



## Colorado Municipal League releases fall municipal election preview

On **Nov. 5**, electors in nearly 80 cities and towns across Colorado will have their say on a combined total of more than 100 municipal tax issues and other questions, in addition to the many decisions they will make regarding state, county, and district concerns. Voters in two-thirds of these municipalities will also vote on their elected officials.

Ballot questions being considered by voters include:

### Tax and bond issues

Sales tax questions on the ballot include:

- Center – for the general fund;
- Monte Vista and Westcliffe – for capital projects;
- Alamosa and Fountain – for roads;
- Mead – for roads, includes request for \$21 million in debt authority;
- Loveland – one question to fund community improvement projects, and one question to fund a community recreation center;
- Longmont – for a new recreation center with pool and ice rink, includes request for \$45.5 million in debt authority;
- Fort Lupton and Manitou Springs – for culture, recreation, and the arts; and
- Frederick and Montrose – to fund public safety.

Tobacco tax questions will be on the ballot in Crested Butte, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, and Vail, while Boulder is requesting a tax on tobacco vaping products.

Several municipalities are requesting sales tax extensions for a variety of uses, including:

- Boulder – for open space;
- Colorado Springs, Longmont, and Rocky Ford – for transportation improvements;
- Fort Lupton – for recreation facilities and park improvements;
- Nucla – for the provision of medical services; and
- Trinidad – for capital projects.

Property tax questions on the ballot include:

- New Castle – a mill levy extension for public safety and parks;
- Steamboat Springs – an increase for emergency services; and
- Rockvale – an increase for public safety needs.

Rico is requesting a property tax increase, along with \$3 million in debt authority, to finance a wastewater treatment plant. Rico is also asking if the town should be included in the San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), which would entail adding both the property tax and the sales tax associated with inclusion in the authority.

In addition, Basalt is asking its voters to set the mill levy at a rate that matches its most recent amount levied.

Mountain View is seeking a tax on short-term rentals. Mt. Crested Butte and Telluride, whose question includes authorization for up to \$9.9 million in debt, are asking for a short-term rental tax as well, in order to fund affordable housing programs.

Other tax requests include:

- Black Hawk – an increase to the device tax;
- Fort Lupton – lodging tax; and
- Parker – an excise tax on new residential development.

Debt authority is being requested by:

- Boulder – \$10 million for a middle-income housing program;
- Grand Junction – \$70 million for transportation improvements;
- Sterling – \$37 million for wastewater system capital improvements; and
- Telluride – \$7.4 million for wastewater treatment plant capital improvements.

### Revenue retention

Colorado Springs is requesting permission to retain excess revenue from the 2018 fiscal

year for parks and recreation improvements. Aspen is asking to retain all revenues from their 2017 tobacco tax, provided the funds continue to be spent on voter-approved purposes, and Louisville is asking to retain all revenues from their 2016 sales and use tax increase, to use for operating and maintenance expenses at their recreation center. Manitou Springs is requesting permission to retain the excess revenue remaining in a fund for downtown public improvements, and expend it on prior-approved purposes.

Historically, municipalities have passed a majority of the TABOR-related questions that have been asked, with a 61% approval rate of tax questions, 69% approval rate for debt questions, and 86% approval rate for revenue retention questions since voter approval was first required in 1993.

### Sports betting

As stipulated by House Bill 19-1327, Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek each have a question on their ballot requesting authorization of sports betting, provided that sports betting is also concurrently authorized at the statewide election.

### Governance

Eagle voters will decide whether to form a home rule charter commission, as well as the commissioners that would serve if the voters approve the commission.

Nucla is asking to reduce the number of trustees from six to four. Iiff voters will consider eliminating term limits for their elected officials, and Parker voters have the option to implement a lifetime limit of four terms. Mountain View has a question that would implement a three-term limit on the mayor.

*Continued on page 2*

## In memory

**John E. Arnold**, 79, Topeka, Kansas, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 4. Arnold was a former CML lobbyist and municipal research analyst. He also served as Fort Collins city manager from 1977 to 1985.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on **Nov. 9** at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd., Topeka, KS 66614, with visitation half an hour prior.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Lincoln Center, sent in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

## Defense Counsel First Appearance Grant Program

The Defense Counsel First Appearance Grant Program is now accepting applications for funding. This program launched with the purpose of reimbursing, in whole or in part, costs associated with the provision of defense counsel to defendants at their first appearance in municipal courts. All Colorado municipal courts are encouraged to apply. For information, please contact Shawn Marandi at 303-864-8479 or [shawn.marandi@state.co.us](mailto:shawn.marandi@state.co.us).



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## Newsletter

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

## "... fall municipal election preview" continued from page 1

Voters in Brighton will decide whether to recall the mayor.

### Broadband

Municipalities seeking approval to provide broadband service or partner with the private sector to provide that service include Edgewater, Greenwood Village, Lakewood, Mead, Parker, and Rico.

### Marijuana

Mead voters will decide whether to allow medical marijuana businesses and retail marijuana establishments, while Center and Loveland's questions include allowing cultivation, manufacturing, and testing in addition to sales.

Craig has split the decision about retail marijuana into two questions: the first would allow retail sales, and the second would allow cultivation, manufacturing, testing, and storage.

Alamosa has an initiative on the ballot that would ban outdoor growing of personal marijuana.

Louisville is asking voters to permit retail marijuana cultivation facilities within the city's industrial zones, as long as voters also approve a retail marijuana cultivation facility excise tax in a separate question.

Craig, Las Animas, and Loveland are also considering marijuana taxes.

### Publication requirements

To save money on publication costs, Cripple Creek, Rockvale, and Williamsburg are requesting authorization to no longer publish the bills list or contracts awarded, with Cripple Creek also seeking permission to publish ordinances by title rather than in full.

### Election changes

Holyoke is asking their voters to move their regular town elections to November of even-numbered years, while Craig is requesting a move to November of odd-numbered years.

Lafayette has two possible election changes on the ballot, with the first to adjust initiative and referendum procedures, and the other making changes to the city recall process, as well as a question about the process to fill vacancies on city council.

### Charter amendments

Denver, Northglenn, and Parker are asking their voters to eliminate, clarify, or otherwise update various provisions of their home rule charter.

Other possible Denver charter amendments include creating a Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, making changes to fire department personnel, and adding residency requirements for elected officials.

Trinidad voters will decide whether to amend their charter to include the municipal landfill as an enterprise.

### Other issues

Other issues to be decided include:

- Delta — grant a natural gas franchise to Black Hills Energy.
- Glendale — eliminate surety bond requirements for elected officials, and a second question to expand the radius within which the city manager must live.
- Grand Junction — allow for leases in business park for up to 99 years.
- Lakewood — authorization to contract with waste haulers.
- Longmont — allow for leases of city property for up to 30 years.
- Meeker — continuation of fluoridation of water.
- Mountain View — amend the process for increasing compensation of the mayor.
- Wheat Ridge — referendum on a rezoning ordinance.

CML wishes to thank the city and town clerks who assisted CML staff in compiling this election data.

## Recognition

Several municipal leaders will be leaving office with the conclusion of their current term. Among the longest tenured are Lamar Mayor **Roger Stagner**, with 18 years of municipal service, and Aurora Mayor **Bob LeGare** and Greenwood Village Mayor **Ron Rakowsky**, each with 16 years of municipal service.

Other long-serving municipal leaders include Arvada Councilmember **Mark McGoff**, Centennial Councilmember **Ron Weidmann**, Cripple Creek Mayor **Bruce Brown**, Littleton Mayor **Debbie Brinkman** and Councilmember **Peggy Cole**, and Louisville Mayor **Bob Muckle**.

Public service at the municipal level is the highest calling, and CML has been honored to know many of these individuals. We recognize and appreciate their work for their communities and their support of CML.

## CML Oil and Gas Newsletter now available



Looking for the latest oil and gas information of interest to municipalities? Look no further than CML's new *Oil and Gas Newsletter*. This newsletter contains updates from the Air Quality Control Commission, updates from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), and the opportunity to ask questions of the COGCC director.

To subscribe to the *Oil and Gas Newsletter*, or other electronic CML publications, visit [www.cml.org/home/publications-news/cml-newsletter](http://www.cml.org/home/publications-news/cml-newsletter) and enter your information into the periodicals subscription request.

### What's happening at the COGCC?

On Sept. 23, the COGCC published a *Rulemaking Process Guidebook*. The purpose of this guidebook is to provide the public information on the rulemaking process including the requirements to provide notice of an upcoming rulemaking hearing, information regarding the effects of a proposed rule, the

opportunity to participate as a party to the rulemaking proceeding, and the opportunity to provide comments on proposed rules. You can find the guidebook at [cogcc.state.co.us/documents/reg/Hearings/Rulemaking\\_Process\\_Guidebook\\_20190923.pdf](http://cogcc.state.co.us/documents/reg/Hearings/Rulemaking_Process_Guidebook_20190923.pdf)

Additionally, the COGCC has recently rolled out a portal in which members of the public can submit specific comments related to current rulemaking topics (topics open now include: alternative location analysis, cumulative impacts, flowline, and mission change). All comments are reviewed and published on the COGCC website. To submit comments or view comments received, visit [cogcc.state.co.us/sb19181.html#/public\\_comments](http://cogcc.state.co.us/sb19181.html#/public_comments).

### Important dates to know

- Mission Change Stakeholder Meeting: **Oct. 29**, 10 a.m.–noon, in the Wasatch Room at the COGCC (1120 Lincoln St., Denver 80203)
- Flowline Rulemaking: **Nov. 20**

### Ask the COGCC director!

Have you submitted your questions yet? Don't miss out on the opportunity to ask Director Jeff Robbins your questions about the COGCC, rulemaking, or implementation of SB19-181. Please submit your questions to Brandy DeLange ([bdelange@cml.org](mailto:bdelange@cml.org)). Director Robbins will answer your questions in the following newsletter.

## Intentional Leader Program offered by Employers Council

The Employers Council (formerly Mountain States Employers Council) is offering a comprehensive leadership training program in Denver in 2020. The Intentional Leader Program (ILP) is a yearlong intensive program composed of four mastery modules: strategic mastery, results mastery, self-mastery, and interpersonal mastery.

The program includes executive coaching and other elements designed to maximize leadership potential in existing and future leaders. The benefits are not only for the individual. The investment is also realized through more effective leadership that benefits the leader's team, as well as the entire organization.

Kevin Bommer, CML executive director, was a participant in the 2016 Intentional Leadership

Program during his time as deputy director. "It dramatically changed my perspective at a critical time prior to my transition from deputy director to executive director of CML," said Bommer. "I learned as much about myself as I did from others, and all of the skills have already been practically applied or shaped my awareness of the organization."

More information and the application packet are available at [www.employerscouncil.org/intentional-leader](http://www.employerscouncil.org/intentional-leader). There is a discount on the cost of the program if applications are received by **Dec. 13**.

An upcoming preview webinar, **Oct. 30**, noon–1 p.m., will describe more about the program. Questions should be directed to [ilp@employerscouncil.org](mailto:ilp@employerscouncil.org) or 800-884-1328.

## Applicants sought for upcoming Colorado Aeronautical Board vacancies



Do you have a passion for aviation, airports, and public service? If so, then serving as a member of the Colorado Aeronautical Board may be just the opportunity for you. This seven-member board is appointed by the governor and oversees the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics. The mission of the board and division is to support the state's multimodal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient, and effective statewide air and space system through collaboration with stakeholders, investment in education, innovative programs, and advocacy of responsible policy and legislation.

Two positions will be open in December, both representing local governmental entities that operate public use airports — one position from the western slope and one from the eastern plains (as roughly delineated by the Continental Divide). While candidates do not necessarily have to be an elected official, appointed board member, or employee of a local government, those who are not will need to submit a letter of recommendation from that local government supporting the candidate's representation.

Interested in learning more or applying? Contact Aeronautics Division Director David Ulane at 303-512-5254 or [david.ulane@state.co.us](mailto:david.ulane@state.co.us).

More information about the Colorado Aeronautical Board and the Division of Aeronautics may be found at [www.colorado-aeronautics.org](http://www.colorado-aeronautics.org).

## Research corner: NLC launches fiscal year 2020 budget tracker

The National League of Cities (NLC) has published their Fiscal Year 2020 budget tracker, your one stop as a local official to stay up-to-date on the fiscal year (FY) 2020 federal budget and appropriations process. To track specific FY 2020 spending bills as they are introduced and to easily search for your bill priorities by searching through the drop-down menus, which are organized by federal agency, visit [www.nlc.org/fiscal-year-2020-federal-budget-tracker-state-of-play-for-cities](http://www.nlc.org/fiscal-year-2020-federal-budget-tracker-state-of-play-for-cities).

## Low-interest water project loans are here

By Matt Stearns, Colorado Water Conservation Board project development engineer

Interest rates continue to surprise, dropping to the lowest rates in the history of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Water Project Loan Program. If you have a water supply project that has been planned for years, but thought you could not afford it, maybe now is the time to act. With interest rates for the program starting as low as 2% for municipal borrowers, this is the best time to finance new construction or rehabilitation of your raw water infrastructure.

Current interest rates can also bring big projects within reach. For municipal projects, the annual payment on a \$1 million, 30-year loan at current rates could be less than \$45,000 for low-income borrowers. Even for the highest income municipalities, the same project could be less than \$48,000 a year. And if that is not good enough, there are interest rate reductions for 10- or 20-year loans that could reduce the interest rate by as much as 0.65%!

For more information, visit [cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-project-loan-program/Pages/main.aspx](http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-project-loan-program/Pages/main.aspx) or call Matt Stearns at 303-866-3441 ext. 3257 to discuss your needs.

## Course notebook

### Sustainable tourism

The Global Sustainable Tourism Council Sustainable Tourism Training Program, **Oct. 28–29**, in Vail, offers participants the opportunity to learn about global trends in sustainable tourism and sustainability best practices. The intensive and interactive learning experience is a valuable training opportunity for professionals in tourism, hospitality, destination management and marketing, and sustainability. For more details, visit [walkingmountains.org/stp](http://walkingmountains.org/stp).

### Bicycle and pedestrian facilities

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is offering free design classes for bicycle facilities (**Oct. 28** in Pueblo and **Oct. 31** in Denver) and pedestrian facilities (**Oct. 29** in Pueblo and **Nov. 1** in Denver). Participants will learn how to apply new and existing standards for creating bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Information will be provided through hands-on exercises, on-street experiences, presentations, and discussions. For more information and to register, visit [bit.ly/3323bvT](http://bit.ly/3323bvT).

### Community development

Downtown Colorado, Inc., American Planning Association of Colorado, and the City of Lakewood are proud to bring Chuck Marohn, founder and president of Strong Towns, to Lakewood on **Oct. 30** to kick off the Strong America Tour! Strong Towns is a national organization dedicated to community development. For more information and to register, visit [bit.ly/31KNZTH](http://bit.ly/31KNZTH).

### Demography

This one-day conference on **Nov. 1** offers attendees the opportunity to learn about the most current population and economic conditions and forecasts for the state and its regions. Plenary sessions will cover not only the data and information but also implications for planning, policy, business, and public services. Sessions will also cover the latest status of Census 2020. For more information and to register, visit [demography.dola.colorado.gov/demography/demography-summit-2019](http://demography.dola.colorado.gov/demography/demography-summit-2019).

### Grant writing

The Grand Junction Police Department and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Grand Junction, **Nov. 12–13**. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend

this class and you will learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals. Beginner and experienced grant writers from city, county, and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K–12, colleges, and universities are encouraged to attend. Area nonprofit agencies and community partners receive a special tuition rate of \$425, which includes two days of instruction, a workbook, and access to an alumni forum that is full of tools, helpful discussions, and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Use discount code "CONPO" to receive this \$30 discount off full price at registration. For more information and to register, visit [bit.ly/2MrCD1T](http://bit.ly/2MrCD1T).

### Community planning for economic recovery

The Colorado Resiliency Office, in partnership with the National Center for Disaster Preparedness, is holding a free FEMA Community Planning for Economic Recovery training in Salida on **Nov. 14**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the SteamPlant Event Center. The Community Planning for Economic Recovery course will guide decision-makers to incorporate community planning for economic resilience and recovery from natural disasters. The curriculum includes practical tools to develop stronger partnerships between the public and private sectors, evaluate community hazard assessments through the lens of economic recovery, provide resources for public and private sector partners to use in a post-disaster environment, and offer planning templates for articulating these actions at the community level. For more information and to register, visit [ncdpcourses.crlctraining.org](http://ncdpcourses.crlctraining.org).

### CML Mayors' Summit

CML is hosting its annual Colorado Mayors' Summit on **Nov. 15**, in Denver, which brings mayors from across the state together to learn from and network with each other. For more information and to register, visit [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org).

### NLC City Summit

The National League of Cities (NLC) City Summit, **Nov. 20–23**, in San Antonio, is where local leaders convene and collaborate on solutions to the common challenges facing America's cities and towns. The conference offers tangible and new best practices for government officials to improve their conditions back home. For more information and to register, visit [citysummit.nlc.org](http://citysummit.nlc.org).

## CML wraps up 2019 district meetings

The CML team wrapped up district meetings on Oct. 3, after traveling more than 3,000 miles across the state. We enjoyed talking to officials from municipalities in every district and learning more about the projects you are undertaking as you shared your successes

and challenges with each other. The amount of work taking place in municipalities of all sizes is impressive!

We especially want to thank our host municipalities Brighton, Woodland Park,

Westcliffe/Silver Cliff, Parachute, Snowmass Village, Fleming, Rocky Ford, San Luis, Cortez, Montrose, Cheyenne Wells, Windsor, and Pueblo for their outstanding hospitality.



Parachute

Snowmass Village



Fleming

San Luis



Cortez

Montrose



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# Newsletter

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