



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

2025 Spring District Meeting

- ❖ **Welcome letter from Kevin Bommer, CML executive director**
- ❖ **CML advocacy update**
- ❖ **CML Annual Conference – June 24-27, 2025**
- ❖ **President's Initiative – Back to Basics**
- ❖ **Civility handout**
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- ❖ **CML executive board and staff**



To: CML District Meeting attendees
From: Kevin Bommer, Executive Director
Date: May 12, 2025
Subject: 2025 Spring District Meetings

We are fortunate to have many members participate in our Annual Conference each June, but we recognize that many elected officials and staff have challenges and conflicts that prevent them from taking time away to attend. No matter what, we know it is important to meet you where you are at, which allows us to all of this great state and the cities and towns that are its backbone.

CML has always placed a high priority on our outreach efforts to provide accessible opportunities to network and learn from CML and each other. The entire staff at CML appreciates that *your time is valuable*. We appreciate the opportunity to come to you, and we know that is what you expect of your League.

What to expect

As always, CML exists *for* our members and *because* of our members. The League is your partner in municipal leadership, helping you serve the needs of your communities and excel at what you do.

You also have a role in making sure CML represents and protects the interests of all Colorado's municipalities. Your feedback and suggestions help us better serve your needs. These meetings give you a chance to provide direct input into CML's advocacy, information, and training, ensuring we deliver what you and your colleagues want.

CML District Meetings also allow you more time to connect with your friends and colleagues from other municipalities, as well as associate members and honored guests. A favorite quote of ours is "the answers are in the room." That could not be truer, and there will be ample time to ask questions and answer those of others.

As always, you may feel free to contact me directly with any questions, concerns, or requests for assistance at kbommer@cml.org or call me at (866) 578-0936 or (303) 831-6411.

Again – thank you for your service to your communities and your participation in CML!



To: CML Membership
From: CML Advocacy Staff
Date: May 7, 2025
Subject: 2025 CML Advocacy Update

This memo is intended to introduce CML's membership to the CML Advocacy Team and provide a wrap-up for the 2025 legislative session.

Overview of 2025 Legislative Session

During the 2025 legislative session, CML took positions on 85 bills. On Sine Die, CML had opposed or sought amendments to 27 bills, of which 17 died. We were able to remove our opposition after receiving amendments to an additional 18 bills. CML supported 29 bills, 23 of which passed the legislature. CML did not receive amendments to allow a support or neutral position on an additional 11 bills.

CML priorities that passed the legislature

- HB25-1029 Municipal Authority over Certain Land
- HB25-1039 Commercial Vehicle Muffler Requirements
- HB25-1112 Local Authorities Enforce Vehicle Registration
- HB25-1152 Tech Accessibility Liability Contractor
- SB25-007 Increase Prescribed Burns
- SB25-023 Local Government Audit Exemption Thresholds
- SB25-040 Future of Severance Taxes & Water Funding Task Force
- SB25-162 Railroad Safety Requirements
- SB25-305 Water Quality Permitting Efficiency
- SB25-310 Proposition 130 Implementation

CML oppose priorities that did not pass or were amended to remove CML opposition

- HB25-1096 Automated Permits for Clean Energy Technology (Amended)
- HB25-1067 Criminal Asset Forfeiture Act (Died)
- HB25-1169 Housing Developments on Faith and Educational Land (Died)
- HB25-1232 Liability When Means of Self-Defense Prohibited (Died)
- HB25-1234 Utility Consumer Protection (Amended)
- HB25-1295 Food Truck Operations (Amended to remove CML opposition)
- SB235-132 Spirituous Liquor Manufacturer Tastings Conduct (Died)

2025 Legislative Wrap-Up

The 2025 legislative session was overshadowed by a \$1.2 billion state budget shortfall. This shortfall was driven by higher-than-anticipated Medicaid costs, revenue constraints under the Taxpayers Bill of Rights, and other economic pressures. The Joint Budget Committee Members (JBC) faced tough decisions on how to preserve funding for essential services like Medicaid, education, and public safety, while cutting or delaying other programs. All legislators worked to devise innovative strategies to pass their key bills without further straining the state budget.

Throughout the budget process, staff raised concerns about the JBC redistributing severance and marijuana tax revenue dedicated to local grants and funding dedicated to housing programs to balance the budget. Due to the extent of the budget shortfall, the JBC maintained their position on these redistributions. CML estimates that municipalities will lose approximately \$140 million in funding during state Fiscal Year 2025-26 due to the redistribution of this revenue. The budget redirects revenue from the following funds to the General Fund and state department administrative programs:

- Local Government Severance Tax Fund and Local Government Mineral Impact Fund
- Affordable Housing Support Fund and Housing Development Grant Fund
- Innovative Housing Incentive Program Fund
- Peace Officers' Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnership Fund
- Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund
- Just Transition Community Fund
- Transit-oriented Communities Grant Fund
- ADU Fee Reduction and Encouragement Grant Fund
- Colorado Heritage Communities Fund
- Wildfire Mitigation Capacity Development Fund
- Law Enforcement Workforce Recruitment, Retention, and Tuition Grant Fund
- Geothermal Energy Grant Fund

Additionally, there are reductions in:

- General Fund for the Defense Counsel on First Appearance Grant Program
- State marijuana tax revenue share-back from 10% to 3.5%
- Marijuana Tax Cash Fund for the Gray and Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program

Land use was less of a focus in the 2025 session than in the past two years, but the legislature still passed a handful of land use, landlord-tenant, and construction defects bills. The Governor's two priority bills in this space were House Bill 25-1169, Housing

Developments on Faith and Educational Land (Yes In God's Backyard, or YIGBY) and Senate Bill 25-002, Regional Codes for Factory Built Structures. SB25-002 requires a technical advisory committee within the Division of Housing to develop regional codes for modular housing that supersede local codes. While CML was opposed to this bill, staff secured many amendments to SB25-002 related to safety (ensuring regional codes take snow load, wind shear, etc. into account) and promoting local government voices in developing these codes that allowed CML to move to neutral. In contrast, YIGBY represented an unconstitutional violation of home rule authority and local control by allowing churches and schools to circumvent local zoning and permitting processes to build residential developments on land they own. CML was successful in killing this bill in the Senate.

In the telecommunications space, the Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee advanced House Bill 25-1056, Local Government Permitting Wireless Telecom Facilities for the 2025 legislative session. HB25-1056 requires local governments to approve or deny permits for new wireless facilities within 150 days. CML staff secured an amendment to allow local governments to pause this shot clock for 45 days to process other time-sensitive permits.

Senate Bill 25-001, The Colorado Voting Rights Act was the top priority for the Senate majority party and leadership this year. The bill allows an individual or organization to file a suit against a municipality alleging voter suppression, voter dilution, or an unlawful voting prerequisite based on gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. The bill empowers the Attorney General's office to investigate potential violations, file a suit to enforce the act, or intervene in a private lawsuit. While CML is dedicated to ensuring free, fair, and accessible elections, ensuring all eligible voters can participate without barriers, we could not support the bill's unconstitutional application to home rule municipalities' elections. For the remaining, mostly smaller municipalities, the bill creates a tremendous, unnecessary, and unjustifiable fiscal risk.

Staff worked on two bills impacting local licensing authority that CML opposed. Senate Bill 25-132 would have allowed distilleries to purchase alcohol from wholesalers and open three bars without adhering to the local licensing process required of all other retail liquor establishments, such as taverns and bars. CML and many municipalities and counties opposed this bill. The bill was postponed indefinitely and died in the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee. House Bill 25-1295 as introduced, would have required municipalities to issue reciprocal business licenses to food truck vendors who were licensed in other jurisdictions and limited a municipality's ability to zone for food truck operations. These provisions were amended out of the bill. The final version of the bill establishes a process that food truck vendors must follow to get a fire permit and

inspection that will allow them to operate across jurisdictions without an additional permit. The bill also makes some changes to how Denver's food inspection program interacts with the other counties and vice versa.

Another area of focus for the legislature was labor relations. Of the handful of bills related to labor, House Bill 25-1300 was of most concern to CML. This bill as amended, allows injured workers to choose their primary treating physician from a list of accredited doctors provided by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. If the worker can't or won't choose, the employer or insurer must select the physician. The bill is expected to raise the cost of workers' compensation coverage for local government employers and taxpayers and create confusion for injured workers. The bill passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature. CML is opposed to this bill and has asked the Governor for a veto.

Law enforcement and municipal court-related bills were debated heavily during the session. House Bill 25-1031, Law Enforcement Whistleblower Protection, establishes new legal protections for whistleblowers within local law enforcement agencies, including granting officers a new private right of action. CML staff successfully advocated amendments requiring officers to exhaust internal procedures before pursuing legal action, adding procedural safeguards for agencies, and aligning the burdens of proof with the existing state whistleblower statute to maintain consistency. CML had also requested an amendment to cap potential damages at limits consistent with CGIA, but we were not successful in getting additional changes to mirror state damage caps.

Senate Bill 25-310 implements Proposition 130, which was passed by voters in 2024. Proposition 130 mandated the allocation of \$350 million in additional state funding to local law enforcement agencies for officer recruitment, hiring, training, and retention. SB25-310 details the distribution formula for these funds, clarifies their permissible purposes, and prohibits local governments from using the funds to supplant or supplement other state or local funding. If utilized, municipalities will be required to report on the use of these funds in their annual audits or, if exempt from audits, through a separate report. The bill also establishes the process for disbursing a \$1 million death benefit to the families of eligible first responders, a central element of Proposition 130.

House Bill 25-1147, Fairness and Transparency in Municipal Court, mandates that municipal penalties may not exceed their state sentencing analogs, limits judicial discretion on live-streaming, and ensures defense attorneys are present when defendants face jail time. CML opposes the bill because, if enacted, it would significantly weaken community public safety efforts, place added strain on Colorado's justice system, and undermine home rule municipal authority. Although the bill passed, CML and many

business chambers and public safety groups have requested the Governor veto the bill, which he must do within 30 days of the bill being sent to him.

Another important bill for municipalities is Senate Bill 25-276, Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status. This bill makes numerous changes to state law regarding immigration. Among other provisions, public employees are prohibited from disclosing or granting access to non-public personal identifying information for the purpose of federal civil immigration enforcement, except when disclosure is required by federal or state law, when necessary to perform official duties, or as required by a court-issued document. The bill also extends a \$50,000 civil penalty to public employees who intentionally violate the bill's requirements.

In addition to these bills, many other important bills impacting municipalities were passed this session. Please see CML's laws for immediate attention article in the May 16 edition of the *CML Newsletter* and keep an eye out for our 2025 Laws Enacted online publication coming out in June.

The CML Advocacy Team is indebted to our members for their expertise, witness testimony, grassroots efforts, and general legislative assistance – all of which are key to CML's success. Please also take the opportunity at this year's District Meetings to provide your input on what CML's legislative priorities should be for the upcoming session, and make sure you take a copy of CML's Annual Policy Statement or download it from the home page at www.cml.org.

For questions on legislation please contact Heather Stauffer, CML advocacy manager at hstauffer@cml.org.

COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



Where you want to be June 24-27

Join CML in Breckenridge for more than 50 expert-led sessions providing innovative solutions covering topics important to you and your municipality. Opportunities abound for networking, connecting, learning from each other — and a dash of fun and surprise along the way!

FEATURED SPEAKERS



KYLE CLARK

9News Team anchor

Special guest at Thursday's
Meeting of the Minds Luncheon

Sponsored by Swire Coca-Cola



TY COLEMAN

Alamosa mayor

Speaker at Wednesday's
Welcome Lunch and Good
Governance Awards

Sponsored by Excel Energy



CRYSTAL WASHINGTON

Keynote speaker

Presenting Wednesday:
"The Future is Now"

Sponsored by CIRSA



KENYON SALO

Keynote speaker

Presenting Thursday:
"The Bucket List Life"

Leave inspired with ideas you can implement right away to make a difference in your community.

Register by May 23 before prices go up. Visit www.cml.org/conference for more information.

Back to Basics

GOOD GOVERNANCE THAT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME

WHY IT MATTERS

Municipal government measures success not in headlines, soundbites, or clicks, but in working streetlights, safe streets, economic vitality, clean water, active parks, and balanced budgets — the fundamentals that keep communities strong, safe, and thriving. Between competing priorities, complex challenges, and the crisis of the day, local leaders and staff are pulled in many directions at once. The 2025 Back to Basics initiative asks us to cut through the noise and refocus on what matters most: delivering the everyday fundamentals that make communities work.

“Let’s strip away the distractions and focus on doing the work that matters.
And if we get it right, we won’t just be leading our communities —
we’ll be setting them up for success long after our time in office is done.”

— Wynetta Massey, 2024-2025 CML Executive Board president

BACK TO BASICS IS A COMMITMENT TO ...

THE WORK

Delivering the essential services — clean water, well-maintained streets and parks, economic vibrancy, and public safety — that keep communities functional and resilient.

THE TRUST

Governing transparently, ethically, and with accountability to the Rules of Law.

THE PEOPLE

Leading with civility, collaboration, commitment to service, and remembering why we serve.

HOW CML ELEVATES THE FUNDAMENTALS

WORKSHOPS

Embedding the basics into every program.

TOOLS

Developing a new pre-candidate guide and leveraging Civility Starts Here resources.

PEER STORIES

Celebrating cities and towns that demonstrate foundational governance.

YOUR TURN: LEAD THE SHIFT

REFLECT

Assess whether your processes and decisions stay focused on the fundamentals. Do they build trust within the community?

ENGAGE

Share your story of why you serve at your next public meeting. And submit it to CML to share with your peers (email dwhite@cml.org or complete the form at tinyurl.com/WhyIServe).

AMPLIFY

Keep the fundamentals at the forefront of discussions. When conversations or decisions seem to stray, ground the dialogue by asking, “How does this serve our community?”



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CML 2024 PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE

CIVILITY STARTS HERE

WHAT IS CIVILITY?

Civility is the steadfast practice of respect, even in disagreement, that fosters constructive dialogue and connection, recognizing the inherent dignity of every person.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

While a definition provides a clear understanding, the true essence of civility lies in its application. The following guiding principles illustrate how civility translates into practical actions to foster respectful and productive interactions within local government. These principles serve as a roadmap, guiding municipal officials, staff, and the public in navigating complex issues and achieving positive outcomes for Colorado communities.

1. Listen as intently as you speak

Practice active listening and consider briefly summarizing what you heard to ensure understanding.

2. Focus on issues, not individuals

Dig into the substance of the problem, and if you disagree, disagree with the idea, not the person. Acknowledging differing perspectives can help everyone to reach a more well-rounded decision.

3. Distinguish between fact and opinion

Seek clarity on both while being considerate of others' opinions. It's okay to agree to disagree; just make sure you understand the fundamental points of differences.

4. Get curious instead of furious

Strive to manage your emotions in the moment. If you notice yourself getting upset, pause, and take a breath

before speaking. Ask questions with the intent to learn and answer questions with respect.

5. Acknowledge knowledge

When someone makes a logical or interesting point, acknowledge it. Embrace a continuous learning mindset by staying open to new ideas and facts to expand your understanding.

6. Own your intentions and your impact

Our words and behaviors may not reflect our intent to those receiving them. Value and prioritize honesty and goodwill while striving to solve problems.

7. Seek common ground

Build bridges by prioritizing shared values and goals. Strive to find commonalities and shared understanding as a basis for productive, resolution-oriented discourse and problem-solving.

8. Be a role model

We're in this together. We can't control others' behaviors, just our own. Encourage each other to practice these behaviors and courteously challenge disrespectful behavior.

TAKE THE CIVILITY PLEDGE

Visit the CML *Civility Starts Here* resource website, where you will find a civility pledge and other resources to help foster civility in your community.





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RESOURCES

ADVOCACY

Colorado Municipal League (CML) is your voice before the state and federal government, with full-time lobbyists to ensure municipalities are well-represented at the state capitol.

CML LISTSERVS

Listsers allow subscribers to exchange information and ideas through email. Members can post questions or share information, which is then distributed automatically to all group members. Responses from other members are also shared with the entire subscriber list. Listserv groups include attorneys, clerks, finance officers, human resources, managers, public information officers, public works, and utilities directors.

ENGAGING YOUTH

CML proudly supports the popular Lessons on Local Government (LOLG) program in partnership with the Special District Association of Colorado. This free resource, available at lessonsonlocalgovernment.org, offers materials for Colorado's K-12 teachers that meet the state's social studies and civics standards. Beyond education, LOLG acts as a bridge, connecting our future leaders to the inner workings of local government and fostering their civic engagement.

INFORMATION

CML provides comprehensive, in-depth information through the publication of several books annually, along with current issue overviews available on cml.org, white papers, biweekly newsletters, and a quarterly magazine. Visit CML's online bookstore to view and order available publications.

LEGAL RESOURCES

CML's dedicated legal staff is available as a municipal resource for questions ranging from the impact of recent court decisions to guidelines on implementing statutory changes. Additionally, the League participates as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in state and federal appellate court cases that involve issues important to municipalities.

MUNICIPAL CLERK ADVISOR PROGRAM

Developed by CML, Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA), and Colorado Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA), this program is a valuable free resource designed to assist municipal clerks in navigating specific job-related questions or challenges. For information, contact Karen Goldman at charna48@comcast.net or 303-981-8022.

MUNIVERSITY

CML created the MUNiversity program to recognize municipal elected officials who invest time and resources to enhance their knowledge of municipal government and their capacity to lead. This program extends automatic enrollment to all elected officials from member municipalities, allowing them to amass credits for each training session they participate in. Officials are recognized during CML's annual conference at varying tiers achievement: Fundamental (30 credits), Leadership (60 credits), and Graduate (100 credits).

SOCIAL MEDIA

Whether you are active on Facebook, LinkedIn, or X, you are invited to join the vibrant community (collectively over 5,800 followers) already connected with CML. Get updates on upcoming CML activities, training and events, breaking news about state legislation, and information on what is going on in cities and towns across the state.

TRAINING

CML offers its members training opportunities covering various innovative and current topics through diverse formats. You can access the training calendar at cml.org > *Education & Training*. CML training options encompass:

- **Webinars**—Hour-long courses on a specific issue area or topic. These usually occur over the lunch hour and are free to members. CML provides webinars on diverse topics, including accessibility and ADA compliance, housing, parking management, retail and economic development trends, waste diversion, and more. Previous webinar materials and recordings are accessible on CML's website.
- **Workshops and seminars**—Typically one to two days long, CML holds training opportunities for elected officials, municipal staff, and municipal attorneys. These sessions feature speakers on several topics throughout the day and in-person networking opportunities.
- **Annual Conference**—CML's annual conference brings together Colorado's municipalities from across the state for training with subject matter experts and collaborative opportunities with staff and elected officials from member cities and towns. This is the League's largest training each year, typically held in June.



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PUBLICATIONS

YOUR GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE

Stay Informed, Stay Ahead with These Essential Reads

At the Colorado Municipal League (CML), knowledge is empowerment. We are dedicated to providing our municipal members with a wealth of up-to-date information to support their growth and success.

Each year, we diligently update our materials, ensuring they remain current and relevant to the evolving needs of our communities. Additionally, we actively explore new subject areas to address emerging challenges and opportunities facing municipalities.

Our publications are available in both print and PDF formats, offering flexibility and accessibility to our members. Most importantly, PDF versions are complimentary to members and can be downloaded instantly, enabling swift access to essential resources.

Join us in harnessing the power of knowledge to drive community progress. Together, let's build stronger, more resilient municipalities equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Explore our most sought-after publications and periodicals:

PERIODICALS

- *Colorado Municipalities* quarterly magazine
- Biweekly print and electronic newsletter
- *Lessons on Local Government* electronic newsletter

WHITE PAPERS & GUIDES

- *Knowledge Now* on various topics
- Colorado *State of Our Cities and Towns* report
- Annual *Colorado Laws Enacted* affecting municipalities
- Annual *CML Compensation Survey*

BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

- *Annexation in Colorado*
- *Bob's Rule of Order for Colorado Local Governments*
- *Code Enforcement in Colorado*
- *Colorado Municipal Clerk's Reference Guide*
- *Colorado Municipal Government: An Introduction*
- *Community Policing: An Overview and Guide*
- *Election Book*
- *Ethics, Liability, and Best Practices Handbook*
A CIRSA and CML publication
- *Governance 101*
- *Handbook for Appointed Municipal Boards and Commissions*
- *Historic Preservation: Basics for Municipalities*
- *Home Rule Handbook*
- *How to Hire a Local Government Manager or Administrator*
- *Liquor and Beer Handbook*
- *Municipal Candidates Guide*
- *Municipal Courts*
- *Municipal Procurement*
- *Municipal Prosecutor Handbook*
- *Municipal Taxes and Fees*
- *Open Meetings, Open Records*
- *TABOR: A Guide to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights*
- *Tips for Enhancing Professionalism During Virtual Meetings*
- *Understanding Local Expenditures*
- *Urban Renewal*

Visit the CML bookstore online at members.cml.org/store.



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Colorado Springs
city attorney

VICE PRESIDENT



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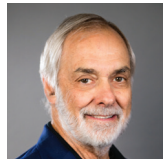
Dale Hall
Greeley
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Alamosa
mayor pro tem



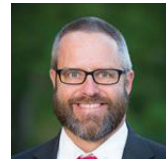
James (Jim) Keehne
Burlington
city administrator



Dave Kerber
Greenwood Village
mayor pro tem



Dan Kramer
Estes Park
town attorney



John Marriott
Arvada
councilmember



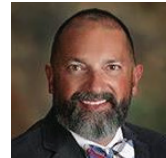
James Marsh-Holschen
Broomfield
councilmember



Rachel Medina
Cortez
mayor



Candy Meehan
Norwood
mayor



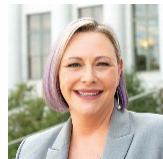
Joshua Rivero
Parker
mayor



Hollie Rogin
Lyons
mayor



Carol Saade
Breckenridge
councilmember



Amanda Sawyer
Denver
councilmember



Anna Stout
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council member



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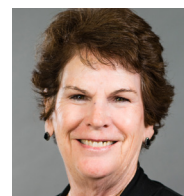
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