



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2024

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The availability and affordability of housing is of utmost concern to Colorado's municipalities. CML supports state incentives that support communities' efforts to build affordable housing and appropriate state assistance in strategic planning. CML supports the state addressing construction defects litigation reform as a means to increase the availability of affordable housing. CML opposes state preemption of local authority to adopt and enforce zoning and land use ordinances and any interference with home rule authority granted by art. XX, s. 6 of the Colorado Constitution.

BEER & LIQUOR

CML supports the greatest amount of local control possible for liquor licensing and permitting. The League also supports coordination with the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) and working with the LED to modernize, clarify, and harmonize Colorado's Liquor Code and Rules to provide consumers with protection and promote public safety initiatives.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CML supports collaborative relationships with the state on criminal justice issues but opposes unduly prescriptive mandates on police and court operations and procedures, as well as expansion of municipal liability and removal of liability caps. CML supports legislation to improve the efficiency of and reduce redundancies in the police body-worn camera statute.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CML supports measures that promote intergovernmental cooperation on land use issues and supports state laws and policies that encourage new residential, commercial, and industrial development to occur within existing municipalities. CML opposes the sprawl of urban, suburban, or exurban development into rural and unincorporated areas of the state. CML supports the prohibition of the incorporation of new cities and towns adjacent to, or within the service areas of, existing municipalities. CML opposes efforts to restrict municipal annexation authority.

TAXATION

CML and 67 self-collecting home rule municipalities support efforts to simplify collection efforts without impairing local control, including collection of remote sales taxes in a manner that complies with *South Dakota vs. Wayfair*. CML supports the state in their efforts to partner with the business community and supports municipalities that self-collect their sales and use taxes and opposes any effort to undermine constitutional home rule authority to set tax policy and manage tax administration and audits. CML opposes state efforts to mandate the amount of information municipalities can collect from businesses, which can be used for auditing purposes, tourism information, and ensuring compliance with local ordinances. CML opposes the infringement of the state into local lodging tax policy. CML supports property tax

policies that do not reduce local government revenue and allow municipalities the flexibility to retain excess revenue and modify debt service mill levies, among other tools.

TRANSPORTATION

CML supports state funding for transportation system infrastructure improvements that seek to prevent vehicular collisions with vulnerable road users. CML also supports state grants to promote youth utilization of public transit. CML opposes "off-the-top" diversions from the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF).

UNFUNDED MANDATES

CML opposes state statutes that violate the state's unfunded mandate statute, as well as the prohibition on unfunded mandates in the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR), and place additional fiscal burdens on local governments and their taxpayers.

WATER

CML supports additional funding for state programs that contribute to municipal efforts to encourage water conservation through reduction and replacement of turf grass. CML opposes state overreach that mandates local landscaping codes.

WILDFIRE

CML supports legislation that will help municipalities recover from large-scale wildfires and prevent future wildfires through proactive fire mitigation efforts.

Meet the CML advocacy team

CML employs four full-time advocates to assist in development and communication of policies. The team closely watches proposed legislation and works with legislators to understand municipal impacts.



HEATHER STAUFFER

Legislative Advocacy Manager
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Advocacy Issues: Building codes, natural resources and environment, elections, governmental immunity, oil and gas, open meetings/open records, severance tax/FML/energy impact, water & wastewater/water quality, wildfire and WUI Codes.



ELIZABETH HASKELL

Legislative & Policy Advocate
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Advocacy Issues: Beer and liquor, employment and labor, economic development, retirement/pensions, taxation and fiscal policy, lottery and gaming, historic preservation, municipal debt and finance, purchasing.



JEREMY SCHUPBACH

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Advocacy Issues: Regulated substances, hemp, criminal justice, special districts, immigration, public safety, municipal courts, telecom/broadband/IT, utilities.



BEVERLY STABLES

Legislative & Policy Advocate
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Advocacy Issues: Public health, substance abuse, affordable housing, land use and annexation, air quality, transportation and transit, sustainability.



Colorado Municipal League

The Colorado Municipal League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 to represent the interests of 270 member cities and towns. CML can be trusted to be a reliable source of information about the impact of legislation on Colorado's municipalities and their residents. Policies are determined by members in CML's Annual Policy Statement, and positions on legislation are established by the CML Policy Committee and the CML Executive Board.

Local control and home rule

CML is a strong advocate for the state's tradition of local control and constitutional principle of home rule, both of which allow cities and towns maximum flexibility and discretion in municipal finance, implementation of local policy, and delivery of public services. Local control should remain local and home rule should stay at home. Neither should be centralized at the statehouse.

Municipal government is the cornerstone of good government in Colorado, and the League values the partnership that exists with state and federal officials. The citizens who municipal officials represent are the same as those represented by legislators. The policies legislators enact affecting municipalities must be implemented by municipal leaders and local taxpayers. To maintain the strength of this partnership, CML urges legislators to consider the impacts of decisions on the municipalities in their respective districts.