



ADVOCACY



INFORMATION



TRAINING



CML's Vision: Empowered Cities and Towns, United for a Strong Colorado.  
For more information, visit [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org) or call 303-831-6411 or 866-578-0936.

# ADVOCACY

## In Colorado

- **729** bills introduced
- **263** tracked by CML
- Of the **43** bills CML supported, more than **72%** passed
- Of the **29** bills CML opposed, **100%** were defeated or amended

### CML **defeated** legislation that:

- increased exemptions for business personal property tax without ensuring municipalities remained whole;
- interfered with a municipality's responsibility to ensure safe and sanitary public parks and places;
- restricted the authority of courts to require a bond to help ensure defendants appear when required;
- placed local licensing authorities in position of potentially taking away liquor licenses from law abiding licensees;
- repealed a paint recycling fee credited with establishing a program that keeps thousands of gallons of paint out of landfills; and
- did an end run around municipal incorporation laws to attempt to establish a special municipality for a special interest.

### CML helped to **pass legislation** that:

- provides the opportunity for a statewide transportation funding solution that includes local transportation and transit;
- funds a 2016 unfunded mandate on municipal courts to provide defense counsel at the first appearance;
- ensures that new fermented malt beverage licenses are a safe distance from schools;
- provides millions of dollars in grants for rural broadband at speeds fast enough to support growing needs;
- extends the Colorado Lottery, which distributes gaming revenues for open space and parks; and
- improves and enhances public safety communications.

## In D.C.

### National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference

- **70+** Colorado municipal officials
- **20+** cities and towns from across the state
- including **4** youth commissions

At a meeting of the Western Municipal Association, discussion focused on **critical federal issues** facing western state and local governments with partners from the Department of the Interior.

Municipal leaders also received a special briefing from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Urban Institute, Fix the Debt Coalition, and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

The experience also included a special breakfast with Sens. Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner.

## In the Courts

CML participates as *amicus curiae*, or “friend of the court,” in significant cases before the appellate courts. These decisions can dramatically affect municipal governments by imposing new obligations or limitations statewide.

CML submitted *amicus curiae* briefs in several noteworthy cases pending before state and federal appellate courts this past year: *Barner v. Silt* on governmental immunity with the Colorado Court of Appeals, *Sodexo v. Golden* regarding statutory construction and burden of proof for sales tax exemptions with the Colorado Supreme Court, and *Hamer v. Trinidad* with the Tenth Circuit on the application of continuous tort violation doctrine in an Americans with Disabilities claim. Each of these cases could have wide-ranging impacts on municipalities’ ability to collect revenue and to properly manage public resources by limiting liability or risk exposure. As *amicus curiae*, CML urges careful consideration of the impact that courts have on municipal authority and operations.

# INFORMATION

## Publications

- **6** issues of *Colorado Municipalities* magazine featuring in-depth articles and best practices
- **26** issues of *CML Newsletter* with breaking news
- **18** Statehouse Reports sent via email with video summaries
- **3** Knowledge Now white papers on
  - Hazard Mitigation and Community Resilience
  - Parks and Recreation
  - The Aging Population
- **4** updated or new publications:
  - The Election Book*
  - Municipal Taxes and Fees*
  - Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments*
  - State of Our Cities & Towns* annual report and video
- **3** most popular publications:
  - Colorado Municipal Government: An Introduction*
  - Open Meetings, Open Records: Colorado's Sunshine Laws*
  - TABOR: A Guide to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights*

To provide members with the best information available, CML regularly updates its more than two dozen **reference guides and best practices publications**, as well as publishes new research. The complete catalog may be viewed by visiting the store on the CML website. An annual **research agenda** is developed by the CML Research Committee composed of member representatives.

## Online

- **21,582** average monthly page views on *www.cml.org*
- **858** Facebook likes
- **936** LinkedIn followers
- **2,143** Twitter followers
- **7** listservs for municipal professionals
- **139** videos
- **2** apps
- **2** blogs:

*Municipalities Matter* by CML Executive Director Sam Mamet  
*Legislative Matters* by the CML advocacy team

**CML's mobile-friendly website** allows members to find information quickly and easily by issue topic or resource type, as well as providing legislative pages and event listings. An online store makes it easy to purchase publications (including PDFs for immediate download) and register for events online.

Each year, the CML *State of Our Cities & Towns* survey results are published in print and video. The 2018 report focuses on **public safety**, featuring the challenges and opportunities facing police and fire departments across the state.

CML launched the **goCML** app to provide municipal officials the latest news, events, social media feeds, and more through the convenience of their smart phones. CML also provides a **conference app** (available separately and embedded in goCML) to enhance the annual event for attendees.

The online **compensation survey system** (CSS) is a free online service for member municipalities. In partnership with Technology Net LLC, this system provides an innovative web-based compensation survey that includes salaries, benefits, and total compensation value for hundreds of municipal positions.

# TRAINING

## Learning Opportunities

- **1,043** municipal officials participated in CML training
- **1,264** municipal officials and other key decision makers and stakeholders attended the 94th CML Annual Conference
- **6** in-person training opportunities included
  - CML Annual Conference
  - CML Annual Legislative Workshop
  - CML Annual Fall Seminar on Municipal Law
  - Mayors' Summit
  - Boards and Commissions Basics
  - Effective Governance for Elected Officials
  - Police Legal Advisor Seminar
  - Building Opportunity Workshop\*
- **20** webinars (free to municipal members) addressed
  - strategic planning
  - series for municipal attorneys (2)
  - election series for clerks (4)
  - legislative series (4)
  - compensation survey system
  - national public safety broadband network
  - cybersecurity
  - energy infrastructure
  - broadband
  - overview of municipal office
  - private activity bonds
  - workforce development
  - AirWaterGas

CML offers training on a variety of cutting-edge topics in several formats.

**Training materials**, including recorded workshops and webinars, can be found at [www.cml.org/training-materials](http://www.cml.org/training-materials).

*\* in partnership with History Colorado*

## MUNiversity

- **3** Graduate recognitions
- **14** Leadership recognitions
- **46** Fundamental recognitions

**MUNiversity** recognizes municipal elected officials who invest time and resources to increase their knowledge of municipal government and enhance their capacity to lead.

All elected officials from member municipalities are automatically enrolled in MUNiversity, with credits accumulated for each training attended. Officials are recognized at three different levels of achievement: Fundamental (30 credits), Leadership (60 credits), and Graduate (100 credits).

## Outreach

- **8** Spring Outreach Meetings
- **13** Fall District Meetings
- **654** participants

CML Spring Outreach Meetings and Fall District Meetings provide the opportunity to contribute to CML policy, network with colleagues from **neighboring communities**, and connect with CML staff.

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## Colorado Cities & Towns Week

- **4th** annual Colorado Cities & Towns Week in 2017
- **50** municipalities participated
- The next celebration takes place **Sept. 10-16, 2018**

## Municipal Heroes Award

- **3** heroes recognized

## Engaging Youth

- **40+** participants in “Local Governments in Action” poster contest

Colorado Cities & Towns Week provides a unified statewide opportunity for municipalities to **educate their residents about the vital services provided** by their city or town and to recognize the hardworking men and women who make it all happen. To assist municipal leaders in connecting with youth in their communities, CML offers tips for speaking with students in the Colorado Cities & Towns Week Toolkit at [www.cml.org/cities-and-towns](http://www.cml.org/cities-and-towns).

CML’s annual Municipal Hero Awards program recognizes **individuals who build strong communities**, whether municipal employee, volunteer, or community difference maker. This program specifically acknowledges those who made significant, positive impacts in their communities during the past year.

In partnership with the Special District Association of Colorado, CML continues to offer Lessons on Local Government, [www.lessonsonlocalgovernment.org](http://www.lessonsonlocalgovernment.org), a **free online resource providing K–12 teachers materials** that meet Colorado’s social studies and civics standards.

The “Local Governments in Action” poster contest, sponsored by COLOTRUST, encourages elementary school students to **think about the importance of local government services**.



# SPECIAL SERVICE

## Colorado Municipal Clerk Advisor Program

CML constantly strives to provide municipal members with innovative and valuable services.

With that goal in mind, in partnership with the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) and Colorado Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA), CML launched the Colorado Municipal Clerk Advisor Program, **a free service to assist municipal clerks with specific job-related questions or challenges** by connecting them with a former clerk who has more than 20 years of experience. While not intended to provide interim or long-term work, this arrangement offers clerks a “helping hand” when needed.

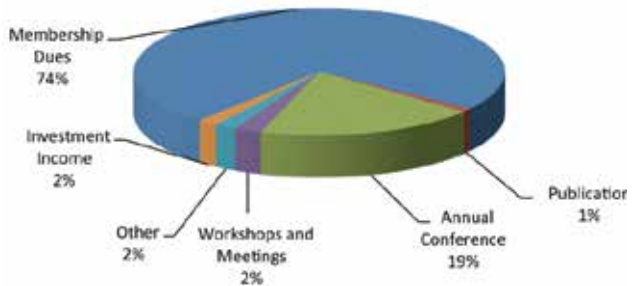
# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## 2017 Revenue

CML received 74 percent of revenue in dues from municipal and associate memberships, with municipal dues increasing by 2.5 percent.

All municipal members who paid their dues by January 31 received a 3 percent rebate, and more than 99 percent of CML members received this reduction.

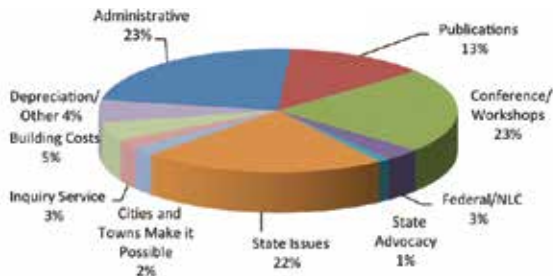
The remaining annual revenue was generated from annual conference sponsorships, workshops, publications, and interest income.



## 2017 Expenses

CML is the primary source for municipal advocacy, information, and training.

CML services provide members with innovative training opportunities, informative research and publications, and effective attorneys and lobbyists who advocate successfully for the collective interests of all Colorado municipalities. The expenses in 2017 reflect our commitment to excellent customer service, our strategic plan goals, and the development of new services and programs for our members.



# STRATEGIC PLAN



## ADVOCACY

CML will empower members to be leaders on municipal issues and advocate for CML policies and positions.

CML will increase the role and visibility of the Policy Committee.

CML lobbyists will be visible and accessible to members.



## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

CML will increase quality opportunities for meaningful member interactions with CML and each other.



## TRAINING

CML will provide a diverse range of training opportunities to meet the needs of CML members.



## RESEARCH & INFORMATION

CML will be the leading statewide information resource for municipalities.

CML will improve information and service delivery to members.



## LEADERSHIP

The CML Executive Board will be active leaders who will interact and inspire participation in CML and develop future leaders.

# COLORADO MUNICIPAL FACTS

**270** of Colorado's 272 incorporated municipalities are CML members.

**181** municipalities have a city/town manager/administrator.

There are **1,824** mayors, councilmembers and trustees.

## POPULATION

Per 2016 estimates, **4,099,458** of Colorado's 5,538,180 residents live in cities and towns. That is **74%** of the state's residents.

*The smallest town (Lakeside) has **8** residents.*

*The largest city (Denver) has **693,292**.*

**101 home rule** municipalities have a total **3,765,707** residents.

**170 statutory** municipalities are home to **268,727** residents.

**1 territorial charter** town has **1,044** residents.

## REVENUE SOURCES

### Sales tax (2018)

**230** municipalities levy a local sales tax.

**70** cities and towns self-collect tax.

The lowest is **1%**; the highest is **7.25%**.

### Property tax (2016)

Assessed valuation of property in municipalities is **\$66.28 billion**.

That's **65%** of the Colorado's total property assessment.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

On **TABOR revenue and spending changes**,

voters passed **488** of the 565 ballot questions, an approval rate of **86%**.

On **municipal tax or tax rates**,

voters passed **601** of the 992 ballot question, an approval rate of **61%**.

On **municipal debt and obligation**,

voters passed **306** of 441 ballot questions, an approval rate of **69%**.