

## MUNICIPAL SPRING ELECTION RESULTS

EIGHT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WERE held around the state earlier this month to elect city councilmembers and town board trustees. Voters in Colorado Springs, Craig, Durango, Fort Collins, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, and Ward had their regularly scheduled elections, while Aspen held a runoff election to decide between two finalists in the mayoral race, after holding its regular election on March 5.

Voters also had their say on several ballot questions. The following results are unofficial and subject to change.

### Tax and Bond Issues

Durango voters approved a sales and use tax increase for street improvements.

In Glenwood Springs, two measures to fund road improvements, a sales and use tax increase and a bond issue for up to \$16 million in debt, failed.

Fort Collins voters approved an extension of the "Keep Fort Collins Great" sales and use tax to be split between general operations and public safety purposes.

Grand Junction had three sales and use tax questions on the ballot. The tax to fund police, fire, and emergency medical services passed, while the tax to fund road improvements and the tax to fund the construction of a community center, which included authorization to increase debt by up to \$79 million, both failed.

### Other Issues

Fort Collins voters rejected a citizen-initiated charter amendment that would have increased



compensation for the mayor and city councilmembers to be equal to the area median household income.

Voters in Colorado Springs defeated a measure that would have amended the city charter to allow collective bargaining for firefighters.

Grand Junction voters considered two charter amendments: the first, concerning the process for cable television franchise renewal, passed, while the second, which would have increased

the authorized terms for lease of public property, failed.

Grand Junction voters also approved the sale of certain public property.

Upcoming municipal elections include special elections in Larkspur on April 16, Castle Pines on May 14, and Eaton on June 18, as well as Denver's regular election on May 7 and Mountain Village's regular election on June 25.

## CML'S NEW GENERAL COUNSEL IS A FAMILIAR FACE

ONE OF THE FIRST ACTIONS OF CML'S new executive director, Kevin Bommer, was to recreate the position of general counsel and offer the job to David Broadwell, a CML staff attorney from 1992 to 1999, who has devoted the past 20 years providing legal counsel to the City and County of Denver.

People in the CML family will recognize Broadwell's name as the author of the preeminent published analysis of the *Taxpayers Bill of Rights* (TABOR), as well as its recent revision. Municipal attorneys know Broadwell the best, as he is a fixture in the municipal legal community.

"Bringing David back has been my highest priority," said Bommer. "He and our staff attorney, Laurel Witt, will hit the ground running. I have a strong commitment to strengthening our existing services and as well as to explore new options."

Broadwell will begin at CML starting on May 1.

## CLASSIFIED CORNER

### To place an ad ...

Contact Christine Taniguchi, CML communications coordinator, by email at [ctaniguchi@cml.org](mailto:ctaniguchi@cml.org).

## CONGRATULATIONS

THE LEAGUE CONGRATULATES Colorado Government Finance Officers Association member and Avon Finance Manager **Valerie Barry**, who is retiring. She has been with the Town in the finance department for more than 36 years.

The League also salutes **Gary Carsten**, who recently retired after 42 years as Eaton town administrator. "This ranks Gary as one of the longest-serving town administrators in the state. He has been a go-to guy on many issues," stated recently retired CML Executive Director Sam Mamet.

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT OR MEETING and you would like a representative from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to attend and/or present about program opportunities, let USDA Rural Development know. Staff from six local field offices and the USDA Rural Development State Office in Denver would love the opportunity to visit your community. Contact Amy Mund, public information officer, at [amy.mund@co.usda.gov](mailto:amy.mund@co.usda.gov) or 720-544-2906.

## PERLMUTTER'S SAFE BANKING ACT GOES TO FULL HOUSE

THE FULL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will vote on the H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019, after it passed the House Financial Services Committee recently on a 45-15 vote. Authored by U.S. Reps. Ed Perlmutter (D-Colorado) and Denny Heck (D-Washington) and cosponsored by Reps. Warren Davidson (R-Ohio) and Steve Stivers (R-Ohio), the bill allows marijuana-related businesses in states with existing regulatory structures to access the banking system.

"The SAFE Banking Act is about public safety, accountability, and respecting states' rights. Our federal banking laws were designed to prevent illicit activity and help law enforcement do their jobs. These laws need to be applied to legitimate marijuana businesses and employees in order to improve transparency and accountability and help root out illegal transactions. Most importantly, the SAFE Banking Act will get cash off our streets, reducing the risk of violent crime and making our communities safer," said Perlmutter. "While Congress has stuck its head in the sand for

many years, this committee has shown leadership on this issue and I want to thank my cosponsors and members of the committee for their support."

H.R. 1595 has the support of the American Bankers Association, Credit Union National Association, Independent Community Bankers of America, the Electronic Transactions Association, the National Cannabis Industry Association, Mid-Size Bank Coalition of America, The Real Estate Roundtable, and various U.S. trade associations such as American Land Title, and American Property Casualty Insurance Association, among others. The Colorado Municipal League is grateful to Rep. Perlmutter and his colleagues for being leaders on this issue.

With 152 cosponsors at the time of the committee vote — more than a third of the entire House — the bill will next move to the floor of the House. A Senate companion bill is expected to be introduced in the coming weeks. The bill's sponsors applauded the committee vote and reiterated the need to continue to advance the legislation.

## PODCAST HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING DEMOGRAPHY

APRIL 1, 2020, IS CENSUS DAY, AND ON April 1, 2019, CML released "Counting Colorado," the fifth episode of our podcast, Making the Municipal Connection. Tune in to hear Sam Mamet, recently retired CML executive director, and Elizabeth Garner, Colorado state demographer, discuss the importance of understanding demographic trends and what the decennial census means to the residents of Colorado.

Making the Municipal Connection seeks to connect national or statewide issues to the solutions provided by Colorado's cities and

towns, and this particular episode highlights the way that a federal program such as the census has a direct and tangible impact on Colorado municipalities and offers ways for municipal leaders to get involved.

The podcast is available on the CML website at [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org) under Resources > Podcasts, and in the iTunes and Google Play stores. If you have not already done so, be sure to check out our other episodes as well, exploring body cameras, wicked problems, and efforts to address homelessness. Take a listen and let us know what you think!

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Subscriptions to CML Newsletter are offered as a portion of member dues. Cost to nonmembers is \$300 a year.

## WEBINAR: COLORADO'S OPPORTUNITY ZONE PROGRAM

*Presented by Jana Persky, State of Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade Opportunity Zone program director*

**June 5, 2019, Noon–1 p.m.**

Learn more about Opportunity Zones, how they work, and tools the state has to help communities benefit from this investment incentive.

This webinar is free for CML municipal members; however, registration is required. Registration is \$25 for CML associate members and \$50 for all nonmembers. One MUNiversity credit is available to elected officials for this training. To register, visit [bit.ly/2ldlqHC](http://bit.ly/2ldlqHC). Registration closes **June 4**.

## THE PLACE TO BE!

THE DEADLINE FOR EARLY conference registration is near! Save more than \$100 by registering by Friday, **May 10**.

Here are just a few reasons you need to be at CML's 2019 annual conference:

1. It is the premier and largest meeting for municipal officials in Colorado. **More than 700 municipal leaders** will attend.
2. Four days of **educational sessions** is the most cost-effective professional development opportunity for local government officials in the state.
3. **Explore ideas together** with colleagues who speak your language and are faced with the same day-to-day challenges as you.
4. **More than 40 vendors** are waiting to meet you to learn how they might be able to help your community.
5. **Be inspired** by the sessions you attend and the people you meet to return home invigorated and motivated.



Want to sponsor the conference? There is still time; however, exhibit space is almost full and sponsorship closes **April 26**. For more information, visit [bit.ly/2H8LrZ6](http://bit.ly/2H8LrZ6) or

contact CML Communications Coordinator Christine Taniguchi at [ctaniguchi@cml.org](mailto:ctaniguchi@cml.org) or 303-831-6411 / 866-578-0936.

## CML ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LEAGUE EXECUTIVE BOARD

LETTERS OF APPLICATION ARE BEING accepted to fill 10 positions on the CML Executive Board. Municipal officials wishing to be considered for one of these positions should follow the instructions below. Members whose names are placed on the ballot by the CML Nominating Committee will be voted on by the membership at the CML Annual Business Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 20, beginning at 1:45 p.m., during the 97th CML Annual Conference in Breckenridge.

The vacancies to be filled at the election are:

- one position from municipalities with a population of 250,000 or more for a two-year term;
- three positions from municipalities with a population of at least 60,000 but less than 250,000 for two-year terms;
- three positions from municipalities with a population of at least 8,000 but less than 60,000 for two-year terms; and
- three positions from cities and towns with a population of less than 8,000 for two-year terms.

Each CML participating member municipality is entitled to vote to fill all vacancies on the board regardless of the population categories.

### Nomination Procedures

Under CML bylaws, CML Executive Board members must be elected or appointed officials of member cities and towns. Any official who desires to be nominated for a position on the CML Executive Board can ensure nomination by:

- filing an application for nomination, in letter or other written form, with the CML Nominating Committee (the application must be received in writing by the CML office at least 15 days prior to the annual business meeting, that is, by 5 p.m., Wednesday, **June 5**; and
- including with the application an endorsement in writing from the applicant's city council or board of trustees, which also must be received by the CML office by Wednesday, **June 5** (a city council or board of trustees may endorse the nomination of only one official from the city or town for election).

Municipal officials who meet the above qualifications will be placed on the nominating committee's slate for consideration at the election during the annual business meeting. If there are not enough qualified candidates to satisfy the minimum slate requirement, the committee may request that one or more additional officials become nominees to satisfy the minimum slate requirement. The minimum requirement under the bylaws is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled in each population category. Any officials added by the committee to meet the minimum number of candidates do not need the endorsement from the official's city council or board of trustees, nor do they need to have filed an application with the committee.

Finally, no later than five hours before the annual business meeting, other nominations for CML Executive Board members may be made

by petition to the committee. The petition must be signed by at least 10 municipal officials representing at least 10 municipalities in attendance at the conference. Officials who are placed on the ballot by petition do not need the endorsement of their city council or board of trustees.

### File Applications by Wednesday, June 5

Municipal officials who wish to pursue nomination and election to the CML Executive Board are encouraged to file a written application with the CML Nominating Committee. The application must be received by the League by Wednesday, June 5, and must be accompanied by the required written endorsement from the official's city council or town board of trustees.

These materials should be mailed or delivered to the CML office at 1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203, or faxed to 303-860-8175. Sample application and endorsement letters are available by visiting the CML website, [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org), under About > CML Executive Board.

Under League bylaws, population figures for the June 2019 election will be based upon population estimates from the Department of Local Affairs. These are the same figures that were used in computing 2019 municipal dues for member municipalities. Questions may be directed to Kevin Bommer at [kbommer@cml.org](mailto:kbommer@cml.org), 303-831-6411, or 866-578-0936.

## FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS MARIJUANA GRAY AND BLACK MARKETS

THE GRAY AND BLACK MARKET Marijuana Enforcement Grant program (GBMJ) has been restructured. It is still dedicated for the purposes of providing financial assistance to local law enforcement and district attorneys through the local governments for investigation and prosecution costs associated with unlicensed marijuana cultivation or

distribution. However, financial assistance will now be provided on a population basis to all local governments who apply or opt in. In addition, rural areas as defined by statute will be weighted heavier to meet the statutory priority for these areas.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs has opened another application cycle;

applications are due **April 30**. Learn more about the GBMJ program at [bit.ly/2uNIPZo](http://bit.ly/2uNIPZo) or go directly to the grants portal at [dola.colorado.gov/grants\\_portal](http://dola.colorado.gov/grants_portal) to access the application. For more information, contact Tamra Norton at 303-864-7734 or [tamra.norton@state.co.us](mailto:tamra.norton@state.co.us).

## COLORADO RESILIENCY OFFICE SURVEY

THE COLORADO RESILIENCY OFFICE (CRO) in the Colorado Department of Local Affairs is developing programming and services to help communities throughout Colorado. To this end, the CRO is conducting a survey in partnership with the University of Colorado's School of Public Affairs to understand the needs of local governments across Colorado to develop a resiliency and community recovery program to support communities. Watch your inbox for the survey invitation and take a few minutes to share your thoughts with the CRO.

Additionally, to support communities in confronting their vulnerabilities, the CRO is offering action-oriented workshops. The Resilient Colorado Communities Workshops will consist of two phases, Introduction to Resilience (two hours) and Solutions Accelerator (one day). Communities will have the option to participate in one or both phases depending on their interests. Taking a systems-level approach to challenges, the workshops will target a diverse set of audiences across communities such as business owners,

government staff, elected officials, community groups, and local nonprofits. The CRO also offers a Resiliency Framework Planning Workshop to help communities develop the vision of a resilient community, prioritize shocks and stresses facing the community, and build the outline for the framework and action. For more information on these workshops, contact Kate Busse at [kate.busse@state.co.us](mailto:kate.busse@state.co.us).

## SUMMER MEALS OUTREACH

THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF Education (CDE) School Nutrition Unit has been busy evaluating the impact of the 2018 summer meals program and setting goals to reach more youth in 2019. The first 2019 goal is to increase access in underserved areas, specifically Prowers, Gilpin, and Eagle counties, by maximizing the types of meal services offered, such as adding breakfast, snack, or supper, and implementing innovative feeding models, such as mobile meals and nontraditional site locations.

The second goal for 2019 is to increase the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) participation through community outreach and promotion and sponsor training and support. An important part of connecting more youth to summer meals is raising awareness.

The CDE School Nutrition Unit needs your help to promote the SFSP to your networks and families. The SFSP Outreach Toolkit ([www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/sfspoutreachttools](http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/sfspoutreachttools)) includes resources and tools to help spread the word about summer meals programs in Colorado, including media and public relations tools and promotional materials and signage. The CDE School Nutrition Unit is also able to provide magnets for you to distribute to families. If interested, complete the form at [bit.ly/2Urdj1](http://bit.ly/2Urdj1).

For more details, visit [www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/summerfoodserviceprogram](http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/summerfoodserviceprogram) or contact Ashley Moen at [moen\\_a@cde.state.co.us](mailto:moen_a@cde.state.co.us) or 303-866-6653.



kidsfoodfinder.org



## ONE YEAR OUT FROM CENSUS 2020

THE 2020 CENSUS IS ONE YEAR AWAY, and the State of Colorado is working on efforts to ensure a complete and accurate count. This critical process ensures that Colorado receives fair representation in Congress and its fair share of federal funding. The data collected is then used by states for redistricting.

“The census is about so much more than a population count,” said Gov. Jared Polis. “It is also about making sure our state gets the resources it needs to support our communities and plan for the future. Funding from the census can go toward new roads, new schools, new emergency services and economic opportunities.”

There is approximately \$880 billion in federal funding allocated across the United States

based on census counts. In Colorado, this equates to approximately \$13 billion annually, or an estimated \$2,300 per person according to a study by George Washington University. Some of the programs funded by census dollars are Head Start; Section 8 housing; Tier 1 grants for educational agencies; and emergency food and shelter.

Colorado has formed a Complete Count Campaign that is focused on education, awareness, and motivation to participate in the first-ever online census. The census is available in 13 different languages and can be filled out online, via the paper form, or by phone. The new online format saves taxpayer dollars.

The census is safe and important. The answers are protected by law and are not

shared with anyone pursuant to federal law, to include any other federal agency. While it is the Census Bureau’s responsibility to count everyone in the country, it is local communities that will benefit the most by an accurate count.

“By obtaining an accurate count for Colorado, the critical investments through federal allocations will be possible in Colorado communities,” said Natriece Bryant, Colorado Department of Local Affairs deputy director and Colorado’s Complete Count Campaign chair.

Visit the Colorado Census 2020 website ([demography.dola.colorado.gov/census\\_2020](http://demography.dola.colorado.gov/census_2020)) to get additional information, fact sheets, and resources for communities and organizations to use.

## NEW COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE Colorado State University (CSU) System voted unanimously to hire Joyce E. McConnell to lead the system’s flagship institution into its 150th year, building on a decade that has seen record levels of enrollment, donor and alumni support, and research funding, along with the dramatic transformation of the campus, physically and in terms of state and national reputation.

McConnell will become the 15th president of Colorado State University, the state’s land-grant university. Currently serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs at West Virginia University (WVU), McConnell, who will assume the top position at CSU on July 1, said she is honored to be selected to

help lead what is an exceptional institution of higher education.

McConnell has served in her current roles as West Virginia University’s provost and chief academic officer since July 2014. In those positions, her charge has had broad scope: overseeing university budgets; building partnerships with political, governmental, business, and nonprofit leaders at the state, national, and international levels; and playing a lead role in fundraising. McConnell’s track record also includes tenure as dean of the College of Law at WVU, during which she spearheaded major fundraising and academic initiatives.

McConnell led efforts at WVU to improve gender equity and Title IX education and

compliance, engaged in higher education policy work with the university’s board and state leaders, focused on raising faculty salaries, promoted excellence in research and graduate education, and played a key role in promoting diversity and inclusion at all levels.

She will succeed CSU’s current president, Tony Frank, who begins serving exclusively as chancellor of the CSU system on July 1. Frank is in his 11th year as CSU president and will have served five years in the dual role of both president and chancellor.

CML Executive Board President and Fort Collins Mayor Wade Troxell served on the search committee. Mayor Troxell is also an engineering professor at CSU.

## CHFA HIRES SAN LUIS VALLEY AND SOUTHWEST COLORADO COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

COLORADO HOUSING AND FINANCE Authority (CHFA) has selected Jeff Owsley to serve as its San Luis Valley and southwest Colorado community relationship manager. In this role, Owsley engages with housing and economic development stakeholders, community members, customers, and local government in the region through outreach and capacity building, and by identifying opportunities to increase access to CHFA’s resources. His service area includes the counties of Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Rio Grande, Saguache, and San Juan.

“It is crucial that CHFA has a presence in various regions throughout the state, which each have their own unique needs. We are pleased to have Jeff, who brings much experience and knowledge of the region and will help its communities make impactful connections to strengthen community development,” said Steve Johnson, CHFA community development director.

Owsley’s past work in the San Luis Valley spans both the nonprofit and private sectors, and includes serving as director of the San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center and operations manager of La Puente Home Inc. in Alamosa.

As a fourth generation San Luis Valley native, Owsley has extensive community engagement experience with organizations throughout the region including Valley Initiative Partners, San Luis Valley Sector Partnerships, San Luis Valley Nonprofit Collaboration Summit, Rural Philanthropy Days, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors, Adams State University Alumni Association and Grizzly Club, Tu Casa Inc., San Luis Valley Economic Development Summit, City of Alamosa, and Alamosa Chamber of Commerce.

Owsley holds a bachelor of science from Adams State University.

# COURSE NOTEBOOK

## Fleet Electrification

This workshop, **April 16** in Denver, will provide extensive information, tools, and resources to realistically assess the possibility of electrifying an organization's fleet. Topics covered include questions to ask, calculating realistic usable range, seasonal variability, fleet transition planning, and more. For more information and to register, visit [bit.ly/2XhBQnA](http://bit.ly/2XhBQnA).

## Energy and Environment

The 7th Annual Energy & Environment Symposium, **April 17–18** in Rifle, helps local leaders navigate energy industry issues. Topics include mineral revenue projections, oil and gas development issues in the urban environment, emergency preparedness, air quality, economic impacts, and more. For more information, visit [conta.cc/2SjWJe7](http://conta.cc/2SjWJe7).

## Road Maintenance

The West Slope branch of American Public Works Association Colorado and the Colorado Association for Roadway Maintenance will present the 32nd Annual Spring Street Conference, **April 17–18** in Grand Junction. Visit [colorado.apwa.net/EventDetails/17485](http://colorado.apwa.net/EventDetails/17485) to learn more about fiber-reinforced asphalt, innovations in traffic control, pavement evaluation scoring, concrete pavement rehabilitation, sidewalk maintenance and ownership issues, welding safety, and more.

## Housing

Join Housing Colorado for a webinar on **April 24**, 10 a.m.–11 a.m., to hear an overview of the federal policy scene and how it relates to key affordable housing issues. Topics addressed will include committee assignments and key players in the 116th Congress; fiscal year 2020 appropriations and the need to lift the Budget Control Act's spending caps; government-sponsored enterprises reform and what it may mean for the affordable housing industry; and an overview of housing legislation introduced in the 116th Congress. For more information and to register, visit [bit.ly/2HXXGrF](http://bit.ly/2HXXGrF).

## Future of Water

The water future of the Arkansas River Basin depends on education, dialogue, and a deeper understanding of all sides of water issues. The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, **April 24–25** in Pueblo, has been at the forefront of this conversation for 25 years. To learn more and register, visit [www.arbwf.org](http://www.arbwf.org).

## Water Loss Initiative

There are only a few workshops left in the first stage of workshops of the Colorado Water Loss Initiative. Sessions will be

held in Montrose on **April 23**, Monte Vista on **April 24**, and Pueblo on **April 25**. Utilities staff responsible for supply metering, customer metering, billing, and management are invited to receive free training and technical assistance to learn how to determine next steps for water loss reduction and revenue recovery and to enhance ease and data reliability for reporting. Space is limited. Visit [www.coloradowaterloss.org](http://www.coloradowaterloss.org) to register.

## Liquor Licensing

The Colorado Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA) has two trainings related to liquor licensing lined up. "PDO: From Basic Liquor License Types to Backdoor Transfers," **April 26** in Wheat Ridge, looks at different types of liquor licenses and permits and the application process for each, including all necessary documentation to complete an application, while "PDO: Half-Day Liquor Training," **June 7**, in Bennett, covers the basics of licensing, as well as special event permits and modifications of premises. Visit the CMCA website ([cmcaclerks.com](http://cmcaclerks.com)) for more details.

## Records Management

Learn how to develop a records management program, including how to determine what a record is, how to conduct and create record inventories, how to develop a records management plan, and how to write a records management manual for staff. This program by the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association takes place **May 10** in Gunnison. To register, visit [bit.ly/2Un5d68](http://bit.ly/2Un5d68). Another opportunity to learn about records management takes place **June 7** in Bennett. For more information, visit [cmcaclerks.com](http://cmcaclerks.com).

## Crisis Communication

From floods to low snow years to wildfires, Colorado communities have experienced their share of crisis situations. With the busiest travel season nearly here, join the Colorado Tourism Office's public relations team, **May 13** in Denver, for a half-day crisis communications workshop for industry partners. Scholarships are available. Email [oedit\\_cto\\_pr@state.co.us](mailto:oedit_cto_pr@state.co.us) by April 15 to register to attend and include any dietary or budget considerations.

## Snow Conference

The American Public Works Association will host more than 2,000 snow fighters and other public works officials to share the latest and greatest from the world of winter maintenance in Salt Lake City, **May 19–22**. For details, visit [snow.apwa.net](http://snow.apwa.net).

## Elections

"PDO: Beyond Election Basics" is geared toward clerks with some election administration experience. This class,

**May 17** in Loveland, will delve more completely into FCPA; petitions, including initiative, referendum, and recall; protest hearings; and working with Titles 31 and 1. To register, visit [bit.ly/2OoRucM](http://bit.ly/2OoRucM).

## Housing Tour

Join Housing Colorado on **May 22** in Denver for its spring project tour. Boulevard One Residences is a joint venture between Volunteers of America and the Denver Housing Authority. The site has 71 affordable housing units with built-in services provided by Volunteers of America. Boulevard One Residences provides 100 percent of the housing units to households at or below 50 percent area median income and includes 20 special needs units. Sign up today at [bit.ly/2G8i4Eq](http://bit.ly/2G8i4Eq).

## Women in Government

Join Women in Government at its 2019 National Legislative Conference in Chicago, **June 13–15**. The event brings together women state legislators and policy experts to engage across a variety of top issues and network. Visit [www.womeningovernment.org/attend/upcoming-events](http://www.womeningovernment.org/attend/upcoming-events) for more information.

## Watershed Summit

More than 200 water utility executives, business leaders, conservation experts, and other professionals will come together to share tested solutions at the Watershed Summit on **June 27** in Denver. Gain new insights and ideas to help position your organization for success. The event seeks to add new voices to the discussion, introduce innovative ideas, and break down silos. The goal is to bring local influence to global freshwater issues. To learn more and register, visit [bit.ly/2Fzmrbrx](http://bit.ly/2Fzmrbrx).

## Natural Hazards

Since 1975, the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder has hosted the Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Colorado. This year, the workshop, **July 14–18** in Broomfield, will be organized around the theme of Convergence, which refers to the process of people joining forces to respond to pressing challenges and enduring problems. More than 500 federal, state, and local mitigation and emergency management officials; representatives of nonprofit, private sector, and humanitarian organizations; hazards and disaster researchers; and others dedicated to alleviating the impacts of disasters will attend. Register at [hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2019](http://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2019).

## STOFFEL TO LEAVE CML



TRACI STOFFEL, CML communications and design specialist, recently tendered her resignation, which was regrettably accepted by CML Executive Director Kevin Bommer. Stoffel will, however,

stay within the municipal fold with her new position as Main Street specialist with the Colorado Main Street Program within the

Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Her last day at CML will be April 26.

Stoffel began work with the League in April 2006. During her tenure, she both brought focus to existing print publications, establishing an editorial board for *Colorado Municipalities* magazine, and took on new forms of communications, handling CML's social media, podcasts, and videos.

Says Stoffel: "I truly appreciate all of the opportunities CML has given me serve the state's cities and towns and to grow in my career, and am excited to continue working with and supporting municipal officials across the state."

"Traci has been an invaluable part of the staff, and she will be greatly missed. But she is going to be terrific in her new role, and we are excited to have her heading down the street to DOLA," stated Bommer.

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISTENING TOUR

EACH SPRING, CML HITS THE ROAD TO visit our members around the state. This year, Kevin Bommer, executive director as of April 1, will travel solo around the state for the CML Spring Outreach Meetings.

As always, the CML Spring Outreach Meetings are free and provide the opportunity to network with colleagues from neighboring communities and talk about implications of the legislative session.

Additionally, Bommer would like to hear from CML members about their interaction with CML,

what they would like to see more or less of, and the CML of the future they envision.

Locations and RSVP information are available on the CML website at [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org), under Events. Each meeting will last one and a half hours (with the exception of the May 9 District 1 CML Spring Outreach Meeting in Julesburg, which will include a social hour and dinner, as well as a cost of \$25 to attend). Elected officials will receive 1.5 MUNiversity credits for attending a CML Spring Outreach Meeting, as well as for the business meeting in Julesburg.

## CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO Laurel Witt for celebrating her CML work anniversary in April.



**Laurel Witt**  
CML staff attorney  
1 year

## RESEARCH CORNER: NEW SURVEY DEMONSTRATES POWER OF AUTO-ENROLLMENT IN RETIREMENT PLANS

By Melissa Mata, CML municipal research analyst

THE CENTER FOR STATE AND LOCAL Government Excellence (SLGE) and ICMA-RC recently released "Nudging Deferral Rates within Public Sector Supplemental Retirement Plans," which reports on findings from a national survey of 400 state and local government employees.

Inspiration for this survey came from a 2018 report, also conducted by SLGE, in conjunction with North Carolina State University, that found that employee participation rates in supplemental retirement plans (SRP) jumped from fewer than 3 percent of new hires to more than 90 percent when agencies implemented automatic enrollment into plans for new hires.

At the same time that participation dramatically increased, however, the average contribution amount decreased. SLGE conducted a follow-up survey to better

understand the impact of the default auto-enrollment rate on the average contribution.

Key findings from the recent survey include:

- If automatically enrolled into an SRP, 77 percent of respondents would choose to stay in the plan.
- Of employees who would stay in an auto-enrolled plan, those given the 1-percent default increased their contribution to an average of 5.4 percent. Those given the 4-percent default increased their contribution to a 6.6-percent rate, and those with a 7-percent default increased their contribution to 7.6 percent.
- One-quarter of respondents view the default deferral rate as the recommended rate by the employer. The breakdown ranges from 14 percent who hold this view among the 1-percent default rate to 38 percent of those who were given the 7-percent default.

- Almost half (47 percent) of respondents approve of auto-enrollment in an SRP.
- Employees who approve of auto-enrollment say it encourages saving. Respondents who disapprove believe that participation should be up to the employee, rather than the employer.
- Overall, state and local government employees are generally satisfied with their employer, with 78 percent reporting they would like to stay with their current employer (including 20 percent saying they would never leave). In addition, 58 percent of respondents believe their wages are competitive, and 74 percent believe their benefits are.

The survey also explores topics such as retirement education, debt, and savings goals beyond retirement. To view the full report, visit [bit.ly/2TVdxdS](http://bit.ly/2TVdxdS).



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# NEWSLETTER

