



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 15, July 31, 2020

Governor and legislators announce members of RTD accountability committee

Gov. Jared Polis, Sen. Faith Winter, chair of the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee and former Westminster Councilmember Rep. Matt Gray, chair of the House Transportation & Local Government Committee, recently announced appointments to the Regional Transportation District (RTD) Accountability Committee. The committee was created and announced by Gov. Polis, legislators, and RTD after it was approved by RTD.

In addition to gubernatorial and legislative appointments representing expertise in transportation equity, urban planning, economic development, financial planning, human resources, multi-modal transportation, and issues facing transit riders with disabilities, three CML members have been appointed as representatives of local governments served by RTD. They are:

- Jackie Millet, Lone Tree mayor
- Julie Mullica, Northglenn councilmember
- Crystal Murillo, Aurora councilmember

The 11-member accountability committee will review and recommend changes to the transit agency's operations and planning by next year.

New round of funding for water infrastructure projects made available to states

The EPA recently announced the 2020 notice of funding availability under its Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, including new funding for the new State Infrastructure Financing Authority (SWIFIA) program.

Established by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, the WIFIA program is a federal loan and guarantee program at EPA that aims to accelerate investment in the nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. WIFIA financing can be used to support projects including drinking water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment and conveyance, enhanced energy

efficiency projects at water and wastewater facilities, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, water recycling projects, or drought prevention, reduction or mitigation projects.

This year's funding will mark the fourth round of WIFIA funding and will provide up to \$6 billion to support water infrastructure projects. EPA will prioritize construction-ready projects in three critical areas: projects that update aging infrastructure, reduce exposure to lead and address emerging contaminants, and water reuse and recycling projects. Of note to potential applicants, EPA will evaluate submitted projects using additional criteria (<https://bit.ly/33bJTb5>) that were developed to help clarify project and federal budgetary considerations. EPA will accept

letters of interest from prospective WIFIA borrowers for 90 days after publication in the Federal Register. EPA is also, for the first time, providing funds under the State Infrastructure Financing Authority (SWIFIA) program. SWIFIA, which was authorized by Congress as part of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, offers low-interest loans to state water infrastructure programs (i.e., the State Revolving Funds) that then help finance needed water infrastructure projects in local communities. This round of funding will provide SWIFIA borrowers up to \$1 billion to support \$2 billion in water infrastructure projects. To submit a letter of interest for WIFIA funding please visit the EPA website bit.ly/301ieHM.

2020 Census: Nonresponse followup

As part of its Nonresponse Followup Operation (NRFU), the U.S. Census Bureau is visiting every household that has not already responded to the 2020 Census to ensure a complete and accurate count.

Census takers are scheduled to visit the nonresponding household between Aug. 11 and Oct. 31, 2020 to ask a few questions and

will enter the answers on their secure Census Bureau smart phone. If a family member is not home when the census taker visits, they will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online or by phone. As necessary, they will make additional visits to collect responses from the household. Census takers will follow social distancing protocols

and all applicable state and local requirements with regard to health and safety.

Until Oct. 31, 2020, households can continue to respond online or by phone.

The NRFU operation was originally scheduled for May 13 through July 31, 2020, but has been adjusted in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CML Fall District Meetings

Join the CML staff for the annual Fall District Meetings. These meetings are a great chance to learn more about CML's legislative agenda and connect with other municipalities within your district. All meetings begin at 4 p.m., followed by a social hour and dinner before concluding around 7:30 p.m. Visit bit.ly/2BqknmJ for more information and to register!

Sept. 9 - District 4 - Victor

Sept. 15 - District 5 - Limon

Sept. 16 - District 6 - La Junta

Sept. 17 - District 7 & 14 - Trinidad

Sept. 17 - District 13 - Rockvale

Sept. 22 - District 8 - La Jara

Sept. 23 - District 1 - Akron

Sept. 23 - District 10 - Gunnison

Sept. 24 - District 9 - Mancos

Sept. 29 - District 2 - Kersey

Sept. 29 - District 12 - Aspen

Sept. 30 - District 11 - Rangely

Sept. 30 - District 3 - Remote

Unless otherwise noted, CML is planning to hold these events in person, with appropriate social distancing measures. If an in-person event is not possible, we will make the decision with our partners in a timely manner and update the CML website and any attendees who have registered.



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

GOCO's Resilient Communities Program



In response to the unprecedented disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has launched a \$15 million Resilient Communities Program (RCP) to help fund one-time, immediate needs or opportunities that have emerged in direct response to the pandemic, which include: capacity and operations support, stewardship, community vitality, and urgent and emergent land acquisitions. For more information, including eligibility criteria and application forms, please visit bit.ly/3f1nf7j.

2020 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments

CML Releases 2020 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments

Each year, CML analyzes the laws passed by the General Assembly that affect cities and towns. *2020 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments* focuses on selected acts that have a particular significance for municipal operations, services, and powers.

It is not a comprehensive listing of all new legislation enacted into law affecting municipal government. *2020 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipalities* is available to all for free – along with several past editions – online at bit.ly/3f7aRTn.

For information or assistance on any legislative questions, contact the listed CML lobbyist at 303-831-6411 or 866-578-0936 or via email.

SEH promotes Paul Wells to regional leader



Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®) recently named Paul Wells as regional leader and vice president in Colorado and Wyoming.

Wells, formerly the west region leader for the transportation and structural engineering practices, took on the new role in July 2020.

"Paul's proven leadership, staff engagement, and growth mentality will serve SEH well in his new role" says SEH CEO and President Dave Ott.

Paul has been with SEH for seven years when he first joined the company as regional leader of the highway design practice. Since that time, he has taken on additional responsibilities, including serving as the regional leader for the traffic engineering, transportation planning and structural engineering practices. Paul currently serves on the SEH Board of Directors, where he was elected in October 2019 to a two-year term. Paul replaces outgoing regional leader, John Simmer, who retired.

Paul began in the engineering industry in 1995, after graduating from Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

Advancing front range communities up the "Zero Waste Ladder"

The FRWD Board is now accepting applications for projects that advance community-based diversion programs. To promote community-based waste diversion, the board recognizes how important it is to meet each community where they are, and help them move up the rungs of the "Zero Waste Ladder."

The Front Range Waste Diversion Program and Enterprise Fund was approved by the

Colorado State Legislature in 2019, and collects funds from an increase in user fees at front range landfills to provide grants and technical assistance to front range communities to increase recycling, composting, and waste reduction.

Download the RFA document for complete information. To get started, create a new application for RFA #31245 or log in to your

Blackbaud account to access a previously started application.

Applications are due no later than 3 pm on Monday, Aug. 10, 2020. For more information, please contact Front Range Waste Diversion Program Manager, Haley Gabbard – haley.gabbard@state.co.us.

Business is back!

Northglenn small business grant to alleviate COVID-19 impacts

Northglenn City Council voted to allocate \$500,000 to support small businesses moving into the recovery stages of re-opening. CARES Act funding allocated to Northglenn by Adams County made the grant program possible.

The Business is Back (BIB) Recovery Grant will assist businesses with costs incurred to maintain the health and safety of employees

and customers under local governmental guidelines and regulations due to COVID-19.

Qualifying businesses can apply for up to \$5,000 of reimbursable expenses they have incurred after March 15, 2020 for purchases of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), equipment/operating supplies, and workspace and other physical space modifications needed to operate because of COVID-19.

The program opens at 8 a.m., Friday, July 17. The application, grant details, and qualifications are online bit.ly/2WYVoP9

"Northglenn provided almost \$500,000 to 130 businesses in rent/mortgage assistance grants, and it was obvious there was more need," said Northglenn Director of Economic Development Debbie Tuttle. "Trying to keep a small business afloat during a pandemic is challenging, and offering assistance with unanticipated expenses will help during this recovery phase."

Grants will be awarded generally on a first-come, first-served basis based on the submittal date and funding availability. The grant closes on Sept. 30, 2020.

Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission proposes increased mill levy

The Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC)'s revenue is generated through a mill levy on producers, which is calculated based upon the amount of oil and gas produced in Colorado and the price at which the commodity is sold. COGCC is projecting a decrease in revenue due to the reduction in oil and gas commodity prices, likely resulting in a reduction in production. In response to the projected decline, the COGCC has requested an increase in the mill levy rate, in addition to steps to reduce spending. On July 23, 2020, based on updated price and

production projections for Fiscal year 2020-21, COGCC staff proposed that the commission increase the Conservation Levy to 1.5 mills. The proposed levy rate will not increase revenue, but will instead offset the impact of the decrease in price and production to maintain stable revenue for COGCC operations. The COGCC will consider the mill levy increase at the commission hearing on Aug. 4 at 9 a.m. For virtual meeting information and instructions on how to make a comment, please visit the COGCC website at bit.ly/3g5xKYK.

State Demography Office launches new COVID-19 data tools

The State Demography Office (SDO) created the COVID-19 Map Series (bit.ly/303Zpnl) to help local governments and others understand the current and potential impacts from COVID-19. Currently, there are tabs showing cases, outbreaks, social vulnerabilities, counties by

concentration of job loss, unemployment, traffic counts, locations of hospitals and group quarters, and large employers. The SDO will be adding more information monthly. Take a look and provide feedback to todd.bleess@state.co.us.

Join us for CML's first
Virtual 
Conference!
Aug. 25-27, 2020

This conference will have plenty of opportunities for interaction with your fellow municipalities, a virtual exhibit hall, and 22 valuable sessions including a legislative update, cybersecurity, and race and equity discussions to affordable housing, economic sustainability, and law enforcement integrity, designed to help your municipality adjust to the new normal.

Sessions run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Fees for the Virtual Conference are:

Municipal Members	Associate Members	Non-Members
\$99	\$129	\$199

Register at cml.org/virtualconference

In memory



Legendary city manager passes away

George Di Ciero, Broomfield's city and county manager for 43 years, passed away recently after a battle

with cancer. He is remembered among his colleagues and peers as a manager that cared deeply about his community and the residents that lived in it. His dedication to the profession of city management has long served as an example to anyone in the field.

Sam Mamet, who retired as CML executive director in 2019, after 40 years with CML,

said, "George was a great personal friend and wonderful supporter of the League. His positive imprint on Broomfield will stand the test of time."

Although his accomplishments are numerous, Di Ciero may be most remembered for his leadership in planning for the creation and implementation of the City and County of Broomfield. In 1998, he and other Broomfield leaders devised the plan and convinced two-thirds of the General Assembly to refer a state constitutional amendment to the ballot to establish Broomfield as a city and county. At the time, the territorial boundaries of the City of Broomfield straddled four different counties, and the goal was to give Broomfield

much better control of its own destiny under a unified structure. When the question passed in November 1998, Broomfield became the first and only other unified city and county government to be created since the 1902 creation of the City and County of Denver. In the three years leading up to officially becoming a city and county, Di Ciero guided Broomfield through the establishment of all the services the city would need to also function as a county. "He seemed larger than life when I first started at CML in 1999," said Kevin Bommer, CML executive director. "His legacy not only lives on in Broomfield, but also in all those he has influenced and continues to influence. All of us at CML extend our condolences to his family and friends."



Remembering Boulder City Attorney Joe de Raisme

On July 10, Joe de Raismes passed away after a remarkable lifetime

of public service, including his tenure as Boulder City Attorney from 1979 to 2003.

As city attorneys go, Joe was the ultimate embodiment of the credo: "Think globally, act locally." Whether it was pride in his French heritage, his tendency to break into Russian song at holiday parties, his European flair for fashion, or his leadership in changing the

name of the National Institute of Law Officers to the International Municipal Lawyers Association, Joe presented himself as a citizen of the world.

It is no surprise that after Joe retired from Boulder, he served in a national role as General Counsel for Mental Health America.

Joe's contributions as Boulder City Attorney were legion, but he would confide that helping the city to assemble and preserve Boulder's incredible system of green belts and open spaces was among his proudest accomplishments.

And Joe was a huge influence and a true leader among municipal attorneys in

Colorado, particularly during the early days of TABOR implementation in the 90s. Former CML Executive Director Sam Mamet recalled the decision to pick a chair for CML's TABOR implementation task force: "Ken Bueche said to me that it had to be Joe because he was the smartest guy in the room. We both worked with Joe over those formative years of understanding TABOR, and he truly was the best of the best." Indeed, Joe personally coined the term "de-Brucing" in those days.

Mamet added, "He was a pleasure to work with, learn from, and he had a wicked sense of humor. All whose lives were touched by Joe are better for it. May his memory be a blessing for us all."

DOLA/CGFOA Budget, Audit and Demography 101 Webinars

Budget and demography session description:

This webinar is designed for those new to local government budgeting in Colorado. It will cover local government budget law requirements and the budget adoption process. The webinar will also include the basics of revenue limits (TABOR and "5.5%" limits) and how the Gallagher Amendment impacts local governments that levy property tax.

This webinar will also provide details on demographic and economic trends that are occurring in the U.S. and Colorado. It will detail the changes in population and employment currently occurring in Colorado's counties and municipalities as well as covering forecasts in population and employment for the next 25

years. This webinar will also cover topics such as the aging of Colorado's population, growing diversity in the labor force and the implications these changes could have on public finance and local government budgets.

Audit session description:

This webinar is designed for those new to local government in Colorado. It will cover local government audit law requirements and things to keep in mind when selecting an auditor. The webinar will also cover the basics of an audit, including key responsibilities of the auditor and local government management, what the final auditor's report really says, and what the Office of the State Auditor does with your audit once it is completed.

Each session will be offered twice, split into budget and demography in one set of sessions, and audit on its own for two sessions. The sessions will repeat content, so no need to attend sessions twice.

Sign up is through this link: bit.ly/3hzsOLU. Sessions are \$25 for CGFOA members and \$40 for CGFOA non-members.

Aug. 11, 9 a.m.–noon **Budget 101 and Demographic Update**

Aug. 18, 9 a.m.–noon **Audit 101**

Aug. 25, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. **Budget 101 and Demographic Update**

Sept. 1, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. **Audit 101**

Research corner: COVID-19 Fiscal Impact Survey

A new survey of Colorado municipalities drives home the crucial importance of federal stabilization assistance in ensuring that municipalities can avoid layoffs, deliver services, and maintain infrastructure. Municipalities are bracing themselves for continued financial losses, including those for whom summer months typically see the most tourism, and those whose winter ski seasons could be entirely canceled should another wave occur in winter 2020/2021. Also concerning is the future of local economies as the recession continues; the increased federal aid to individuals who have lost their jobs ends; and restaurants, bars, or other businesses permanently close.

Almost **80% of respondents**



are anticipating a general fund shortfall

The average anticipated general fund reduction reported was

17%

with the actual dollar amount ranging from **thousands of dollars to hundreds of millions of dollars.**

Of those who offered estimates of a general fund decrease—



Reported a decrease in sales/use tax revenue in **March**, as compared to **2019**



Reported a decrease in **April**



Reported a decrease in **May**

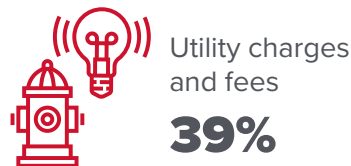
Approximately

10%

reported that their **sales tax revenue dropped by more than a third each month between March and May.**

The municipalities that saw no decline or even an increase in sales tax give credit to taxes brought in by essential businesses such as **grocery stores, wholesale club stores, and hardware stores**, as well as the **sales tax now being collected from online sales that municipalities could not collect previously.**

Other revenue source that have seen a decrease include:



Other taxes 34%

The survey was conducted between June 30 and July 8, and 99 municipalities responded (37% response rate).



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Featured in this issue:

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