



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

POLICY STATEMENT

2026-2027





POLICY STATEMENT

The Colorado Municipal League supports cooperation among local, state, and federal officials to provide a strong partnership with Colorado's cities and towns. CML's dedicated advocacy team is a reliable source of information about legislative issues and their impact on Colorado's cities and towns and their residents.

The CML Policy Statement has evolved throughout the history of the League and guides the CML Executive Board, committees, and advocacy team during the legislative session and throughout the year. The CML Policy Committee, which is open to representation from each municipal member and CML professional section, is charged with developing policy recommendations and proposing amendments to the Policy Statement. During the business meeting (held each year at the CML annual conference), CML members consider any recommendations and adopt the Policy Statement for the next year.

The CML Policy Statement consists of several major policy items but is not exhaustive. When legislation or policy issues are considered, the CML staff, Policy Committee, and Executive Board look first to the Policy Statement to develop recommendations and formal positions. If a specific issue is not found within the Policy Statement, the Policy Committee and Executive Board will consider and establish a CML position, if any. We welcome input and suggestions from members on CML policy and positions. We remain proud to be your source for advocacy, information, and training.

If you have questions or comments about CML policies, please contact CML Legislative Advocacy Manager Beverly Stables at bstables@cml.org or 303-831-6411.

CML 2026-2027

POLICY STATEMENT

LOCAL CONTROL & MUNICIPAL HOME RULE

As the government most accountable to the people, municipal governments serve the people best by identifying local needs and desires and designing the best solutions for local needs. State and federal interference can undermine the ability of municipalities to recognize problems and innovate solutions that best meet their needs. At worst, state interference can violate the constitutional mandate of home rule. Therefore, the League:

- Urges state and federal officials to respect Colorado's tradition of local control and allow municipal officials to address local problems without interference from the state and federal government.
- Urges Congress and the executive branch to respect the roles and responsibilities of states and local governments and similarly urges state officials to avoid preempting local authority.
- Supports state enabling legislation that provides municipalities with authority and flexibility to address local needs.
- Recognizes the desire of the citizens statewide and in many local communities — with adoption of a constitutional amendment in 1902 and expanded amendments

approved in 1912 and 1970 — to establish municipal home rule and opposes state action that attempts to weaken home rule authority and flexibility.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Citizens are best served when officials of federal, state, and local government (including municipalities, counties, special districts, and school districts) respect the roles of each entity and work toward common solutions. Therefore, the League:

- Supports increased dialogue and cooperation among federal, state, and local officials and the development of cooperative intergovernmental solutions to common problems.
- Opposes the imposition of conditions on federal or state funding that are coercive, violate the constitutional separation of powers, interfere with local decision-making and constitutional home rule authority, or are not directly related to the purposes of the funding.

STATE & FEDERAL MANDATES

Programs and regulations mandated by the state or federal government

stretch the financial resources of municipalities. These costs, if not paid by the state or federal government, prevent municipalities from fulfilling local needs and priorities. Therefore, the League:

- Opposes state and federal mandates that impose financial or operational burdens on municipalities and their citizens.
- Supports the statutory requirement for the General Assembly and Congress to reimburse municipalities for the cost of state mandates and to make clearer this requirement in state fiscal notes prepared for the General Assembly and Congress.

STATE FISCAL FAIR PLAY

Municipal finances are closely interrelated with state finances and policies, especially those that impose fiscal burdens on municipalities. Much state revenue is collected from activities and individuals residing in municipalities who expect to receive a fair share of the benefit of their payments. State adherence to fiscal fair play policies will greatly help municipalities and their citizens. Therefore, the League:

- Supports appropriate action to resolve state and local financial limitations caused by the interaction of various constitutional and statutory provisions and economic fluctuations.
- Supports continued state sharing with municipalities of equitable

portions of existing and future revenues derived from funds that have traditionally been intended to be shared with municipalities, despite being collected by the state.

- Urges the state to avoid or exercise restraint in relying on fees, charges, and other cash funding of programs that affect municipalities, especially in the areas of technical assistance, in programs where municipal participation is mandated by state law, and in regulatory programs that affect municipalities.
- Opposes state granted exemptions or other state actions that erode municipal sales, use, and property tax revenue, as well as other revenues unless the state provides adequate replacement revenues.
- Opposes disproportionate cuts in state programs that benefit municipalities.
- Opposes the state forcing the expenditure of local funds or requiring local governments to collect state revenues to fund state programs.

SALES & USE TAXES

The primary revenue sources for municipalities are local sales and use taxes. Sales and use taxes have enabled municipalities to fund public services and improvements and keep municipal property taxes relatively low. Appropriate actions at federal, state, and local levels should preserve or enhance these local revenues. Therefore, the League:

- Supports retention of authority for all municipalities to set local tax rates and for home rule municipalities to collect their own taxes and determine their own tax bases.
- Supports broadening the state and local sales and use tax base.
- Supports appropriate legislation or court action allowing state and local governments to require businesses to collect state and local sales and use taxes on remote sales.
- Supports cooperative efforts among municipalities to standardize municipal sales and use tax practices and utilization of technology for the convenience of taxpayers, businesses, and municipalities.
- Supports a level playing field between local brick-and-mortar businesses and remote sellers through the requirement for remote sellers to collect and remit municipal sales taxes based on the point of delivery.
- Supports programs that allow businesses to remit state and local sales taxes to a single point while preserving home rule authority over tax rates, base, and audit authority.
- Opposes reductions in the state and local sales and use tax base.
- Opposes legislation that would preempt the authority of state and local governments to apply their sales and use taxes to remote sales.
- Opposes legislation authorizing public entities that are not cities or towns to impose sales and use taxes that

would increase competition for sales and use tax revenue and make voter approval for new or modified taxes without local government approval.

- Supports statewide policy allowing local decision making for K-12 education mill levy matters. Local school districts should not have limits to their mill levy that force them to use sales tax to maintain services.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Capital Financing

The League:

- Supports enhancement of municipalities' flexibility to finance public projects economically and efficiently.
- Opposes any efforts to abolish or impair the effectiveness of the municipal bond interest exemption.

Census

The League supports sufficient federal funding support of the decennial census to assure a complete and accurate count that reflects population, municipal borders, regional equity, and hard to count populations.

Double Taxation

The League supports state legislation and local practices that eliminate the financial inequities created by the imposition of taxes on municipal residents for county services that are provided primarily or solely to residents in unincorporated areas.

Federal Policies

The League:

- Supports distribution of federal funds to municipal governments with a minimum of red tape and without excessive diversion at the federal and state levels.
- Supports establishment of advisory committees comprised of local government officials to ensure ongoing local input on state assumption and administration of federal programs that affect local governments.
- Supports continued funding of the Community Development Block Grant program.
- Supports continued direct funding of federal housing programs.
- Supports funding the Energy Block Grant program.
- Supports repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act or revisions thereto, including raising the project exemption amount, to eliminate wasteful red tape and enable state and local governments to stretch tax dollars for public works projects.
- Supports repeal or revisions in the application of the Fair Labor Standards Act to local governments to avoid the Act's costly and burdensome impacts on local government operations.
- Encourages recognition of Colorado's unique economic, social, and physical characteristics when federal action affects programs or projects of local concern.
- Opposes the direct or indirect taxation of the activities and operations of municipal government.
- Opposes tax reform proposals that would exacerbate the federal deficit, increase the cost of municipal capital investment, interfere with traditional state and local tax systems or preempt the deductibility of state and local taxes.
- Opposes the elimination of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.
- Opposes the denial of funds based upon a state's or municipality's failure to meet requirements of an unrelated program or because of factors beyond the control of the state or municipality.
- Opposes cuts in federal programs that disproportionately affect municipalities.
- Opposes imposition of federal standards upon local government operations and employees that do not apply equally to federal and state government operations and employees.
- Opposes the sale of federal lands to finance federal programs without local input.
- Supports the efficient and effective use of federal passthrough funding administered by the state with special attention to lowering project overhead costs and increasing local flexibility within federally mandated and reviewed companion regulations. The suitability of administrative requirements should be proportionate to project complexity, such as the

difference between an Environmental Assessment and a more complex and expensive Environmental Impact Statement.

BEER & LIQUOR

The League:

- Supports the greatest amount of local control possible for liquor licensing and permitting.
- Supports coordination with the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division.

CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNMENTS

The League supports voluntary consolidation of local government entities and services by mutual agreement.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The League:

- Supports state- and community-based intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation programs and state initiatives that respect the key role of communities and local government officials.
- Supports ensuring that municipal governments retain flexibility in implementing federal, state, and local criminal justice programs.
- Supports state funding for regional and local public safety programs that rely on the co-responder model which partners mental and behavioral health professionals with law enforcement for contacts

with individuals with mental and behavioral health issues.

- Opposes state preemption of municipal authority to regulate firearms within municipalities.
- Opposes criminal justice initiatives that impose costs on municipalities without adequate state funding.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The League

- Urges the state to allocate sufficient funding and staff to support robust, multifaceted programs that strengthen Colorado's economic vitality by:
 - Supporting local economic diversification, business retention, job creation, regional collaboration, and tourism.
 - Coordinating closely with local governments.
 - Respecting the wishes of directly affected communities by not promoting unwanted economic development projects. Encourages the federal government to support state and local government activities promoting economic development.
- Supports incentives to promote and encourage the rehabilitation and revitalization of local economies and downtowns.

ELECTIONS

The League:

- Supports the right of all municipalities under the Colorado

state statutes to conduct free and fair nonpartisan elections at the municipal level that are unencumbered by state and federal overreach.

- Supports the continued retention of authority for home rule municipalities to administer the election process as a matter of local concern.
- Supports municipal control over alternative voting methods in local elections, and options for alternative voting methods and election schedules in local elections.
- Supports the continuation of mail-in ballots.

ELECTRIC & NATURAL GAS SERVICES

The League:

- Supports the preservation of local control regarding the siting and permitting of utility facilities and energy projects.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions that limit the ability of municipalities to create new municipally-owned utilities.
- Opposes federal restrictions that would dictate territorial service areas or restrict the ability of municipally owned utilities to service customers within their municipalities, including newly annexed areas.
- Opposes federal legislation requiring states to implement retail competition.

- Opposes federal or state restructuring of the electric or natural gas industry if such restructuring:
 - restricts municipal authority to regulate the use of rights-of-way and to franchise and tax utilities and services;
 - interferes with services provided by municipally owned utilities;
 - fails to protect interests of all consumer classes; or
 - sacrifices environmental and social objectives protected under existing regulatory policies.
- Opposes efforts to prevent municipalities from extending utility services to newly annexed areas or providing utility services to customers in unincorporated county properties adjacent to the municipality.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The League:

- Supports local control of emergency services, with the state serving as a resource for information, coordination, and training.
- Supports adequate state funding for agencies that assist local emergency services.
- Supports a voluntary, uniform statewide fire incident reporting system.
- Encourages strong intergovernmental coordination and increased federal funding to support

local homeland security and first responder efforts.

- Supports expanded funding and fee authority for emergency communications, addressing declining landline use and growing mobile demand.

ENERGY

The League:

- Supports the development of a balanced, long-term statewide energy plan with an overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Supports the creation and expansion of statewide goals that provide targets and incentives for the implementation of renewable energy strategies and that also recognize the unique concerns of municipal electric and gas systems.
- Supports empowering municipalities to implement sustainable, reliable, and resilient long-term municipal energy needs.
- Supports municipal efforts to assess energy efficiency opportunities in their own operations and in their communities, setting energy efficiency targets, and creating local action plans.
- Supports retrofitting municipal facilities with energy efficient technologies, policies that enhance municipal energy conservation, and programs that promote the generation of alternative energy sources.
- Supports working with appropriate state and local agencies to educate

municipalities on the use of energy efficient building codes.

- Opposes state preemption of municipalities in setting and implementing long-term renewable energy goals.
- Opposes state preemption of municipalities in the siting and permitting of energy projects.

Natural Resource Production

The League:

- Supports enhanced local input and mitigation powers of municipalities in addressing the environmental, health, safety, and economic impacts of energy extraction.
- Supports meaningful involvement of affected local governments by the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in energy extraction decisions, with recognition of local health, safety, and environmental impacts.

Severance Tax & Federal Mineral Lease Revenue

The League:

- Supports a continued dialogue with local governments regarding the collection and distribution of severance tax and federal mineral lease revenues.
- Supports raising the severance tax rate and removing severance tax exemptions to generate additional revenue for impacted local governments and natural resource programs.

- Supports the development of a permanent trust fund using a portion of existing and new revenue from severance taxes and federal mineral leases, so long as such revenues can be made available to local governments.
- Opposes any reduction in the existing revenue streams of severance tax and federal mineral lease revenue to local governments.
- Supports financial and technical assistance to local governments affected by natural resource extraction to permit planning for and provision of municipal services and facilities.
- Opposes the appropriation of energy impact and mineral lease funds, historically set aside for local governments, to finance state programs and administrative costs of state government.
- Opposes off-the-top diversion of severance tax and federal mineral lease revenue.
- Supports the full restoration of energy impact and mineral lease funds used to finance state programs and costs of state government.
- Supports reasonable, practical enforcement of air and water pollution control laws.
- Supports regulation to meet regulatory goals that accounts for the fiscal conditions of municipalities.
- Supports adequate state regulation and enforcement of drilling and mining sites, production facilities and waste product storage and disposal facilities.
- Supports practices to assure public health, safety, environmental protection and the protection of domestic water sources.
- Opposes state preemption of local land use and watershed regulations.
- Supports the local control of the regulation of plastics and single-use containers.
- Opposes unfair shifts of funding responsibility to municipalities for state environmental and hazardous waste programs.
- Opposes state preemption of local government authority to adopt environmental ordinances.
- Opposes state mandates or regulations on locally owned or operated landfills that do not provide the subsequent funding necessary to comply with the new requirements.

ENVIRONMENT

The League:

- Supports federal and state programs that encourage cleanup and reuse of “brownfield” property.
- Supports full federal funding for cleanup and ongoing maintenance and monitoring of contaminated federally owned or managed sites.

EQUITY

The League:

- Supports efforts to end inequity based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

- Supports the protection of the rights and dignity of individuals and encourages programs and policies that address equity in areas such as criminal justice, employment, environment, housing, homelessness, health care, education, substance abuse treatment, and mental health.

HOUSING

The League:

- Supports an adequate supply of diverse housing options, regardless of income level, and continued public- and private-sector support for such an effort.
- Supports clarifying state statute to reflect that local governments have the authority to require affordable housing in new developments.
- Supports increased financial assistance from the federal government for housing needs of low- and moderate-income families.
- Supports state financial support for the Division of Housing's loan and grant program for low- and moderate-income housing.
- Supports preservation of Proposition 123 funding for the advancement of municipal efforts to increase affordable housing.
- Supports the continued efforts of the Colorado Housing Finance Authority to work with municipalities on the Authority's various housing loan programs.
- Supports efforts to upgrade substandard housing.
- Supports the preservation, revitalization and redevelopment of existing neighborhoods.
- Supports public and private financial assistance programs and state funding to address the needs of the persons experiencing homelessness.
- Supports the establishment of mechanisms to impose alternative funding sources for housing.
- Supports municipal authority to determine affordability based on Area Median Income and other relevant factors.
- Supports programs that involve municipalities in addressing foreclosures.
- Supports preservation of the State Affordable Housing Fund for the voter-approved purpose of funding affordable housing through local governments
- Opposes state preemptions of municipal authority to regulate land for residential uses, especially when not connected to any requirements of affordability.
- Opposes state preemption of local authority to adopt and enforce ordinances that regulate use of public spaces.

INITIATIVE REFORM

The League:

- Supports efforts to maintain the state constitution as a basic framework for government rather than as an embodiment of statutory law, while maintaining the citizen lawmaking process, by supporting

additional protections for statutory law made by citizen initiative.

- Supports the creation of mechanisms for judicial review of initiated local legislation before elections to avoid unnecessary expenditures of public funds.

LIMITED GAMING

The League:

- Supports Colorado's limited gaming framework as written in the Colorado Constitution.
- Supports preservation and restoration of the limited gaming fund which distributes portions of the proceeds of tax collected to the state historical fund and gaming cities and towns.
- Supports preservation of the local government limited gaming impact fund which provides grants to local communities for gaming impacts.

LOTTERY

The League supports preserving all lottery proceeds for park, recreation, open space, and wildlife purposes pursuant to the Great Outdoors Colorado program adopted by Colorado voters.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

The League:

- Supports maximum local control for municipal regulation and licensing of cultivation facilities, product manufacturing facilities, testing facilities, and retail stores.

- Supports a local option to prohibit cultivation facilities, product manufacturing facilities, testing facilities, and retail stores.
- Supports maximum local control for municipal regulation and licensing of hemp cultivation, both indoor and outdoor; manufacturing; testing; extraction; and retail stores.
- Supports maximum local control to enforce local ordinances for regulated substances.

MUNICIPAL COURT OPERATIONS

The League:

- Supports the authority of home rule municipalities to provide, regulate, conduct, and control municipal courts as stated in Art. XX of the Colorado Constitution.
- Supports state funding for municipal specialty courts and restorative justice programs to deliver necessary resources and reduce recidivism.
- Supports the authority of home rule municipalities to establish ordinances for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare, and to impose locally-determined penalties for violations.
- Supports opportunities for municipalities to create innovative alternatives to criminal penalties.
- Supports cooperation between state, county, and local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.
- Support funding, infrastructure, and

other resources to increase court data sharing, both between municipal courts and between municipal and state courts.

- Supports modifications to state law that increase the ability of municipal courts to require defendants to appear in court or to penalize defendants for failing to appear.
- Opposes imposition of state surcharges on municipal court fines for the purpose of funding state programs.
- Opposes mandatory administrative and operational requirements that increase fiscal burdens on municipal courts.
- Opposes limitations on the authority of municipalities to adjudicate violations of local ordinances, including those involving juvenile offenders.

MUNICIPAL LAND USE AUTHORITY

The League supports local control and determination of local land use issues. In general, the League supports state laws and policies that encourage new residential, commercial, and industrial development to occur within existing municipalities and that discourage the sprawl of urban, suburban, or exurban development into rural and unincorporated areas of the state. In addition, the League specifically:

- Supports prohibition of the incorporation of new cities and towns adjacent to, or within the service areas of, existing municipalities.
- Supports increased municipal and, within unincorporated areas, county controls over the formation of special districts, placing additional limitations on the powers exercised by such districts and, where practicable, providing for the dissolution or phasing out of special districts.
- Supports appropriate efforts to permit application and enforcement of municipal ordinances, such as building codes, fire codes, subdivision regulations, and zoning ordinances, to buildings and improvements proposed to be constructed by government entities.
- Supports municipal discretion concerning the imposition of development fees and requirements.
- Supports municipal discretion to adopt, update, and enforce local building codes, including those that meet or exceed state standards.
- Supports the clear authority of municipalities to collect an impact fee for schools.
- Supports financial and technical assistance to municipal governments in the areas of planning and land use.
- Supports municipalities, when appropriate, in utilizing sub-local governments (neighborhood, nonprofit, and civic organizations and homeowners' associations) in developing and implementing solutions to specific localized issues.
- Encourages measures that promote intergovernmental cooperation on land use issues.

- Encourages coordination of land use, transportation, and infrastructure planning.
 - Encourages municipalities when using tax increment financing to promote communication and intergovernmental cooperation with affected local governments.
 - Opposes efforts to restrict municipal annexation authority.
 - Opposes delegation of municipal land use authority to state agencies or preemption of municipal land use controls.
 - Opposes federal or state restrictions, beyond those constitutional restrictions that have been defined by recent Supreme Court decisions, on the ability of federal, state, or local governments to regulate private property or to exercise the power of condemnation for the benefit of public health, safety, and welfare.
 - Opposes unreasonable restrictions on urban renewal authorities and downtown development authorities.
 - Opposes federal or state preemption of municipal land use with the wildland urban interface.
 - Opposes the imposition of arbitrary timelines on municipal permitting.
- dollars spent, and to create clarity to ensure state financial assistance can be used specifically for recovery without violating TABOR revenue and spending limitations.
- Supports state financial support to assist local governments with disaster mitigation, response, and recovery in their communities.
 - Supports legislation that reduces systemwide underinsurance and improves the transparency of the coverage gap that a private property owner has with their existing policy.
 - Supports eliminating the practice of insurance companies requiring contents itemization in total losses to receive the contents coverage stated in a policy.
 - Supports regulating the loss ratio for property and casualty insurance so that premiums paid go to cover losses and do not become excessive.
 - Supports exploration of reinsurance for disaster impacts and supports legislation to address insurance availability to ensure community members have access to insurance.
 - Supports exploration of public insurance to address availability.
 - Supports targeted reforms to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designed to provide faster access to funding, reduced administrative burdens, predictable procurement standards, expanded housing and sheltering options aimed at easing displacement challenges, new funding and financing opportunities for resilience projects,

NATURAL DISASTERS

The League:

- Supports specific modifications to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) to better define an "emergency," specify the amount of time for repayment of any TABOR reserve

and greater transparency of FEMA's decision-making.

POLICE, FIRE & OTHER PENSION & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The League:

- Supports equitable levels of state funding for volunteer firefighters' pensions.
- Opposes mandates that increase the cost of or create inequities among municipal employee pensions, workers' compensation, or other employee benefits.
- Opposes unfunded mandates for public employee benefits or other unreasonable burdens or restrictions in connection with the administration of municipal employee benefit plans.
- Opposes mandated "Police Officers Bill of Rights" interfering with the management and budget prerogatives of local governments.

POSTAL SERVICE

The League supports legislation and administrative action by the United States Postal Service requiring use of mailing addresses and ZIP codes that reflect the corporate boundaries of cities and towns to eliminate confusion among citizens and businesses and to reinforce community identities.

PRIVATIZATION

The League supports the use of private-

sector businesses to provide public services when determined by municipal officials to be in the public interest.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

The League:

- Opposes efforts to interfere with a municipality's ability to determine the terms and conditions of municipal employment.
- Supports local decision-making regarding employee organization, collective bargaining, and career service protections.
- Supports the ability of municipalities to regulate public employee conduct and the pursuit of appropriate employee discipline in the public interest.

PUBLIC LIABILITY

The League:

- Supports the availability of public liability insurance at reasonable costs and the ability of municipalities to reduce such costs through self-insurance or other reasonable means.
- Supports reasonable federal limitations on and reduction in the liability for monetary damages payable by public entities, public employees, and elected officials in suits brought under federal laws.
- Supports limitations on the liability of municipalities and their officers and employees.
- Opposes efforts to expand the liability of public entities and public

employees, including unlimited or expanded liability, indemnification requirements, excessive mandatory minimum penalties, and inequitable attorney fee shifting provisions

PURCHASING

The League supports the authority of municipal officials to determine local purchasing and contracting procedures.

RECORDS

The League:

- Supports transparent record-keeping practices and the right of municipal governments to keep and maintain their own records.
- Opposes undue burdens placed upon municipalities to report or provide municipal records to the public, state, or federal government.
- Supports the authority of municipalities to charge research and retrieval fees for open records requests.
- Supports the authority of municipalities to establish reasonable regulations for open records requests.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

The League:

- Supports state funding for local treatment, prevention, diversion, and recovery programs to address impacts of the substance use disorder, mental health, behavioral health, and opioid epidemic in Colorado.

- Supports the attorney general's authority for opioid settlement funding distribution.

SUSTAINABILITY

The League:

- Supports the concept of sustainability and sustainable solutions that meet the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- Supports state and local partnerships and resources to improve waste diversion and recycling programs across the state in a manner that respects local control.
- Opposes state preemption of local government authority to adopt environmental ordinances that are more protective than state standards.
- Opposes state sustainability mandates that impose costs on or shift costs to municipalities.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The League:

- Supports the retention of municipal regulatory authority over cable television systems.
- Supports affordable access by all municipalities to redundant high-speed broadband, telecommunication, and information services.
- Supports options to level the playing field for smaller broadband and telecommunications providers to compete throughout Colorado.

- Supports federal and state resources for the development of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas and enhanced service in all service areas.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions on local control of municipal rights-of-way.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions on the authority of local governments to develop or acquire their own broadband or telecommunications infrastructure.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions on municipal franchising, regulatory, and taxing authority over telecommunications systems.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions or mandates on local permitting of telecommunications facilities.
- Supports funding for vulnerable road user projects to support walkable and bikeable neighborhoods.
- Supports the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) assumption of street lighting and general maintenance costs on state highways within municipalities.
- Supports clarification that federal railroad laws do not preempt local governmental authority to protect the safety and environment of citizens.
- Supports preservation of the federal funding guarantees for transportation and proportional allocation of all federal transportation taxes and funds for their intended transportation purposes.
- Supports efforts to improve commercial and general aviation throughout Colorado.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

The League:

- Supports a comprehensive statewide solution that solves Colorado's long-term transportation challenges at every level of government and provides a sustainable revenue source that meets the needs of Colorado citizens today as well as future generations, including funding to assist local governments to improve air quality.
- Supports increased funds to finance pressing surface transportation needs with an equitable portion of new revenues returned to cities and towns.
- Supports legislation that enables and encourages autonomous vehicles that are clean-fueled and safe, while preserving local control over regulation and local implementation.
- Encourages a balanced state transportation policy that addresses the need to maintain and expand alternative transportation modes and public infrastructure adjoining roadways and rights-of-way, and demand management options to improve Colorado's transportation system by supporting:
 - Close cooperation among CDOT, counties, municipalities, and interested stakeholders in

improving Colorado's multi-modal transportation system.

- Preservation of the constitutional requirement that highway user revenues be used for the construction, maintenance and supervision of the public highways of the state, comprising all modes including, but not limited to, facilities for air, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel.
- Greater flexibility and increased revenues for multi-modal transportation systems.
- Fair and equitable funding for the development and implementation of electric vehicle infrastructure across the state.
- Opposes additional "off-the-top" diversions from the Highway Users Tax Fund.

WATER

The League:

- Supports water policies that protect Colorado water resources.
- Supports the constitutional doctrine of prior appropriation and the constitutional priority given to domestic water use.
- Supports the inventorying and protection by municipalities of their water rights.
- Supports appropriate water conservation efforts and sustainable water resource management practices by all users.
- Supports efforts to increase knowledge of water-related issues

of concern around the state to municipalities.

- Supports participation in statewide discussions of water use and distribution.
- Supports appropriate coordination of municipal water use with other uses including agriculture, mineral resource development, energy development, recreation, and open space.
- Supports federal and state financial aid programs assisting municipalities, including recognition of the special needs of smaller municipalities, with the construction and improvement of water systems to protect water quality and to comply with federal and state mandates.
- Supports continued federal and state funding for wastewater treatment and drinking water facilities to reduce local costs and expedite construction of necessary treatment and collection facilities.
- Supports stakeholder input and involvement in developing laws and regulations related to water and wastewater issues.
- Encourages on-going communication by federal land managers with affected municipalities regarding the leasing of federal lands that might impact local land use and environmental policies including, but not limited to, local watershed ordinances.
- Supports continued and additional funding for the Colorado Water Plan and programs to implement its goals.

YOUTH

The League:

- Supports municipal and other efforts to address youth issues and needs.
- Recognizes the influence that parents in partnership with nonprofit and religious organizations, local businesses, and other governmental jurisdictions have on the development of youth.
- Encourages utilization by public schools in cooperation with local governments of League-published or other civics curriculum to educate students in state and local government.

About CML



Founded in 1923, CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents and serves Colorado's cities and towns. Of Colorado's 273 Colorado cities and towns, 270 are members of CML, representing more than 99% of the municipal population in the state.

The Colorado Municipal League believes local problems are best resolved at the local level and people are best served by a strong and responsive local government.

The League's core functions are advocacy, information, and training. CML represents the interests of Colorado municipalities before the state and federal governments and in the courts. The League employs a team of legislative and legal advocates to ensure all municipalities are well-represented in the state capitol and that the interests of cities and towns and their residents are protected through participation in appellate court cases. CML also keeps a watchful eye on statewide ballot issues and the work of state agencies.

More information about CML is available on our website, cml.org.



COLORADO
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**Empowered cities and towns,
united for a strong Colorado**

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