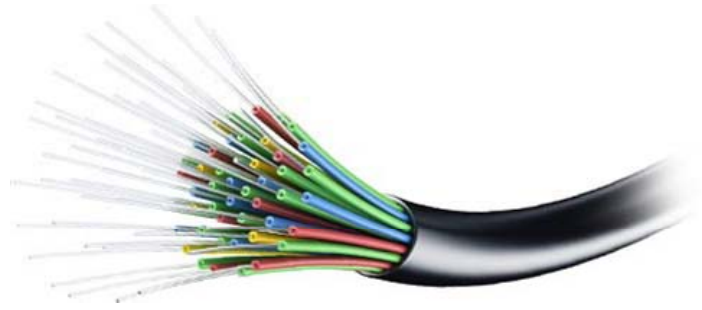


# Senate Bill 152 and fiber-optic broadband:

## *An FAQ for Loveland voters*



### **Q: What is Senate Bill 152?**

**A:** The Colorado Legislature in 2005 passed a measure, SB-152, limiting local governments from competing with the private sector to provide high-speed internet, telecommunication and cable services. The law prohibits the City from providing these services directly or indirectly, with some very limited exceptions.

### **Q: Why are we being asked to vote on this issue?**

**A:** Along with its prohibitions, SB-152 contains a provision that permits voter approval to give their communities the opportunity to engage in providing high-speed, broadband internet services. In short, voters can decide to take back the right that was taken away from the City with passage of SB-152.

### **Q: Just what is broadband, and why should we be interested?**

**A:** Fiber-optic broadband is the fastest internet service delivery method, with speeds 10 to 100 times faster than what commercial carriers in Loveland currently provide through conventional cable and satellite networks, with some very limited exceptions in certain neighborhoods. The City has access to many miles of fiber-optic cable that is currently unused – “dark fiber,” as it is called. That resource could provide the starting point for a community-wide, fiber-optic broadband system. If the voters demonstrate interest by approving the ballot measure, the city could explore ways to provide broadband service.

### **Q: What happens if voters approve this ballot measure?**

**A:** Voter approval restores local authority, allowing the conversation to begin. Passage would allow the community to invest in studying whether providing fiber-optic broadband service, either independently or in a public-private partnership, is feasible, affordable and in the interest of citizens. The people of Loveland, through their elected representatives, would determine the next course of action.

### **Q: Have people in other communities voted on this issue?**

**A:** Yes. Voters in almost a dozen Colorado towns and cities have exempted themselves from the law’s prohibitions, affirming local choice in decisions about broadband service. For example, 92 percent of Estes Park voters in a special election in February cast ballots that reasserted local authority. Today that community is analyzing whether a high-speed broadband network serving homes, schools and businesses is feasible. Fort Collins voters will see the question on their November election ballot, just as Loveland citizens will.