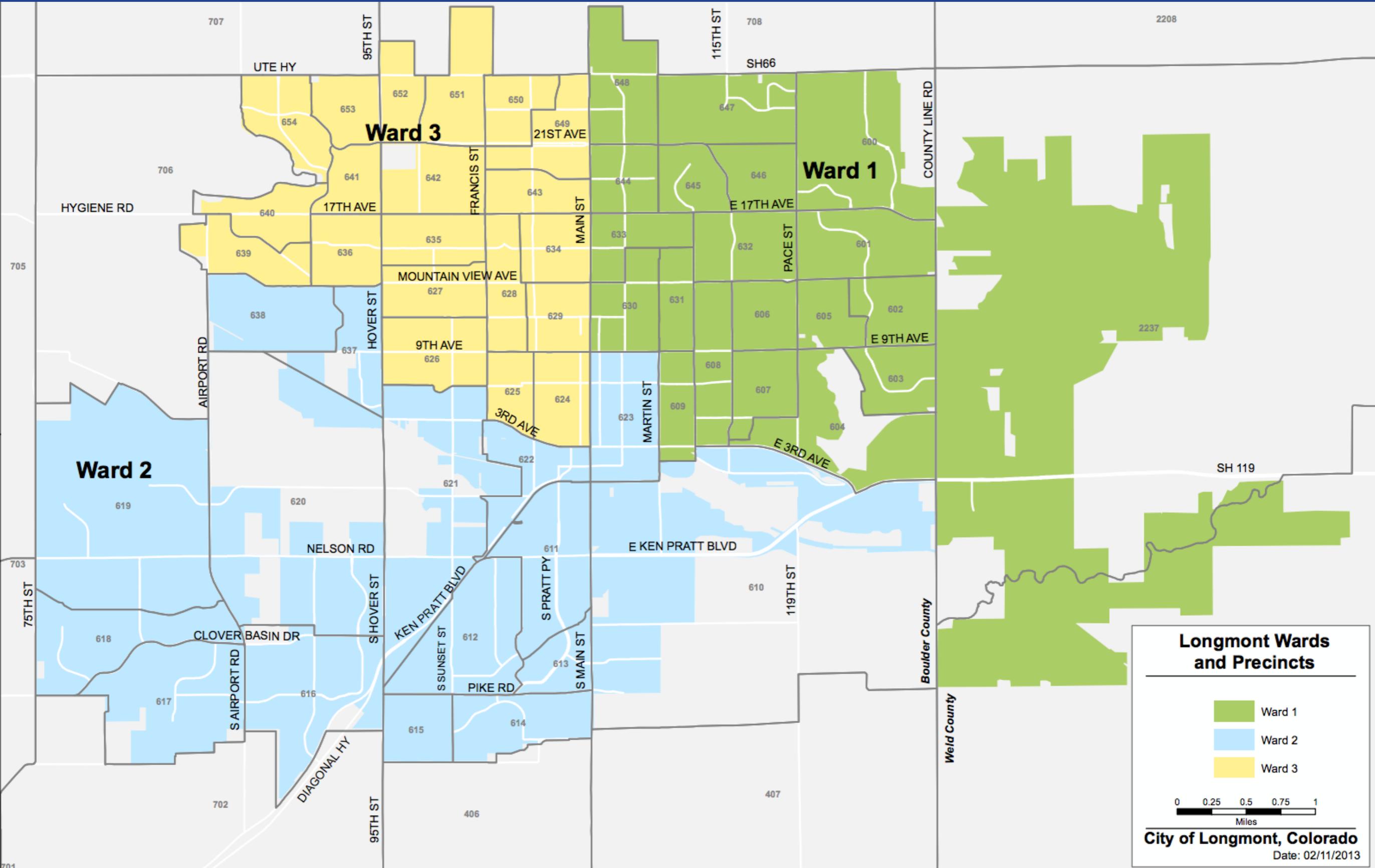
Council seats are term limited after 8 years.

Mayor is term limited after 6 years.

Mayor Salary: \$1500 per month

Council member salary: \$1000 per month





Longmont Wards and Precincts

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3

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Miles

City of Longmont, Colorado
Date: 02/11/2013

CURRENT LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL

POSITION	NAME	STATUS	TERM EXPIRATION / COMMENTS
Mayor (3 two-year terms)	Dennis Coombs	Open	Term Limited. Cannot run again.
Ward I Representative (All ward and at large representative seats are 2 four-year terms)	Brian Bagley	Not open	Term expires 11/2019.
Ward II Representative	Jeff Moore	Open	Term expires 11/2017.
Ward III Representative	Bonnie Finley	Not open	Term expires 11/2019.
At Large Representative	Polly Christensen	Open	Term expires 11/2017.
At Large Representative	Joan Peck	Not open	Term expires 11/2019.
At Large Representative	Gabe Santos	Open	Term Limited. Cannot run again.

(Donation to City Council Candidate Limit: \$240 per Natural Person)



ON THE ROAD WITH LAD!

As we follow the process to the Nov 7 elections, we look forward to lots of opportunities for engagement...

LAD will continue to host and organize:

- **Community Information and Updates**
(Facebook, Blast, Monthly Meetings)
- **Candidate Forums** — we'll ask the questions they don't ask at the Chamber Forum. Well attended. We invite ALL candidates to participate.
- **Volunteer Opportunitites** — Door Knocking & GOTV for City Council candidates.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Sign up for email list
- Attend candidate forum
- Host a fundraiser at your house
- Contribute money to a candidate you support
- Organize with others in your ward and community at large to Get Out The Vote!
- Place a yard sign on your property
- Join a Honk & Wave
- Host a staging location at your house (a place where volunteers gather to pick up packets and campaign materials.)

THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!



**We need volunteers for these
upcoming events!:**

Longmont Pride June 24

Colorado Latino Festival June 25

Longmont Farmers Markets 4 Saturdays
this summer & fall (pick one or part of one)

THANK YOU!

**Sign the clipboard tonight, or contact us:
longmontareadems@gmail.com**



Next LAD Meeting:

Wednesday, June 7, 6:30pm

"Healthcare for Everyone"

film screening, with healthcare experts panel Q &A
Longmont Public Library.



WHERE TO FIND US

longmontdems.org



email: longmontareadems@gmail.com



Longmont Area Democrats



LongmontDems

SEND AN EMAIL WITH "SIGN ME UP" IN THE SUBJECT LINE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL BLASTS. ALL SLIDES FROM THIS EVENING WILL BE POSTED ON LONGMONTDEMS.ORG SOON...

THANKS!

