

Denver District 10 | New's Letter | Councilman Wayne New | March 2019



**Councilman Wayne New | District 10**

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Legislative Aide: [Melissa Horn](#)

## Why I Voted Against the City Council Pay Increase

At Monday night's City Council meeting, I voted against the proposed pay raise for elected officials. Denver's Charter requires this issue to be considered at the end of every four-year term. The elected officials included in this salary increase were the Mayor, Auditor, Clerk and Recorder, and all City Council members.

Even though the proposal represented a 2.5% cost of living increase each year for the next four years, I felt uncomfortable voting to approve it. In my business experience, I have held the belief that a cost of living increase should accompany some type of performance review. Since the performance evaluation of elected officials is the responsibility of the citizens at the ballot box, it would not be proper for any of us to evaluate the performance of other elected officials.

In addition to the City Council salary and benefits, the public needs to know that each Council Office has an operating budget of approximately \$250,000. These funds cover the costs of office personnel, office supplies, official functions, travel, and donations. The Council Legislative Services Office also has budgeted funds to aid Council members with analytical research and other support.

Considering these costs along with my salary, I feel that there is sufficient funding to support the services needed for my District 10 office. In fact, each year I give back part of my office funding to non-profit organizations and the community, just as I offered to do this year to keep the Congress Park Pool open for families. Therefore, I voted against the proposed salary increase for City Council and other elected officials.

I am enjoying my first term in office serving all of the citizens in District 10. I appreciate all your support and the advice that you have given me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Wayne New". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councilman Wayne New

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