



## Common Questions Regarding the 2016 Broadband Election Question

**Ballot language:** Without increasing taxes, shall the Town of Superior have the legal right to provide high-speed internet (advanced services), telecommunications services and cable television services to residents, businesses, schools, libraries, nonprofit entities and other users of such services, either directly or indirectly with public or private sector partners, as expressly permitted by Colorado Revised Statutes §§ 29-27-101 through 304, entitled "Competition in Utility and Entertainment Services"?

### What is broadband?

The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed internet access that is always on and faster than traditional access.

### What this ballot item is?

If voters approve this ballot item, Superior would be exempted from a state law that otherwise purports to limit the town from improving the community's broadband capabilities. With this exemption, the town would be permitted to 1) establish business partnerships with private companies to increase the community's access to high-speed broadband Internet, 2) opt to provide this service itself, or 3) develop a combined strategy to benefit town residents and business users.

### What this ballot item is not?

This ballot item would not prevent any private business, including existing broadband providers, from initiating or continuing to provide these services. Unlike cities that have approved similar initiatives, like the City of Longmont, **Superior has no plans to create a public broadband utility. Passage of this measure would allow the town to explore a variety of options to make its assets available to serve the broadband needs of Superior residents, students and businesses.**

### Tell me more about Colorado Senate Bill 152?

Colorado Senate Bill 05-152 (SB-152) is a measure passed by the Colorado legislature in 2005. It's intent was to limit governments from competing with the private sector. Among other provisions, it requires local government to secure voter approval before entering into the broadband business. Without such approval, the law limits the ability of Colorado towns to provide a wide spectrum of services including:

- Free internet services in libraries, parks, and community centers (while these services are provided by most governments, they are none the less prohibited by the law and could be challenged by existing internet access providers).
- Leveraging government infrastructure and partnering with private business to provide affordable and high-speed internet service throughout the entire community and
- Direct provision of broadband services by municipal government.

### How would an exemption from SB-152 benefit Superior?

A voter-approved exemption from SB-152 would restore the telecommunications and cable autonomy that all Colorado cities had prior to 2005.

Superior residents use the Internet for work, online learning and collaboration, to home entertainment. Superior is an ideal place to install higher-speed broadband Internet because of its tech-savvy population and innovative businesses. Teleworking and home-based businesses are common in Superior, and each could significantly benefit from increased broadband speed at affordable rates.

Specific outcomes could include:

- **Intensified Innovation** by local businesses and entrepreneurs who are already nationally recognized for spurring new startups, ideas and technologies. Better access to high-speed broadband would increase the town's ability to retain companies that need and demand this level of service.
- **A More Connected Community** with new avenues for public engagement in local decision-making, new frontiers for digital governance, new opportunities for wired social spaces and creative networking.
- **Enhanced Efficiency and Improved Quality of Life**, as Superior residents and businesses would be able to do more, more quickly, with less frustration.
- **Inclusive Internet Access** as the Town of Superior works to ensure that everyone in the community is wired, connected and empowered to participate, innovate and succeed, eliminating the digital divide.
- **Cuts in Carbon** as high-speed connections empower employees to work more effectively from home and allow local businesses to support clients worldwide, without having to travel by plane.

### So would this make our Internet service faster?

Depending on the way the town chooses to utilize this equipment, yes, it could. Broadband technology has improved significantly since 2005, particularly the technology that enables what Superior residents and businesses regard as "high-speed" service. Broadband increases Internet connection and browsing speeds, allowing users to quickly access online information and resources.

**How about prices?**

Provision of Internet access in public spaces, such as parks and community centers, would likely be free ensuring competitive prices for service elsewhere would be a key goal for any partnership or service the town considers.

**Are other Colorado entities exempt from SB-152?**

As of April 2016, approximately 60 municipalities, counties, and school districts have held public elections to opt out of SB-152. All of the favorable opt outs have passed overwhelmingly.

**When is Election Day? Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016**

To learn more visit [www.superiorcolorado.gov](http://www.superiorcolorado.gov)

\* This information from the Town of Superior answers frequent questions about this ballot item. It is not intended to urge a vote for or against this initiative.