



Coronavirus information



Gov. Jared Polis addressing the first case of COVID-19 in Colorado on March 5. Courtesy of Aaron Ontiveroz, The Denver Post.

As more cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are identified throughout the United States, municipal leaders and residents are increasingly asking how to prepare.

In Colorado, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is the main official source to guide our efforts, are not necessarily the only source.

Resources include:

- For the CDPHE website, visit bit.ly/2Iz28M5.
- For National League of Cities resources for local officials, visit bit.ly/39DoUy8.
- For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, visit bit.ly/32WMseW.

The National League of Cities also recently published a CitiesSpeak blog about what local leaders need to know to manage COVID-19 in

their communities. For more information, visit bit.ly/32ZVZ4U.

Illness prevention at work

Please follow the CDC's guidelines for preventing the spread of disease. Wash your hands often, cover your cough, or sneeze with a tissue, avoid contact with people who are sick, and stay home when you are sick. For more tips, visit bit.ly/2TsCn6m.

More information

The Colorado Municipal League (CML) will continue to distribute information as it becomes available. Municipalities are also encouraged to continue to monitor the websites listed in this article and stay in contact with their local public health agencies. For your local public health agency's contact information, visit bit.ly/39sXPNQ.

Spring municipal election preview

On April 7, voters in more than 100 cities and towns across Colorado will elect their city and town councils and boards of trustees. More than 40 of those municipalities will also have tax issues or other questions on the ballot.

Ballot questions being considered by voters include:

Tax and bond issues

Sales tax questions on the ballot include:

- Burlington – for capital improvements;
- Center – for downtown revitalization, capital improvements and public safety;
- Creede – for capital improvements;
- Crestone – for water and sewer operational expenses;
- Evans – for streets;
- Johnstown – for streets and transportation-related projects;
- Limon – for capital improvements;
- Platteville – for economic development;

- Silver Cliff – for streets and alleyways;
- Westcliffe – for capital improvements; and
- Wiley – for general operating expenses.

Firestone is asking to expand the purposes for which a sales tax was approved in 2017, to include construction, operation and maintenance of town facilities beyond the police, and municipal court facility.

Tobacco tax questions will be considered in Carbondale, Eagle, and Red Cliff.

Pitkin has two separate property tax questions on the ballot: the first to fund streets and ditch improvements, and the second to go toward their town hall.

Lodging taxes will be on the ballot in Fruita, Mead, and Yuma.

Nederland voters will consider a tax on short-term rentals. Revenue would be used for health and human services and

law enforcement.

Creede is requesting \$1 million in debt authority, and Hugo is requesting \$3.6 million in debt authority, for improvements to their respective wastewater treatment facilities.

Revenue retention

Akron is requesting permission to waive the statutory 5.5% property tax limitation and Berthoud is requesting permission to retain excess revenue collected by the parks and recreation sales tax that was approved by voters in November 2018.

Historically, municipalities have passed a majority of the TABOR-related questions that have been asked, with a 61% approval rate for tax questions, 70% approval rate for debt questions, and 86% approval rate for revenue retention questions since voter approval was first required in 1993.

Continued on page 6

Congratulations

CML congratulates Mark Vanderbrook, who is celebrating his work anniversary in March.



Mark Vanderbrook
Database Specialist
1 year

Save the date

Colorado Municipal League Annual Conference

The 98th CML Annual Conference is **June 23–26** in Westminster. Visit cml.org/conference for more information or to register.

Spring Outreach meetings

CML's annual Spring Outreach meetings will take place in mid-to-late May. These meetings are opportunities for attendees to learn about CML's legislative priorities and other issues. Stay tuned for more information.

Steamboat Springs Citizens' Academy provides look inside local law agency



Steamboat Springs Police Department. Photo credit: Steamboat Springs

Steamboat Springs is offering residents the opportunity to get to know the people who serve their community and understand the professional complexities of being a Steamboat Springs police officer during the 4th Annual Citizens' Academy.

"Our community is stronger together and this program provides unique insights into the department, modern policing and public safety," said Chief Cory Christensen. "With a strong reputation from past participants, the academy has established itself as a key community leadership program, and I urge

community members to take part in this civic educational program."

Designed to enhance the community's knowledge about local law enforcement along with their duties and responsibilities, the 2020 Citizens' Academy runs for seven weeks and brings around a dozen community members together for two hours every Wednesday evening from April 29 through June 10. Held at the Combined Law Enforcement Facility, all classes are instructed by police personnel and there is no cost to the student.

CML trainings for municipal officials

Introduction to Municipal Government workshops

Join Kevin Bommer, CML executive director, and Tami Tanoue, Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) executive director, for an introduction to municipal government. These three-hour workshops will provide newly elected or newly hired municipal officials with the basics to help them get started in their new roles. Introduction to Municipal Government trainings are free to attend and lunch is provided. Here are more details:

- Lamar on **April 20** from noon to 3 p.m. at the Cultural Event Center.
- Brush on **April 21** from 9 a.m. to noon at the Course at Petters Park.

- Montrose on **May 1** from noon to 3 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion and Event Center.
- Glenwood Springs on **May 11** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Glenwood Springs City Hall in Council Chambers on the first floor.

For more information, visit bit.ly/39sOhCM.

Effective Governance workshop

Newly elected municipal officials are invited to attend this full-day workshop in Denver on **May 20**. Topics include ethics and liability, open meetings, staff/council relations, parliamentary procedures, budgeting, and working with the media. More information coming soon.



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Newsletter

CML Newsletter (ISSN 7439903) is published biweekly by the Colorado Municipal League, 1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203-2207, for Colorado's municipal officials. (USPS 075-590) Periodical postage paid in Denver, Colorado.

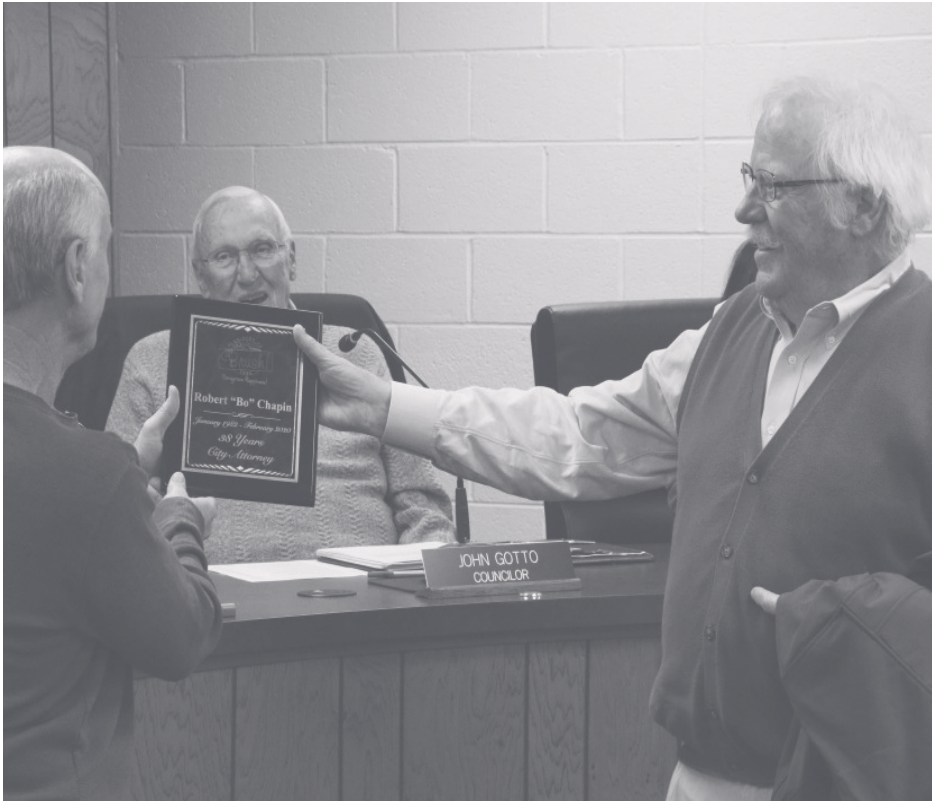
Designer and editor: Courtney Forehand
Circulation/mailling lists: Mark Vanderbrook

POSTMASTER: Send address change form 3579 to Colorado Municipal League, 1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203-2207; (p) 303-831-6411 / 866-578-0936; (f) 303-860-8175.

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

Get this newsletter by email. The CML Newsletter is available by email three days before it arrives in the mail! Sign up at bit.ly/CMLNewsletter.

Congratulations



Retiring Brush City Attorney Bo Chapin receives a commemorative plaque from Brush Mayor Rick Bain as Councilmember John Gotto looks on. Photo courtesy of Jack Harvel and the Fort Morgan Times.

CML congratulates **Bo Chapin** on his retirement as the Brush city attorney after 38 years.

Chapin said of his retirement; "I entered this position at the organizational meeting in Jan. 1982, and during that long time I have seen this vibrant city change immensely, to include the redirection of its economy away from a sole reliance on the agricultural sector with the permitting of the private prison in the Industrial Park, the cogen plant and greenhouse to the south of town, and

now a return to agriculture with the city's development of the Agripark. It has been a great run for Brush that I am proud to have been a part of."

"Other veteran municipal attorneys in Colorado always looked up to Bo Chapin," said CML General Counsel David Broadwell. "I considered Bo to be one of the leaders in our profession. His long tenure in service to the City of Brush may set a record that no one else will ever match."

CML scrapbook



Kevin Bommer, CML executive director, and Liz Hensley, CML president and Alamosa councilmember, presented Kathleen Harrison, CML meetings and events coordinator, with a plaque at the Feb. 21 CML Executive Board meeting to thank her for 22 years of service. Harrison's last day is March 31.



Loveland Mayor Jacki Marsh was a recent guest speaker for Habitat for Humanity of Colorado's legislative lunch at the History Colorado Center.

Could your city attorney use a hand?

CML has joined with the University of Colorado Law School (*Colorado Law*) to identify law students who are interested in interning with our member municipalities. This is the ideal time to advertise summer internship opportunities at the law school. Creating a job posting is easy and can be done at bit.ly/3aJDELQ.

Colorado Law does not place minimum requirements on the rate of pay, the scope of work, or the length of the internship. Students

can work up to 20 hours per week during the semester, and can work part-time or full-time during the summer. There is no minimum time period for which a student must be employed — many employers hire students on a project or as-needed basis. Employers determine the rate of pay for interns, and governmental and nonprofit entities can specify an unpaid internship, but the current average is between \$15 and \$25 per hour. Students that intern in rural areas may be eligible for a

Colorado Opportunities scholarship available through the law school, so don't let your proximity to Boulder keep you from seeking out an intern.

If you have questions about the internship program, or would like to discuss other programs at *Colorado Law*, contact Marci Fulton, assistant dean for employer relations, by email at marci.fulton@colorado.edu or by phone at 303-492-7015.

Course notebook

2020 RAQC Communities Annual Conference

To address critical air quality issues facing Denver Metropolitan area residents in 2020, the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) will convene community stakeholders to discuss



ways to combat air pollution — specifically ground-level ozone. The RAQC's Simple Steps. Better Air. program team will hold its annual conference at the Colorado Municipal League on **April 9** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to utilize RAQC programs and hear the organization's current planning to support emissions reduction efforts. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sara Goodwin, communications director, at sgoodwin@raqc.org.

History Colorado historic preservation workshops

History Colorado is offering the following historic preservation workshops through the Rocky Mountain Center for Preservation: Historic Window Replacement: **March 14** in Pueblo, **April 4** in Platteville, and **May 16** in

Montrose. Oral History for Small Museums is **June 11–12** in Leadville. The Basics of Living History Interpretation is **July 16–17** in Leadville. Only the two window workshops are currently open for registration. For more information about the Pueblo workshop, visit bit.ly/2vMuKyl. For more information about the Platteville workshop, visit bit.ly/2Trfu34.

Meeting for Certified Local Governments

History Colorado is offering a regional meeting for Certified Local Governments on **March 19** in Manitou Springs. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/39vmBNA.

Denver Right-of-Way Asset Mapping Exchange

Cities and towns across the country continue to face challenges managing their infrastructure while utilizing it to become a "Smart City." At this event, experts in digital mapping, broadband planning, and life-cycle asset management will discuss tools, tips, and case studies relevant for municipal professionals. Attendance at the Denver Right-of-Way Asset Mapping Exchange on **March 17** at the Arvada Convention Center is free of charge for government and public sector personnel. CML members can use the

code "CML50" to take \$50 off the nonpublic sector registration fee. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/2T2oKcF.

Western Slope Financing Mechanism Tour

CML and Downtown Colorado Inc. are pleased to announce their first annual Western Slope Financing Mechanism Tour on **March 19–20**. We will visit projects and partners in Grand Junction, with representatives from Montrose and Durango, to encourage an interactive experience to showcase what these tools can do, how they work with others, and what the plan is for the future. For more information, visit bit.ly/3awLk3X.

Colorado Capital Conference

Sens. Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, along with Colorado Mesa University, the University of Colorado, and Colorado State University, invite you to join them in Washington, D.C., to interact with our nation's leaders and gain an enhanced understanding of the federal legislative process. One hundred Colorado residents will be selected to attend this unique, bipartisan conference in our nation's capital through a competitive selection process. Registration closes on **March 20**. For more information, visit bit.ly/3bpPts3.

Funding and technical assistance

Conservation service corps

Conservation service corps in Colorado are currently scheduling projects. Corps execute a broad portfolio of projects including downtown revitalization, trail construction and maintenance, invasive species mitigation, and much more. For more information, visit bit.ly/3aEMI4V.

USDA Reconnect Pilot Program

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reconnect Pilot Program offers funding for rural broadband, with applications due **March 16**. For more information, visit bit.ly/38sOwwb.

USDA Rural Development grant

USDA Rural Development offers a grant to establish and operate Agricultural Innovation Centers that will provide technical assistance to help rural businesses market value-added agricultural products. Apply by **March 20**. For more information, visit bit.ly/2v43cnY.

Community Resource Center

The Community Resource Center is offering a workshop about finding funding on the web. The webinar is on **March 24**. For more information, visit bit.ly/39fo8Xu.

Northwest Colorado Workforce

Join Northwest Colorado Workforce Centers on **April 2** in Silverthorne for a community conversation on attracting and retaining a workforce in Colorado's mountain and resort communities. For more information, visit bit.ly/2vMvKT7.

SOCO Tourism Summit

The SOCO Tourism Summit will travel to Cañon City, Florence, and Westcliffe **April 8–10** to hear what others are doing to attract visitors to their destinations and find opportunities to collaborate. For more information, visit bit.ly/2SplarC.

IN THE GAME annual conference

Registration is open for Downtown Colorado Inc.'s 2020 IN THE GAME annual conference. The conference is a three-day interactive educational experience happening **April 14–17** in Colorado Springs. The conference will focus on harnessing national,

state, and local resources to expand the way downtown champions think and provide real problem-solving opportunities. The conference will feature nationally-recognized keynotes and Colorado-based speakers, geared toward inspiring participants to action. For more information, visit bit.ly/2T4PYiS or contact Stephanie Owens by phone at 303-282-0625 or email at communications@downtowncoloradoinc.org.

Colorado Byways 2020 Symposium

Colorado Byways 2020 Symposium takes place **May 6–7** in Ouray. For more information, visit bit.ly/2H3aZVI.

Regional Economic Development Forum

Register for the Regional Economic Development Forum nearest you! The Economic Development Council of Colorado is hosting events in Silverthorne (**May 7**) and Pueblo (**June 27**). For more information, visit bit.ly/2ujdAba.

Business Continuity Planning Workshop

The Business Continuity Planning Workshop takes place on **May 13** in Basalt, and is a free event for small business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders for practical insight into building a comprehensive and reliable business continuity plan. Discuss strategies for building resilience to shock events like fires and floods and long-term stresses. For more information, visit bit.ly/2xiu8B9.

Creative Industries Summit

Save the dates of **May 14–15** for the Creative Industries Summit taking place in Steamboat Springs. For more information, visit bit.ly/388M0kl.

Northeast 2020 Rural Philanthropy Days

Northeast 2020 Rural Philanthropy Days, **June 9–11** in Limon and Hugo, is bringing increased access to resources to support sustainable rural nonprofits, increase engagement funders in rural communities, and encourage effective collaboration on a regional scale. For more information, visit bit.ly/2S6a0dq.

The NextFifty Initiative

The NextFifty Initiative is a one-time funding opportunity for Colorado nonprofit organizations and government entities that include education and outreach to adults over 50 years of age. The maximum grant award per organization is \$25,000. The deadline to apply is **March 20**. For more information, visit bit.ly/32Xt9Cf.

AARP's Community Challenge grants

The next round of AARP's Community Challenge grants are a great way to spark quick-action change in communities — not only to enhance public spaces, but on transportation, housing, and other issues as well. Applications are due **April 1**. For more information, visit bit.ly/2PQxjGI.

Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program

USDA is offering grants through the Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program. These grants help rural communities with limited resources and staff access USDA funding for essential community facilities. Applications are due **April 30**. For more information, visit bit.ly/2PU0qZt.

"... spring election preview" continued from page 1

Governance

Eagle voters will decide whether to adopt the home rule charter drafted by its home rule charter commission and Severance voters will consider an advisory question concerning whether the town should initiate the process to become a home rule municipality.

Ault and Pitkin are asking to reduce the number of trustees from six to four.

Montezuma voters will consider eliminating term limits for elected officials.

Recalls are on the ballot in Elizabeth, Ordway, and Wiggins.

Broadband

Municipalities seeking approval to provide broadband service or partner with the private sector to provide that service include Frederick, Johnstown, and Monument.

Marijuana

Retail and medical marijuana businesses are on the ballot in:

- Dolores — stores and dispensaries, cultivation, manufacturing, and testing;
- Kremmling — stores and dispensaries;
- Norwood — stores and dispensaries, manufacturing, and testing;
- Pierce — stores and dispensaries, cultivation, manufacturing and testing;
- Platteville — stores and dispensaries, cultivation and manufacturing; and
- Severance — stores and dispensaries, manufacturing ,and testing.

Recognition

Several municipal leaders will be leaving office with the conclusion of their current term. Among the longest tenured are Winter Park Councilmember and former Mayor Jim Myers, with 34 years of municipal service, and Basalt Mayor Jacque Whitsitt and Cheyenne Wells Mayor Monte Baker, each with 20 years of service.

Marijuana taxes are also being considered in each of the above municipalities except Pierce.

Sedgwick is asking to clarify its 2016 marijuana excise tax ordinance's language, without any change in the tax rate. In separate questions, Sedgwick voters will also consider a retail sales tax to replace the existing occupation tax and an occupation tax on wholesale transactions.

Publication requirements

To save money on publication costs, Lyons and Palisade are requesting authorization to no longer publish the bills list or contracts awarded, while Lyons and Keenesburg are seeking permission to publish ordinances by title rather than in full.

Delta is requesting a charter amendment to publish city documents on the city's website rather than in a newspaper.

Election changes

Keenesburg and Mead are asking their voters to move their regular town elections to November of even-numbered years.

Burlington voters have the option to update the nominating petition period in their election code to align with state statutes.

Charter amendments

Delta, Gypsum, Johnstown, and Woodland Park are asking their voters to eliminate, clarify, or otherwise update various provisions of their home rule charter.

Other long-serving municipal leaders include Campo Mayor Linda Holbert, Cedaredge Mayor Eugene Welch, Columbine Valley Trustee and former Mayor Gale Christy, Frederick Mayor Tony Carey, Frisco Mayor Gary Wilkinson, Green Mountain Falls Mayor Pro Tem and former Mayor Tyler Stevens, Haxtun Mayor Todd Workman, Kersey Trustee and former Mayor Bob Kellerhuis,

Other possible Woodland Park charter amendments include providing a stipend for city councilmembers; setting term limits for board, committee, and commission members; and editing the charter to include gender-neutral language.

Delta is also asking voters to amend contract and debt provisions within the charter, while Glendale voters will decide whether to adjust the city manager residency requirements.

Other issues

Other issues to be decided include:

- Dolores — permitting the operation of off-highway vehicles on designated public streets;
- Estes Park — sale of public property;
- Gypsum — contribution of public funds to Eagle Valley Land Trust's Save the Lake Campaign;
- Lyons — two questions concerning the provision of waste hauling services;
- Montrose — granting a non-exclusive franchise to Black Hills Energy for natural gas distribution; and
- Rangely — whether to continue the fluoridation of the town's water.

In May, Pueblo will hold a special election in which voters will decide whether to municipalize the local electric utility.

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

Limon Mayor Julie Coonts, Olney Springs Trustee Carl McClure, Rockvale Trustee Larry Kibel, and Stratton Mayor Richard Mann.

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.

Sam Mamet Good Governance Award

In 2019, CML announced the creation of the Sam Mamet Good Governance Award in honor of retired CML Executive Director Sam Mamet.

"Sam was a tireless advocate for municipalities in his 40 years with CML, the last 14 as executive director," said Liz Hensley, CML Executive Board president and Alamosa councilmember. "He was dedicated to ensuring that the government closest to the people, and its elected officials and staff, demonstrated principles of good governance."

The award will be presented annually to one to three individuals who exemplify and seek to expand the application of principles of good governance, which may include:

- Efficiency and effectiveness of government
- Responsiveness to need
- Openness and transparency
- Respect for the rule of law
- Accountability to self and others
- Inclusivity

- Ethical behavior and conduct
- Innovation
- Representation of all constituencies
- Fiscal accountability

The award will be presented at the Thursday Luncheon during the CML Annual Conference in June. Recipients will be given a complimentary registration to the following year's annual conference and be invited to assist in presentation of the award to their successor or successors. A plaque containing the names of all recipients and the year of the award will be maintained at CML.

Any municipal elected official, staff member, or other individual in public service who exemplifies principles of good governance is eligible to receive the award. Eligible individuals may be presented for consideration through the completion and submission of a nomination via CML's website (bit.ly/MametAward). CML Executive Board members and the CML executive director,

with approval from the CML Executive Board president, may also add nominees for consideration.

Final selection of the recipients will be made by the CML Executive Board at its regular April meeting prior to the 98th CML Annual Conference, and recipients will be notified and provided with a per diem reimbursement for expenses and one night of lodging the night before the award is given, if not already registered to attend the conference.

The online nomination form is available at bit.ly/MametAward, and the deadline for submissions is **March 31**. If someone in your community is deserving of consideration, please make sure to submit a nomination.

For questions, please contact CML Engagement and Communications Manager Sarah Werner at swerner@cml.org.

New Master of Public Administration cohort starting at Adams State University

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Adams State University is now accepting applications for a new cohort of students that will begin in May 2020.

The MPA at Adams State is a fully online degree that blends skills-based academic coursework with real-world practical experiences. Since it is online, there is no need to come to Alamosa at any time. This relatively new program was specifically designed to meet the needs of working professionals with busy lives. Each student is required to complete nine courses (27 hours total) and five practicums (nine hours total) to finish the program. Generally, that takes about two years to complete — so those entering in May 2020 will graduate in May 2022. Each semester, students enroll in two courses and a practicum experience that applies the material from the courses to a public or nonprofit setting. Of course, students are welcome to take one course at a time if they prefer, but it will take

much longer to earn the degree on that path. There is no thesis requirement; instead, everyone is required to complete a capstone practicum project.

While the program is designed for people who are working full-time, it is also open to students who are just at the beginning of their careers, as well as to those who are looking to move into the public/nonprofit sector. Many of the students in the program have been out of school for several years and most of them have never taken an online class, but Adams State works hard to provide orientation training and support, and more than 90% of the students who have started the program have either graduated or are still working toward their degrees.

It is also the most affordable MPA program in Colorado. Tuition is \$400 per credit hour, making the total cost of the degree \$14,400. There are no additional fees beyond the base

price. In addition, each student who begins this summer will be offered a \$1,200 scholarship, which will cover the cost of the first course in the program. This will allow new students to try out the program and see if it meets their needs.

The application process is very straightforward. There is no GRE requirement. All you need to do is submit your online application, a résumé, a brief statement of purpose, copies of your official undergraduate transcript, and two letters of recommendation. Applications should be completed by mid-April for new admits to have time to complete their orientation and be ready to start with the cohort in summer semester. Classes begin on **May 11**.

To find out more about the program, or to get answers to your questions, contact Michael Mumper, Ph.D., at mmumper@adams.edu or at 719-588-9137.



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

USPS 075-590

Periodical postage
PAID
at Denver, Colorado

1144 Sherman St. • Denver, CO • 80203-2207

Featured in this issue:

- Coronavirus information
- Spring municipal election preview
- Course notebook
- New Master of Public Administration cohort starting at Adams State University
- Sam Mamet Good Governance Award

Newsletter

COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE



Vol. 46, No. 6, March 13, 2020