



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 51, No. 7, April 4, 2025

Connect & collaborate at CML's Spring District Meetings

Network. Problem-solve. Shape the future.

*By Denise White, CML engagement
& communications manager*

CM L's Spring District Meetings are just around the corner, offering municipal leaders across Colorado valuable opportunities to connect, collaborate, and prepare for the year ahead. From May 13-29, join us in your region to network with peers, analyze impacts from the 2025 legislative session, and explore emerging challenges facing municipalities.

These meetings are a cornerstone of CML's mission to foster collaboration and shared problem-solving among local leaders. Each 90-minute session is designed to:

- Exchange ideas with colleagues facing similar opportunities and challenges
- Examine how new laws will affect Colorado communities in the coming years
- Develop collaborative solutions through shared problem-solving
- Connect with CML leadership and Associate Members offering valuable resources

More than just informational sessions, these gatherings are opportunities to strengthen regional partnerships, gain advocacy insights, and collectively shape Colorado's municipal future. Whether you're a veteran official or new to local government, your perspective matters in these discussions.

Can't attend your home district meeting? You're encouraged to join a session in a neighboring region to gain fresh perspectives.

We look forward to seeing you this spring as we work together to build stronger Colorado communities!

Register online at tinyurl.com/yvy36b9r.



CML members and staff dive into lively discussions about Colorado's municipal challenges during the 2024 Spring District 10 meeting in Montrose.

For specific questions about the meetings, please contact Karen Rosen at krosen@cml.org. Please visit cml.org for complete details.

2025 SPRING DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- **District 1:** Wray, May 15
- **District 2:** Berthoud, May 22
- **District 3:** Brighton, May 14
- **District 4:** Woodland Park, May 21
- **District 5:** Flagler, May 14
- **District 6:** Ordway, May 22
- **Districts 7/14:** Pueblo, May 13
- **District 8:** San Luis, May 20
- **District 9:** Mancos, May 19
- **District 10:** Delta, May 29
- **District 11:** Fruita, May 28
- **District 12:** Steamboat Springs, May 28
- **District 13:** Salida, May 14
- **District 15:** Keystone, May 29

Empowered cities & towns, united for a strong Colorado

EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO



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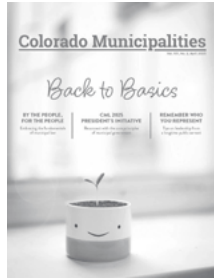
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APRIL 2025 COLORADO MUNICIPALITIES



This month, *Colorado Municipalities* magazine dives into the 2025 CML President's Initiative — *Back to Basics*. In a time of growing challenges, we're refocusing on the core principles that keep municipal government running smoothly. Explore how elected officials, staff, and engaged residents can reconnect with the fundamentals of governance to serve their communities with clarity, purpose, and integrity. Read the April 2025 issue at tinyurl.com/2p9nnu8y.

CML WEBINARS

CML LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Wednesday, April 2, 12-1 p.m.

Get an update on what is happening regarding legislation in front of the Colorado General Assembly in this webinar with the CML advocacy team. Ask questions about how you can get involved and potential impacts on your city or town.

Register at tinyurl.com/435zeap8.

CIVILITY STARTS HERE

Wednesday, April 30, 12-1:30 p.m.

Civility in public discourse is declining, yet, according to the 2023 American Bar Association's Survey of Civic Literacy, 79% of Americans want leaders to work together for better solutions. This class explores the role of municipal leaders in fostering respectful dialogue and restoring trust in governance. Participants will define civility, learn key guiding principles — such as active listening, focusing on issues over individuals, and seeking common ground — and practice actionable techniques for productive discourse. Join us to lead by example and create a more engaged, respectful, and solution-oriented community. Registrants will receive a Zoom link two days before the webinar. To allow for active participation, we're limiting this session to 30 attendees. Register at tinyurl.com/ybyzxek9.

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

The CML Newsletter is going fully digital. Starting this year, new CML members and associate members will receive the newsletter exclusively by email, with an option to temporarily opt-out and request a printed copy. Later this year, as part of a planned transition, everyone will begin to receive the CML Newsletter by email only, and the League will cease printing it altogether. The decision to go fully digital reflects a commitment to using member resources more effectively. Questions or requests to start receiving CML Newsletter via email right away should be sent to cml@cml.org.

CELEBRATE WITH CML

CML wants to hear about your community's successes.

Tell us about a new 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, to have your community featured in the CML Newsletter.

Municipal League will accept applications for CML Board candidacy starting April 7

By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director

Half of the 20 elected seats on the Colorado Municipal League Executive Board will be on the ballot in June. Starting on April 7, CML will accept applications from candidates meeting the necessary criteria through Friday, May 23.

BOARD SEATS ON THE JUNE BALLOT:

- **Largest Category**
(Population 250,000+):
Two positions (one for a two-year term, one for a one-year term)
- **Large Category**
(Population 50,000–249,999):
Three positions (two-year terms)
- **Medium Category**
(Population 8,000–49,999):
Three positions (two-year terms)
- **Small Category**
(Population <8,000):
Three positions (two-year terms)

Population figures for the June 2025 election will be based on Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) estimates used to establish 2025 municipal dues for member municipalities. Members can contact CML to confirm their population category.

Candidates meeting all qualifications will be placed on the slate by the CML Nominating Committee and be voted on by the membership at the CML Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, June 26,

during the 103rd CML Annual Conference in Breckenridge. Voting procedures will be outlined in the “Notice of Annual Business Meeting,” which will be sent to all member municipalities before the conference.

CML Executive Board members are elected at-large, meaning each member municipality can vote for candidates in all population categories.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

CML bylaws require Executive Board members be elected or appointed officials of member cities and towns. To be nominated for a board position, an official must:

- Apply to the Nominating Committee by Friday, May 23
- Obtain and submit a written letter or resolution signed by the mayor (or appropriate substitute, if needed) affirming the endorsement of the applicant’s candidacy by the city council or board of trustees, also by Friday, May 23. *Note: Each city council or board of trustees may endorse only one nominee from their municipality. Individual endorsements or endorsements signed by staff do not satisfy this requirement.*

Sample application and endorsement letters will be available on the CML website by Monday, April 7. Additional information and reminders will be published in future newsletters, on the CML website, and through direct member communication.

For applications, endorsements, or questions about the Executive Board or election process, contact Kevin Bommer, Executive Director, at kbommer@cml.org.

Keynote speakers for CML’s 2025 Annual Conference announced

Register now for the 2025 CML Annual Conference, happening June 24-27 in beautiful Breckenridge, Colorado! This year’s event promises to be bigger, bolder, and even more inspiring as municipal leaders, community members, and like-minded professionals come together to learn, share ideas, and build meaningful connections.

WORLD CLASS SPEAKERS

This year’s conference features a dynamic lineup of expert-led sessions, cutting-edge trends, and innovative solutions to help you navigate the evolving landscape of municipal governance.

- **Wednesday Keynote:** Futurist, author, and hall of fame speaker Crystal Washington kicks things off with an engaging presentation on the latest



technology and trends that could interrupt — or revolutionize — the way we do business.

- **Thursday Keynote:** The excitement continues with Kenyon Salo, known as the “James Bond of Speaking.” Kenyon’s inspiring session will challenge you to elevate both your personal and professional life, leaving you energized and ready to take on any challenge.

In addition to these dynamic keynotes, you’ll hear from experts across the state, including HR consultants, city clerks, town managers, court administrators, and more. Walk away with fresh ideas, new strategies, and a renewed sense of purpose.

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY

Take advantage of early bird pricing and register now! Please note that tickets for events like the *Wednesday Welcome Lunch* sell quickly and there are no onsite ticket sales, so we recommend you purchase these items when you register.

Don’t miss this incredible opportunity to grow professionally, gain valuable insights, and bring back innovative solutions to your community. Register at www.cml.org/conference.

Orly Lucero: A life of service, love, legacy

The City of Cortez and its residents recently said goodbye to a true gem and community leader. Orly Lucero passed away March 7 at the age of 66.

Throughout his life, he dedicated much of his time to the city he loved. That included 16 years on the city council — the first stint as mayor from 2002-2010 and then again as a council member from 2014-2022. In between his council terms, he served on the Planning and Zoning Board from 2010-2014 and had served on the Board of Adjustments and Appeals since 2022. According to Cortez Mayor and CML Board Member Rachel Medina, he didn't stop there. He also served on many other boards, including the Cortez Fire Protection District, the RE1 School Board, and the Cortez Housing Authority.

"He lent a helping hand whenever he could," Mayor Medina said at Lucero's memorial service held March 21.

Outside of his service to his community, he worked for Empire Electric for over 30 years as a staking engineer. Cortez



folks also made a tradition out of driving past Orly's house during the holidays, as his annual Christmas decorating and displays were legendary. He gave his time coaching youth soccer and softball, but the project he loved most was being an incredible father to his daughter, Felice.

Orly is preceded in death by his parents, Macedonia and John Sidro Lucero and five siblings. He is survived by his wife Carol, daughter Felice, his brother Arnie Lucero (Susan), sisters Sarah Thompson, MaryAnn (Larry) Johnston, Emma Lucero (Al) and many nieces and nephews.

CML wishes to recognize municipal leaders who will be leaving office with the conclusion of their current term.

"Municipal elected office is not for the faint of heart," said Kevin Bommer, CML executive director. "The commitment these individuals have made reflects their deep love for their community and a desire to make it better. All of us at CML honor their service and thank them for their unwavering dedication to municipal government."

Long-serving (8+ years) municipal leaders include:

- City of Colorado Springs 4th District Councilmember **Yolanda Avila**
- City of Durango Councilor **Melissa Youssef**
- Town of Georgetown Selectmen **Jon Jennings** and **Lynette Kelsey**.

DILLON

Spring and summer are heating up in Dillon! The annual *Ice Melt Contest* is underway, with locals and visitors placing their bets on when the ice melt device will drop into the thawing reservoir. A long-standing Summit Rotary fundraiser, the contest runs through April 14, with a cash prize for the closest guess.

Meanwhile, the Dillon Amphitheater has unveiled an exciting lineup of summer concerts, featuring artists like St. Paul and the Broken Bones, My Morning Jacket, and Tash Sultana performing against one of Colorado's most scenic backdrops.

LITTLETON

Littleton city leaders will gather on May 14 for the Littleton Business Chamber's State of the City 2025 Breakfast and Awards. Mayor Kyle Schlachter will reflect on the city's accomplishments and discuss future challenges and opportunities. The event

will also honor local businesses, including the Business of the Year award.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Steamboat Springs is expanding its outdoor spaces with the help of a recent \$1.44 million grant awarded by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). The funding will support the city's acquisition of 181 acres along Slate Creek, preserving important habitats like aspen groves, sagebrush shrublands, and riverbanks. Part of the land will be transformed into a regional park featuring sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and trails, bringing much-needed recreation opportunities to the community.

THORNTON

Recently, community members came together for the Farmers' Highline Canal Cleanup, working to clear debris from riverbeds and trails in Northglenn and

Thornton. Volunteers of all ages pitched in to help keep local waterways clean and flowing smoothly. The event, which was family-friendly and wheelchair accessible, provided participants with gloves, backpacks, and lunch as a thank-you for their efforts.

WESTMINSTER

City Council is hosting its Second Annual Budget Town Hall on April 3, focusing on firefighting and roadway infrastructure, with interactive activities for residents. As the season changes, Westminster's 'Leave No Trace' Spring Photo Contest invites photographers to showcase the city's natural beauty. Meanwhile, the Westminster Fire Department is sharpening its ice rescue skills, ensuring they're prepared for emergencies on frozen waterways. And with winter behind us, crews are gearing up for Pothole Palooza from April 14-17, tackling road repairs across the city.

Join us for the 2025

CML ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sharpen your skills

alongside Colorado's most talented

local government leaders



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BRECKENRIDGE
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Grant writing workshop in Fort Collins

A two-day grant writing workshop will teach participants how to write grant proposals to find sources of funding.

The workshop, presented by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office and Grant Writing USA, will take place April 3-4 in Fort Collins.

This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Beginning and experienced grant writers from municipal, county, and state agencies, as well as healthcare organizations, nonprofits, K-12, colleges, and universities are encouraged to attend.

Online reservations are necessary. Received a discount on tuition with the use of the code "Referral" when registering. More information including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials, and online registration is available at tinyurl.com/4wdx8rb3.

Apply now for a scholarship from CMCA

Scholarships for clerk education are available from the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA). These funding opportunities defray the costs for clerk education.

To be eligible, applicants must be a member of CMCA by March 31 of the current year. Municipal clerks and those deputy clerks fulfilling the functions and bearing the responsibility of the municipal clerk receive first priority in consideration of scholarship awards. The scholarship funding program attempts to assist financially as many applicants as possible, therefore no full scholarships will be awarded. Scholarship awards

will be for actual education/conference expenses only.

DEADLINES

- Scholarship applications for the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference are due April 3
- Scholarship applications for CML Annual Conference are due May 30
- Scholarship applications for the CMCA Institute are due May 30
- Scholarship applications for the CMCA Annual Conference are due Sept. 6

More information is available on the CMCA website, tinyurl.com/mtxutk5w.

Essential tax reporting updates for DOR

To assist with data collection required by House Bill 24-1050, the Department of Revenue (DOR) is asking municipalities to submit information via online surveys related to building materials sales and use taxes (tinyurl.com/ycx99tbv) and local lodging tax (tinyurl.com/fy7x8prd). HB24-1050 requires municipalities that assess these taxes to submit documentation containing this data to DOR by June 15. Survey responses need to be submitted by the end of April. Please remember to provide DOR with the required documentation by June 15 even if you complete this survey.



CML

Spring District Meetings

CML hits the road in May. Learn more at cml.org.

District 1: Wray, 5/15	District 8: San Luis, 5/20
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District 5: Flagler, 5/14	District 12: Steamboat Springs, 5/28
District 6: Ordway, 5/22	District 13: Salida, 5/14
District 7/14: Pueblo, 5/13	District 15: Keystone, 5/29

CML LEGAL CORNER



Charging fees for body-worn camera recordings

By Rachel Bender,
CML senior associate counsel

Although body-worn cameras (BWCs) have been used by police officers in Colorado since at least 2012, more drastic changes regarding the use of BWCs occurred in 2020 with the passage of Senate Bill 20-217 (SB217), also referred to as the Law Enforcement Integrity Act (LEIA). SB217 mandated that law enforcement agencies around the state equip all peace officers with BWCs by July 1, 2023. Along with mandating BWCs, the law addressed the use of BWCs and release of BWC recordings in specific circumstances. Despite the widespread, necessary practice of charging fees for the release of BWC recordings under the LEIA, local law enforcement agencies are facing legal challenges for doing so. One of those cases is pending before the Colorado Court of Appeals in *SMB Advertising v. City of Boulder*.

BWC FEES PRIOR TO SB217

Many agencies were using BWCs prior to the passage of SB217 and commonly received records requests for those recordings. BWC recordings fall squarely within the definition of “criminal justice records” under C.R.S. § 24-72-302(4), which is part of the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act (CCJRA). The CCJRA, as the overarching statute governing such records, allows criminal justice agencies to “assess reasonable fees, not to exceed actual costs, . . . for the search, retrieval, and redaction of criminal justice records.” C.R.S. § 24-72-306(1). While there is no requirement to do so, many agencies’ CCJRA fees mirror the fees charged under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

Beyond this express authorization to charge fees for all criminal justice records, case law suggests there may

be inherent authority to charge fees for records even in the absence of clear authorization. In 2003, the Colorado Court of Appeals in *Black v. Sw. Water Conservation Dist.*, 74 P.3d 462, upheld a government entity’s hourly fee even though CORA was silent on the ability to charge fees at that time (the fee authorization was later added to CORA). The court’s decision was based in part on legislative history suggesting there was no legislative intent to prohibit charging fees and that such a finding was supported by the aim of CORA.

RELEASE OF BWC RECORDINGS UNDER THE LEIA

The LEIA, as modified by House Bill 21-1250 in 2021, directs law enforcement agencies to release, upon request, all unedited video and audio recordings of an incident in which there is a complaint of peace officer misconduct within 21 days of the request. C.R.S. § 24-31-902(2)(a). Although this subsection speaks to the release of unedited recordings, the statute goes on to set forth a lengthy list of scenarios that require blurring to protect the privacy interests of individuals and, in fact, prohibits the release of such unblurred footage without the written authorization of the victim. C.R.S. § 24-31-902(2)(b)(II) (A). Because of these mandates, law enforcement agencies must almost always review and, if needed, blur BWC footage prior to release under this statute.

Given the substantial amount of time that often goes into retrieving, reviewing, and blurring BWC footage, most law enforcement agencies charge fees through the CCJRA for the release of BWC footage requested under the LEIA — C.R.S. § 24-31-902(2)(a). These fees help defray the significant staff time and resources that are required to comply

with this unfunded state mandate, which also takes away from the other obligations and responsibilities of law enforcement agencies. In many cases, the fees charged do not fully cover the actual costs incurred by agencies.

Even though the LEIA is silent as to the ability to charge fees for BWC recordings requested under C.R.S. § 24-31-902(2) (a), that silence speaks volumes. By way of example, the LEIA expressly provides that the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act does not apply to civil claims under the LEIA; the legislature made no similar declaration stating that there was a prohibition on charging fees for BWC recordings. Moreover, there is no conflict between the relevant provisions of the LEIA and the CCJRA — the statutes can be read together with a law enforcement agency fulfilling the blurring and release requirements of BWC footage under the LEIA, subject to the payment of appropriate fees under the CCJRA.

This is an appropriate and reasonable reading given that C.R.S. § 29-1-304.5(1), prohibits the General Assembly from imposing new mandates on local governments “unless the state provides additional moneys to reimburse such local government for the costs of such new state mandate.” If the state does not provide the money for reimbursement (which it has not in the case of BWC record requests), the mandate becomes optional. In lieu of simply ignoring the BWC mandates in the LEIA, local law enforcement agencies have chosen to impose reasonable fees to defray costs and follow the spirit of the law.

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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