



## Application period for CML Executive Board candidacy opens April 8

*By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director*

Beginning on Monday, April 8, the Colorado Municipal League will start accepting applications for members interested in running for the CML Executive Board. The deadline for submitting applications and required endorsements is Friday, May 31.

Per CML bylaws, half of the board seats have terms ending this year and will be on the ballot. In addition, a vacancy in the Large category means there will be an additional seat on the ballot. Current board members whose terms are expiring are eligible to run for reelection, provided they meet all the necessary criteria for being elected to the board.

The board seats that will be on the ballot are:

- One position from municipalities with a population of 250,000 or more (Largest category) for a two-year term.
- Four positions from municipalities with a population from 50,000-249,999 (Large category), for three two-year terms and one one-year term.
- Three positions from municipalities with a population from 8,000-49,999 (Medium category) for two-year terms.
- Three positions from municipalities with a population less than 8,000 (Small category) for two-year terms.



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, at the 102nd CML Annual Conference in Loveland. Detailed voting procedures will be included in the Notice of Annual Business Meeting that will be sent to all member municipalities prior to the Annual Conference.

CML Executive Board members are elected at-large, meaning each member municipality is entitled to vote at the CML Annual Business Meeting for their choices in all population categories.

Population figures for the June 2024 election will be based on population estimates from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) that were used to compute 2024 municipal dues for member municipalities. Members may contact CML to confirm the population category of their municipalities.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

CML bylaws require Executive Board members to 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 must:

- File an application for nomination with the CML Nominating Committee. Applications must be received by Friday, May 31.
- Obtain and submit a written endorsement from the applicant's city council or board of trustees, also by Friday, May 31. Please note that each city council or board of trustees may only endorse the nomination of one official from the city or town for election.

Sample application and endorsement letters will be available by Monday, April 8 on the CML website. Information and reminders will be published in subsequent newsletters, on CML's website, and through direct communication to members.

All applications and endorsements, as well as questions about the CML Executive Board or the election process should be directed to Kevin Bommer, executive director, at [kbommer@cml.org](mailto:kbommer@cml.org).

# EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO



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.

**Editor: Denise White**  
**Designer: Alex Miller**  
**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.

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## CML STAFF ANNIVERSARY



This month, CML is celebrating the staff anniversary of Engagement and Communications Manager Denise White. Denise has been with CML for one year. Congratulations, Denise!

## CML WEBINAR

### CML MUNICIPAL ELECTION SERIES: ELECTION DEBRIEF AND TALES TO TELL

*Thursday, May 9, at noon*

During this webinar, a wide-ranging conversation will engage attendees in an election debrief, provide insights, and share stories covering what worked, what did not, and what clerks wished they had known ahead of the elections. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/mtpv7eep>.

## CML CONFERENCE

### REGISTER NOW FOR CML 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the 2024 CML Annual Conference. The conference is the premiere educational event for municipal officials in Colorado. It draws more than 1,200 leaders throughout the state to share the latest information on accomplishments, growth, legislation, and policies that affect their municipalities. The conference offers more than 40 sessions with two keynotes and two lunch programs. Session topics include Organizational Leadership, Professional or Personal Development, Strategic Planning, Affordable Housing, Technology, and much more. Hear from keynote speakers, explore the exhibit hall, connect, network, and exchange ideas. The conference will take place June 18-21 in Loveland. Register online at <https://www.cml.org/conference>.

## CELEBRATE WITH CML

CML wants to hear about your community's successes. Tell us about a grant you've won, water tank that's finally finished, or anything else you're excited about! Email CML Publication & Design Specialist Alex Miller, [amiller@cml.org](mailto:amiller@cml.org).



## Eagle, Mountain Recreation awarded \$730,000 grant for rec center

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has awarded the Town of Eagle and Mountain Recreation a \$730,000 grant for amenities at the Haymaker Recreation Hub. The funds will pay for construction of a new outdoor pool, BMX track, bike park, and the design of Eagle's first skate park.

"We're appreciative of GOCO's support, as this enables us and our partner organizations to establish an inclusive recreation hub, enhancing the quality of life for both long-time residents and those choosing to make Eagle their home," said Eagle Town Manager Larry Pardee. "Our vision is to create a space where residents and visitors can easily gather, enjoy our outdoor activities, ride bikes, experience the skate park, and cool off at the new pool for years to come."

These amenities are top priorities in the community-centered recreation plan, developed collaboratively by residents and partner organizations. The Haymaker Recreation Hub aims to cater to the needs of a rapidly growing population and address the closure of the previous pool in 2022.

The grant includes \$500,000 earmarked for community-requested amenities at the pool, \$100,000 for the bike park, \$100,000 for the BMX track, and \$30,000 for the skate park.

Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance and Eagle County BMX will also contribute to the project by providing shade structures, picnic tables, and landscaping for the new bike park and BMX track.

"The community collaboration enabled us to apply for and secure these funds,

further enhancing our recreational offerings and strengthening partnerships in Eagle," said Mountain Recreation Executive Director Ture Nycum. "Working together allows us to cultivate and expand facility access and programming, offering recreational opportunities to meet the needs of our diverse and multi-generational community."

The project will also support equitable access to outdoor activities through partnerships with organizations like the Cycle Effect, My Future Pathways, Vail Valley Developmental Services, and the local Generation Wild community Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement. Additionally, the improvements will support community events and competitions, boost town visitation, and provide economic benefits for local businesses.

## Eagle receives \$54,400 grant for affordable housing

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has awarded the Town of Eagle a \$54,400 Local Planning Grant to support the development of affordable housing units for low-to-moderate income residents. The grant program, funded by Proposition 123—a ballot measure passed by Colorado voters in November 2022—aims to enhance affordable housing initiatives statewide. DOLA allocated the funding based on factors including readiness, impact on housing, and support from local leadership.

Driven by objectives outlined in its 2020 Town Council Strategic Plan, the town

is prioritizing diversified and attainable housing for rental and purchase. Assistant Town Manager Melissa Daruna said the funding will be used to formulate a comprehensive funding strategy for affordable housing projects within a 90-day fast-track process led by the town's housing specialist and Community Development Department. The town will also identify viable land for affordable housing.

"The town remains dedicated to exploring funding avenues, including grants and other resources, to increase our affordable housing inventory," Daruna

said. "This grant is a crucial accelerator to enable us to reach our affordable housing goals and offer residents options to remain in or move to our community."

Additionally, the town has secured a total of \$1,145,000 in grant funding for various projects in 2021 and 2023, including:

- \$45,000 for the Eagle Innovative Housing Strategies project, which helped fund the creation of the 2023 Comprehensive Affordable Housing Assessment.
- \$1.1 million awarded as a co-applicant with Habit for Humanity Vail Valley for the 3rd St. Housing project.

## Middle Income Housing Authority funding application period opens

The Colorado Middle Income Housing Authority (MIHA) is accepting applications for funding. The authority was created to support affordable rental housing projects for middle-income workforce throughout Colorado. Rental units in MIHA projects must provide middle-

income workforce housing, defined as 80% to 120% area median income (AMI) with stable rents, or 140% AMI for rural resort areas.

The primary tools offered by MIHA include issuing bonds and entering into public-private partnerships.

The authority hosted two webinars in March that explained the application process. The webinars are available online, <https://tinyurl.com/53wushrw>. Application forms and more information are available on the authority's website, <https://tinyurl.com/5y4essr9>.

# Colorado municipalities represented on EPA advisory committee

By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director

In January, two Colorado municipal elected officials were appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC). They joined 14 other new appointees and 13 members who were reappointed. Notably, the committee's membership will be majority female, including all members of its leadership, for the first time in the committee's history.

Fort Collins Councilmember Tricia Canonico is a new appointee, and Glenwood Springs Councilmember Jonathan Godes was reappointed. Canonico serves on the LGAC and will be part of its Climate Communications Workgroup charged with examining the challenges local governments face when communicating about climate change.

"I'm honored by this opportunity to serve on the EPA's LGAC and represent the voices of Colorado's local elected officials," Canonico said. "The EPA considers and implements policies that are extremely important to local



Tricia Canonico



Jonathan Godes

jurisdictions and it is my privilege to help shape those policies from the perspective of local leaders."

Godes serves on a subcommittee of the LGAC called Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS). Former Louisville mayor and current Boulder County Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann was also appointed.

The LGAC was created in 1993 and comprised of elected and appointed officials at local, state, tribal, and territorial governments within the U.S., which provide independent policy advice to the EPA

administrator on a broad range of issues affecting local governments. The SCAS subcommittee was established by EPA in 1996 to advise the administrator on environmental issues of concern to the residents of smaller communities. New members are recruited every fall. Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird of Lincoln, Nebraska, will continue as the LGAC's chair, with Mayor Lucy Vinis of Eugene, Oregon, as vice chair. EPA Administrator Michael Regan also appointed Mayor Katie Rosenberg of Wausau, Wisconsin, to join Ann Mallek, supervisor of Albemarle County, Virginia, as co-chairs of the SCAS.

In 2024, the committee will provide input on the proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, the draft Strategy for Reducing Plastic Pollution, and the EPA's efforts to develop a cumulative impact framework and improve community-level communication and engagement on climate change issues.

More information about the LGAC and SCAS is available at the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee website.

## CLERKS' CORNER

### CMCA: Then and today

Karen Goldman,  
Municipal Clerk Adviser Program

The Colorado Municipal Clerks Association, known as CMCA, is a professional association whose main purpose is to provide educational and support opportunities for municipal clerks throughout the state. Founded in 1970, CMCA was originally known as the Colorado City Clerks Association. Lorraine Graves, Aspen city clerk, served as the first president of the association.

Recognizing that municipalities in Colorado were categorized as both cities and towns, in 1989, the organization adopted the name, Colorado Municipal Clerks Association. The organization is affiliated with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) which provides guidelines for conducting educational opportunities and the

fulfillment of credits towards professional certifications.

In May 1982, Governor Richard Lamb issued an executive order declaring May 9-15 as the first Colorado Municipal Clerks Week. Clerks in Colorado have been celebrating their profession each May since then.

In 1970, Helen Tomlinson, Grand Junction city clerk, was chosen as the 1970 Clerk of the Year, an honor bestowed on individuals each year for dedication to the profession. Ms. Tomlinson retired after 44 years of service to her city, having begun working in 1926!

CMCA sponsors an annual Municipal Clerks Institute, several days of classes and networking events, with attendance and participation going to professional credits. The first institute was held in 1976 and had 29 participants. Institute

was even held virtually during Covid-19, and today it is not unusual for between 80 and 100 clerks and deputy clerks to attend. This year's institute will be held in Fort Collins.

The position of historian was created at the beginning of 1983 and Betty Martin of Commerce City was the first person to serve in that role. The position's responsibility is to collect and maintain the records of the association to document its history as well as its evolution.

Today, membership in the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association has totaled 310. Membership in CMCA is not only a benefit for Colorado municipal clerks, it is also a benefit for the municipalities and elected officials for whom they work.

*(A big thank you to Daryl Payne, CMCA historian, 2012-2023, for help with this article.)*

# The Commission on Property Tax releases preliminary report

By Elizabeth Haskell,  
CML legislative and policy advocate

The Commission on Property Tax released its preliminary report to the General Assembly and the governor on March 15. The 19-member commission was tasked with identifying sustainable property tax structures that protect property owners while maintaining stability for local governments and public schools.

The commission held eight meetings at the state Capitol to listen to presentations from experts across the country on a variety of taxation models and to discuss their own ideas for potential recommendations. The commission also held seven regional public engagement meetings with the help of the commission's facilitator, Keystone Policy Center. The organization facilitated all of the commission's meetings and prepared the preliminary report.

The recommendations approved by the commission focus on four topical areas: assessments, taxpayer relief, local control, and other. The commission's report offers 10 ideas for the legislature and the governor to consider, including:

- Developing a mechanism for reducing sharp increases in property tax due, also known as "smoothing."
- Gradually stepping down assessment rates for vacant land and nonresidential property, except for producing mines and lands or leaseholds producing oil or gas.
- Allowing residential and commercial property owners to opt for 12 monthly payments for property tax.
- Studying the following concepts: creating a homestead value reduction, creating means-tested/income qualified relief for low- or fixed-income property owners and small businesses, and implementing a mechanism to separate school and local taxing jurisdiction assessments.

- Expanding the property tax deferral program to all owners of residential property without a minimum limitation of percent increase of taxes.

- Including public input once a government increases their revenues by a specific benchmark.

- Extending the existing provisions regarding assessment rate reductions and actual value subtractions to apply in 2024 with a re-evaluation in 2025 to determine if an extension is needed.

The commission's preliminary report recommendations can be viewed online, <https://tinyurl.com/2s48jk5a>.



## RESEARCH CORNER

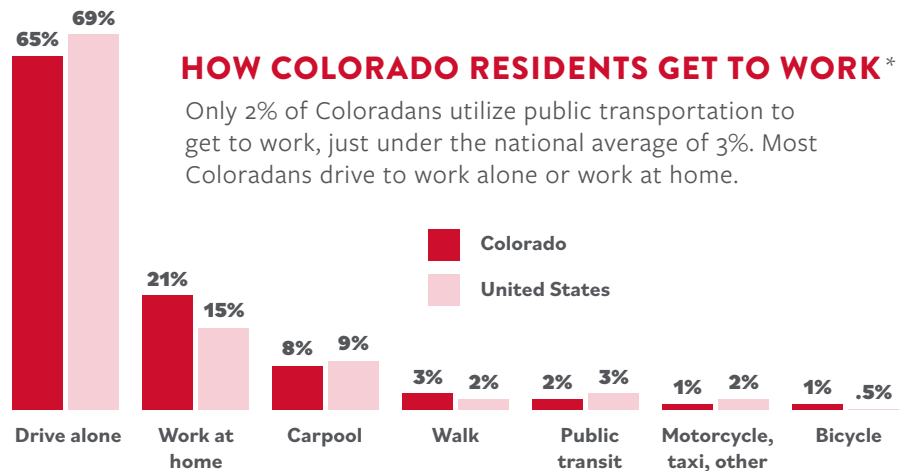
# PUBLIC TRANSIT USE & FUNDING IN COLORADO

Data visualization by **RACHEL WOOLWORTH**, CML municipal research analyst, and **ALEX MILLER**, CML publication & design specialist

Various bills working their way through the Colorado General Assembly, such as those seeking to eliminate parking minimums in urban areas and increase housing density around transit stations, are predicated on the existence and use of public transit systems. But what is the state of public transportation in Colorado?

About 2% of Coloradans reported routinely taking public transportation to work in 2022. And though public transit is not an option for many Coloradans living in rural areas, city dwellers often choose to forgo such services for the ease of their own car, another's car, or their own two feet.

Meanwhile, the State of Colorado's financial investment in local transportation providers lags behind other states. For example, Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD), the largest public transportation provider in Colorado, receives less state funding than many similarly sized urban transit providers in Minnesota, Oregon, and Nevada.



## STATE FUNDING OF LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSIT IN COLORADO\*

RTD receives more state funding per resident of its service area than any other local transit provider in Colorado.

Transportation agency	Population of service region	Vehicles operated at maximum service	Annual state funding	Annual state funding per resident of service area
Denver Regional Transportation District	2,686,147	931	\$8,058,763	\$3
Mountain Metropolitan Transit (Colorado Springs)	632,494	95	\$1,548,574	\$2.5
Transfort (Fort Collins)	326,332	48	\$413,104	\$1
Pueblo Transit	120,642	27	\$98,956	Less than \$1

## STATE FUNDING OF LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSIT ACROSS THE U.S.\*

RTD receives less state funding than many similarly sized urban transit providers in other states.

Transportation agency	Population of service region	Vehicles operated at maximum service	Annual state funding	Annual state funding per resident of service area
Tricounty Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Portland, OR)	2,104,238	753	\$60,210,100	\$29
Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas, NV)	2,196,623	577	\$7,804,363	\$4
Denver Regional Transportation District	2,686,147	931	\$8,058,763	\$3
Metro Transit (Minneapolis, MN)	2,914,866	507	\$391,011,704	\$134

\*U.S. Department of Transportation, 2022

# CML LEGAL CORNER



## Addressing homelessness through municipal courts

By Rachel Bender,  
CML senior associate counsel

Local governments across the country are eagerly awaiting the April 22 oral argument and subsequent decision from the U.S. Supreme Court in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*, which will address the constitutionality of the city's ordinance regulating sleeping outside. This case will likely provide clarity for municipalities in Colorado regarding the scope of permissible camping regulations and the use of public spaces. However, the interest of municipalities in engaging positively with unhoused persons extends beyond public spaces into the courtroom.

### MUNICIPAL COURT PROGRAMS

Rather than seeking punitive measures, many Colorado municipalities have found unique ways to work with their unhoused population. One such model that has seen great success in several municipalities is specialty municipal court programs that connect unhoused individuals with services. Through these programs, individuals are given voluntary access to much needed services. Municipalities often incentivize individuals to take advantage of these services by lowering or eliminating municipal penalties, helping defendants avoid ending up back in municipal court. Some municipalities are looking to expand their programs due to success while other cities and towns are looking to the pioneering municipalities as models to bring to their jurisdiction.

### LAKWOOD

In early 2023, Lakewood launched the Community Outreach Court, which allows individuals to resolve their municipal cases while obtaining immediate access to services and resources; the program is open to others in the community as well. The program operates monthly at a local church to encourage participation by those who are reluctant to appear in

court. Denver similarly operates an off-site outreach court at the Denver Rescue Mission to resolve municipal citations and provide access to mental health services and Medicaid enrollment.

In Lakewood, around a dozen service providers participate in the outreach court including the Department of Motor Vehicles, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, and other agencies offering employment, medical, and food resources. Resolution of cases can include a requirement to sign up for services in exchange for closing the cases; in other cases, a person may remain on probation while returning monthly for a progress review. Addressing low-level offenses in this way helps reduce what are often otherwise repeat crimes.

### COLORADO SPRINGS

Colorado Springs runs the Transition Assistance Program, which helps individuals find shelter, mental health resources, substance abuse programs, and more. The program currently operates a table at the municipal court building four days per week, allowing individuals to visit after going to court on a citation. Municipal judges often lower the punishments for individuals who go to the outreach table. From 2022, when the program began, to 2023, the number of individuals served by the program more than doubled. Colorado Springs hopes to obtain grant funding to expand the program to operate a table at the El Paso County Jail, where individuals are released after being picked up on warrants.

### CORTEZ

One of the newest outreach court programs is in Cortez. In August 2023, the city started a voluntary 90-day program to address underlying issues that bring about crime including homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse. Throughout the program, the individual picks an agency to work with over 90

days to address any issues in need of intervention and, if successfully completed, the case is dismissed. The program is modeled after the American Bar Association Homeless Court Program. Cortez is reportedly the first Colorado municipality to implement this model.

Various alternative municipal court programs for those experiencing homelessness can also be found in Arvada, Boulder, Denver, Fort Collins, Loveland, and possibly other municipalities.

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM

Before starting a specialty court program for unhoused individuals, municipalities should consider the types of offenses that are frequently heard by their municipal court and the population being charged with those crimes. Tailoring your program accordingly is what will help make the most difference in your community.

Many of the programs in operation partner with other government agencies and non-profits to provide services and resources to the participating individuals. While the opportunities to partner may vary in your community, municipalities with programs have found many willing partners. Moreover, there are no requirements to provide certain services. The services you offer are something that can shift over time depending on your specific needs.

A final important aspect of the most successful programs is building the trust of the unhoused community. When developing your own program, consider whether trust-building will be most successful if the program takes place at a municipal building or offsite. This may also depend on the opportunities and limitations in your community.

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



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- Application period for CML Executive Board opens April 8
- Colorado municipalities represented on EPA advisory committee
- Research Corner: Public transit use and funding in Colorado
- Legal Corner: Addressing homelessness through municipal courts

Featured in this issue:

Vol. 50, No. 7, April 5, 2024

# NEWSLETTER

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