Behind The City Scene

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The voters of Aurora have spoken on the five City ballot measures. Here is a recap with my comments.

The measure to permit the sale of medical marijuana with a concurrent tax increase failed. The question was written in a required TABOR format with the tax increase prominently appearing at the beginning of the question. The Council wanted a tax increase to offset the concern about losing tax revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana. The tax revenue from recreational marijuana funds road maintenance and recreational centers. Medical marijuana is cheaper because of its tax status. I voted against placing this matter on the ballot because Council would not limit the number of stores to our current four per Council Ward. The current regimen caps the total number of stores to twenty four in the City which I think is enough.

The measure to allow the cultivation and manufacturing of medical marijuana passed. This activity will occur in highly secure facilities.

The photo red program was terminated by a wide two to one margin. I did not support this measure being placed on the ballot. As I said many times the placement of this program on the ballot was a guaranteed negative vote for several reasons. In my opinion the majority of Council opposed to the program should have just cancelled the program thus foregoing the costs of the ballot measure. Nevertheless I will continue to vote for the funding of the social services programs previously supported by this program.

The measures to increase the police and firefighter probationary period from six months to one year and the ability to consider the creation of a community internet system easily passed. Up next are the 2019 races for Mayor and five Council seats.

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2018 Ward IV Town Meetings — No meeting in December — See you in January!.