



NEWSLETTER

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Better together

CML board accepting applications for large population vacancies

By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director

Letters of application are being accepted through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, to fill two position on the Colorado Municipal League Executive Board. There are two vacancies in the large category.

Elected or appointed municipal officials in municipalities with a population between 50,000 and 250,000 who wish to be considered for appointment by the CML Executive Board should follow the instructions below. Under CML bylaws, population figures are based upon population estimates from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) used in computing 2024 municipal dues. These numbers may be different from the most recent estimates, due to the timing of receipt from DOLA of populations for dues calculations.

Executive board members must be elected or appointed officials of member cities and towns. Any official who desires to be considered for the position must:

- Submit an application for nomination no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.

- Include an endorsement in writing from the applicant's city council or board of trustees by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024. (A city council or board of trustees may endorse the nomination of only one official from the city or town for appointment.)

- Hold Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in order to attend the CML Executive Board meeting. The board meeting will be hybrid, but new appointees should attend in person, if possible.

A sample application and a sample endorsement letter may be found on CML's website, <http://tinyurl.com/yc8ak8kn>. The endorsement need not be a formal resolution. A letter signed by the mayor affirming the support of the council or board will suffice.

Municipal officials meeting the above qualifications will be interviewed remotely by the CML Executive Officers, who will make a recommendation to the full board for approval prior to the Jan. 26 board meeting. Successful applicants will be notified in time to attend the meeting. All application materials or any questions about the process should be emailed to CML Executive Director Kevin Bommer at kbommer@cml.org.

Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado

EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO



COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE **NEWSLETTER**

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IN MEMORIAM

Cathy Noon, former mayor of Centennial

Cathy Noon, a visionary leader who served as the City of Centennial's second mayor, passed away on Dec. 11 after bravely facing pancreatic cancer for five and a half years. Mayor Noon, a driving force behind Centennial's emergence, became an influential figure in the community well before the city's official incorporation in 2001.

Her legacy is marked by a myriad of remarkable achievements. Instrumental in Centennial's formation, she collaborated closely with residents, rallying support for incorporation. Serving as the chair of the Centennial Home Rule Charter Commission, she led a 21-member group in crafting the city's charter, empowering Centennial to address local legislative matters. In 2009, she assumed the role of Centennial's second mayor, dedicating eight years to the community. In 2019, the Denver Regional Council of Governments bestowed upon Mayor Noon its highest honor, the John V. Christensen Award, recognizing her outstanding leadership and



commitment to regional collaboration.

Mayor Noon's tenure witnessed transformative initiatives throughout the city, all of which

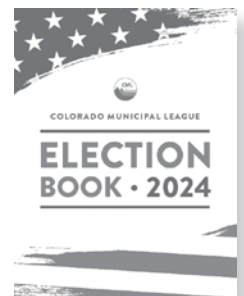
played crucial roles in shaping the city's identity.

"Mayor Noon was a force, and exactly the leader Centennial needed when she was mayor," said Kevin Bommer, CML executive director. "The legacy she leaves in Centennial and the region will last many generations, and I'm proud to have known and worked with her."

"Mayor Cathy Noon was a friend, a mentor and a dedicated public servant," says Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko. "She worked tirelessly for the betterment of Centennial. Leading our city was a source of pride for her and her family. Her impact is remarkable, and our memories will be cherished."

CML PUBLICATION

CML is pleased to announce the publication of a new edition of our *Election Book*. The 2024 *Election Book* is an essential guide to running municipal elections. It is designed to assist municipal clerks in managing elections in towns and cities, both statutory and home rule. Thoroughly updated for 2024, CML's *Election Book* will answer your questions about regular and special elections, the Fair Campaign Practices Act, signature verification, process for referendum and recall elections, and much more. The *Election Book*, in print and e-book editions, will be available soon in the CML Bookstore, <https://tinyurl.com/2yzf8vf3>.



CELEBRATE WITH CML

CML wants to hear about your community's success. Tell us about a grant you've won, a new water tank, or anything else you're excited about. Email CML Publication & Design Specialist Alex Miller, amiller@cml.org, or complete the form at <https://tinyurl.com/4dm3n82w>.

THE FACES OF PUBLIC SERVICE



Throughout December, CML will profile various elected officials in cities and towns across the state concluding long terms of public service. Many of these officials have served municipal office for years, others for decades.



PHIL RICO, TRINIDAD MAYOR

City of Trinidad mayor, 2015-2023

Q: What does serving municipal office mean to you?

A: As I reflect on my eight years as the Mayor of Trinidad, I am proud and honored to have served local constituents. I met several people in the past eight years from the local level to the state level to the federal level who have shown a sincere interest in Trinidad and the progress we have made. I have been fortunate to have worked with a progressive council, outstanding city managers, a dedicated staff, and volunteers that work together for the betterment of our city. My time as mayor has been one of the best experiences of my life. As a lifelong resident of the area, I am proud to have been part of this progression.

Q: What is one thought you would like to leave with those currently serving or soon to take municipal office?

A: My advice for the next mayor and council is to always remember you were elected to serve and listen to your constituents. Sometimes, difficult decisions must be made, and those decisions are essential. Stay positive at all times, work through the problems, and work together as a unit.

JERRY VALDES, LITTLETON COUNCILMEMBER

City of Littleton councilmember, 2011-2023

Q: What does serving municipal office mean to you?

A: I have served with the City of Littleton for about 26 years. Twelve years on the planning commission, one year on the appeals board, one year on the housing authority board, and 12 years on city council. I am now term limited on city council.

Being active in the community I live in has been very rewarding. I've made friends with people that I otherwise never would have known. And I've gotten more out of life by being involved with the City of Littleton than if I just sat back and watched things take place around me.

I've watched the work of city staff, experiencing firsthand how much they want to make things better – now and in the future. Despite this, city staff often receives far more harsh criticism from a handful of individuals than praise.

My incredible wife, Mary Pat, will now have me home for dinner on Tuesday nights. I'm not sure if she's ready for that.



CML thanks members for 100 years of growth and collaboration

This month, we're wrapping up our 100th Anniversary Series with a story about our members.

The Colorado Municipal League was established to advocate for municipalities at the state level, gather and share resources and information of municipal interest, and facilitate collaboration among Colorado's many cities and towns. A common thread ties each of these goals together — a belief in Colorado's

municipal governments. As a member-driven organization, every decision we make, publication we create, and legislative battle we pursue is at the direction of our members.

The League will continue to look to its members to steer the ship and drive innovation. As we close this anniversary publication, we would like to extend our gratitude to our members for 100 years of collaboration and growth. We would not

be what we are without our 270 members; and more importantly, our great state and our communities would not be what they are without each and every one of you. To our members, thank you for your continued support and commitment to good governance. We are grateful for our first 100 years and cannot wait to celebrate 100 more with you.

The story is available on the CML website, <http://tinyurl.com/bd8a8k4n>.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS

CITIES & TOWNS RECEIVE STRONG COMMUNITIES GRANTS

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs, in partnership with the Colorado Energy Office and Colorado Department of Transportation, has awarded \$1,476,700 in planning grants across 10 jurisdictions as part of the Strong Communities Grant Program. There are two programs within the Strong Communities Grant Program: planning grants and infrastructure grants. The Strong Communities Program incentivizes the adoption of practices, programs, and policies that support sustainable development patterns and locating affordable housing in infill locations near jobs, transit.

Municipalities who were awarded grants include the City of Gunnison, Town of

Hudson, City of Aspen, City of Rifle, City of Colorado Springs, and Town of Crested Butte.

ROUND TWO OF GRANT PROGRAM OPENS IN JANUARY

A Notice of Funding Availability for round two of the Strong Communities Grant Program will open in mid-January. This round will fund the adoption of land use best practices to support affordable housing and can also support the adoption of new and upgraded planning and zoning codes, housing needs assessments, water planning and conservation efforts, wildfire planning and mitigation policies, and short-term rental policies.

Please direct inquiries regarding initial program interest to your DOLA regional manager, <https://tinyurl.com/2n4tm2sb>.

RULEMAKING

TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY

The Governor's Office of Information Technology will hold a public hearing on Jan. 23 to consider the creation of permanent rule 8 CCR 1501-11, Technology Accessibility Rules. This public hearing will commence at 1 p.m. online, and interested parties may register and attend through Zoom. All interested persons are urged to attend this public hearing and to submit written comments to the office for consideration concerning the proposed rule creation.

The office is preparing to promulgate rules as authorized by §24-37.5-106(4), C.R.S. and §24-85-103, C.R.S., necessary to establish the accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities for information technology systems. The reason for the rules is to improve the accessibility and usability of government information technology products and services in Colorado.

More information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/49d69ahu>.

WEBINARS

THE INS AND OUTS OF DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

Learn the ins and outs of digital accessibility from Aten Design Group's in-house accessibility expert on Jan. 9. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/bdsu2kyb>.

COLORADO BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Colorado Energy Office is hosting a public webinar to discuss the state's new building performance standard requirements that went into effect in October. The webinar will take place Jan. 10. Registration is available at <https://tinyurl.com/5n8c78t2>.

2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Learn what to expect during this session of the Colorado General Assembly in this Jan. 19 webinar with the CML advocacy team. Get the latest news on potential legislation and ask questions about issues that could affect your city or town. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/j4pv4zz3>.

CML MUNICIPAL ELECTION SERIES

CML is hosting a series of webinars on conducting municipal elections. The series will cover many aspects of elections, including petitions, signature verification, recounts, and canvassing. The webinars are intended for clerks whose municipalities will be having elections in spring 2024, but all CML members are welcome to participate. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdzy7xtf>.

RESEARCH CORNER

CML APPRECIATION TOUR

2023 WAS THE YEAR OF THE COOKIE

Colorado Municipal League celebrated 100 years of operation this year by conducting a statewide Appreciation Tour. The League logged thousands of driving miles and hundreds of hours of staff time delivering cookies and words of appreciation to every member municipality scattered across the state. CML staff enjoyed meeting municipal employees in person and exploring lesser-traveled parts of Colorado. The Appreciation Tour is a testament to CML's dedication to the cities and towns that make Colorado unique.

MUNICIPALITIES VISITED



269

FIRST MUNICIPALITY TO RECEIVE COOKIES

Lakeside

Jan. 18, 2023

DOLLARS SPENT ON COOKIES

\$5,000

LAST MUNICIPALITY TO RECEIVE COOKIES

Boulder

Dec. 21, 2023

UNIQUE TRIPS



55

HOURS OF ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS



90

COOKIES BAKED BY KNEAD THE BAKERY

3,228

NIGHTS ON THE ROAD



25

MILES DRIVEN

12,750

HOURS DRIVEN



635

WRONG TURNS

Countless

PARTICIPATING STAFF, CURRENT AND FORMER

16



Infographic includes rough data estimates based off mileage reports, bakery receipts, and other sources

Data visualization by Rachel Woolworth, CML municipal research analyst, and Alex Miller, CML publication and design specialist

CML LEGAL CORNER



Amenities for all genders required in public buildings

By Rachel Bender, CML associate counsel

During the 2023 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 23-1057. This bill imposes new requirements on all levels of government in Colorado regarding non-gendered restrooms, diaper changing stations, and restroom signage. While some of the bill's requirements do not go into effect until later in 2024 or 2025, requirements for non-gendered restrooms and diaper changing stations for parts of buildings that are accessible to the general public go into effect Jan. 1, 2024. As your municipality considers and implements new construction or renovations of municipal buildings, ensure that your project planning accounts for the requirements in HB 23-1057.

Many provisions in HB 23-1057 appear to be contradictory or, at the very least, incompatible with one another. Consider erring on the side of deference to this legislation and identify bathrooms as non-gendered rather than gender specific.

PUBLIC RESTROOM ACCESS

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, if a municipality is renovating a restroom in a building that it fully or partially owns, it must provide a non-gendered single-stall restroom or a non-gendered multi-stall restroom where a restroom is accessible to the public in an indoor or outdoor space. Single-stall restrooms must not be gender-specific. Multi-stall restrooms must be allowed for use by any gender if certain plumbing code requirements are met. A diaper changing station must be in the non-gendered restroom(s) and any gender-specific bathroom, if non-gendered restrooms are not available.

HB 23-1057 defines renovation to include construction to a restroom that

requires a permit and that includes changing the structure by (1) increasing the square footage; (2) installing or modifying a plumbing or electric system; (3) adding, gutting, or removing exterior restroom walls; or (4) installing a heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system. Renovation does not include repairs or replacement of fixtures or features of the restroom for purposes of restoring something that is damaged, deteriorated, or broken.

The same standards for restrooms and diaper changing stations apply to new construction. Each floor of the new public building where a restroom is available to the public must have a non-gendered single-stall restroom or a non-gendered multi-stall restroom as well as a baby diaper changing station available for use by any caregiver on the gender binary.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

Although the other requirements of HB 23-1057 don't go into effect until later in 2024 or 2025, keep the upcoming changes in mind and make sure that your municipality will be ready to implement those changes when the time comes.

Starting July 1, 2025, the same requirements regarding non-gendered restrooms in parts of buildings accessible to the general public go into effect in areas of public buildings that are accessible to employees. The law allows employees to file a charge with the Colorado Civil Rights Division if they claim to have been aggrieved by a discriminatory or unfair practice including failure to comply with HB 23-1057.

Starting July 1, 2024, public entities must satisfy the following signage requirements in all buildings that they own, partially own, or lease: (1) place a

sign with a pictogram void of gender on any restroom with a baby diaper changing station; (2) place a sign with a pictogram void of gender on any non-gendered single-stall or multi-stall restroom; and (3) each building that is accessible to the public must include signage at or near the entrance indicating the location of restrooms and diaper changing stations (if there is a central directory accessible to the public, it must indicate non-gendered bathrooms and diaper changing station locations with a pictogram void of gender).

EXCEPTIONS TO HB 23-1057

HB 23-1057 provides a few exceptions to the requirements for providing non-gendered single-stall and multi-stall bathrooms and diaper changing stations (the signage requirements apply in all scenarios and are not exempt). First, if installation of a diaper changing station would result in a failure to comply with building accessibility standards, the permitting entity or building inspector may grant an exemption. To obtain such an exemption, there must be no alternative design possible. Second, if a project went through the design review process, budgeting, and final approval as of Aug. 7, 2023, it is exempt from these requirements. Finally, certified historic structures are exempt from these requirements.

While HB 23-1027 can seemingly be distilled down to a list of requirements, make sure you consult with your municipal attorney to ensure you are in compliance with the details and nuances of this bill and Colorado's anti-discrimination laws, not all of which may be addressed in this article.

This column is not intended and should not be taken as legal advice. Municipal officials are always encouraged to consult with their own attorneys.



COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

wishes you and your family
a safe and happy holiday season





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Featured in this issue:

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- Legal Corner: Amenities for all genders required in public buildings

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