

2019 Legislative Priorities of Cities & Towns

Local Control and Home Rule

The Colorado Municipal League is a strong advocate for the state's tradition of local control and constitutional principle of home rule, both of which allow cities and towns maximum flexibility and discretion in municipal finance, implementation of local policy, and delivery of public services. Local control should remain local and home rule should stay at home. Neither should be centralized at the Statehouse.

Municipal government is the cornerstone of good government in Colorado, and the League values the partnership that exists with state and federal officials. The citizens who municipal officials represent are the same as those represented by legislators. The policies legislators enact affecting municipalities must be implemented by municipal leaders and local taxpayers. To maintain the strength of this partnership, CML urges legislators to consider the impacts of decisions on the municipalities in their respective districts.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

CML supports the continuation of the state low income housing tax credit that is administered through the Colorado Housing & Finance Authority. CML also supports legislation that creates a continuous funding source for affordable and attainable housing for Colorado's citizens.

BROADBAND

With voters in 102 municipalities and 40 counties having overwhelmingly voted to exempt themselves from the requirements of SB 05-152. CML supports legislation freeing up revenue to bring fast, reliable broadband to underserved areas of the state.

MARIJUANA

CML supports maximum local control of medical and recreational marijuana issues. CML supports legislation and initiatives that ensure marijuana revenue is used to mitigate impacts, whether a municipality allows retail activity or not.

OIL AND GAS

CML recognizes the importance of cooperation between the state regulatory bodies, industry, and municipal interests. Ensuring adequate public safety in and around oil and gas operations is paramount to the health and welfare of Colorado's residents and environment, as well as the long-term vitality of the industry. CML supports reasonable increases in local control of siting, setback, and land use issues, and urges the General Assembly to resist preemptions of traditional municipal authority.

PERA

CML supported 2018 legislation that will allow PERA to become fully funded in all divisions in 30 years or less. However, the League will support corrective legislation to

reverse a contribution increase for Local Government Division employees inadvertently added on the last day of the 2018 session.

PUBLIC SAFETY

CML supports the regulation of recovery residences and a potential state fund that could support municipal programs to lower substance abuse addiction in their communities. CML supports the expansion of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Programs to municipalities throughout Colorado. For the cities and towns that currently have these programs, they have been a significant tool to connect citizens to substance abuse treatment.

SEVERANCE TAX & FEDERAL MINERAL LEASE

CML opposes reductions of severance tax and federal mineral lease revenue to municipalities and the appropriation of local governments' energy impact or direct distribution revenue to finance state programs or state government administrative costs, or to backfill state TABOR refunds. CML supports referring a severance tax debrucing question to voters to protect revenues vital to impacted municipalities as well as water, wildlife, and conservation programs in the Department of Natural Resources.

SUSTAINABILITY

CML supports sustainability and sustainable solutions to meet the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. CML supports express local control to prohibit or restrict the use of certain plastic materials, as well the establishment of local standards for the use of certain containers or products.

TAX AUTHORITY

On average, more than 70 percent of municipal tax revenues are derived from sales and use taxes. CML and self-collecting municipalities support efforts to simplify collection efforts without impairing local control, including collection of remote sales taxes in a manner that complies with *South Dakota vs. Wayfair*. CML supports the state as a partner with the business community and municipalities that self-collect their sales and use taxes, but opposes any efforts to undermine constitutionally-granted municipal home rule authority to set tax policy, administration, and audit in home rule municipalities. CML discourages state sales tax exemptions that negatively impact statutory municipalities.

Property taxes are important to municipal governments as well. CML supports efforts to solve the impacts of continued reductions of the property tax residential assessment rate. CML opposes changes to the business personal property tax that do not "backfill" reductions to local government tax revenues.

TRANSPORTATION

Colorado's transportation system of roadways and transit is a state and local network vital to Colorado's future. Municipal officials support increased state transportation and transit funding that includes the return of an equitable portion of new revenue to cities, towns, and counties. A statewide solution includes planning and funding for all public roads, not just state highways.





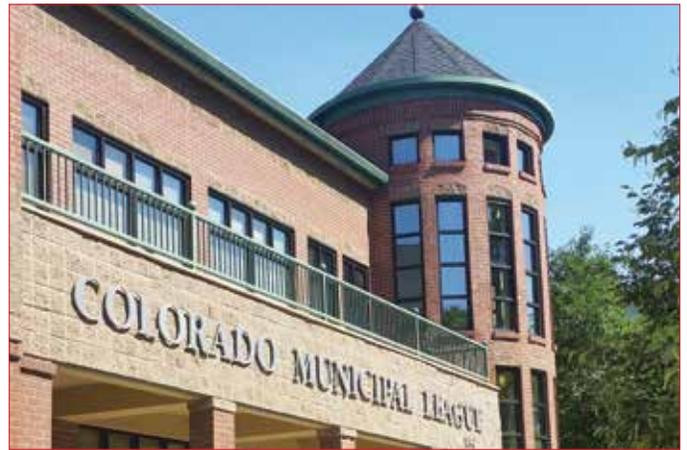
Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado

The Colorado Municipal League (CML) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has served and represented Colorado’s cities and towns since 1923. As such, CML is a reliable source of information about legislative issues and their impact on Colorado’s cities and towns and their residents.

270 cities and towns are members of the League, and policies are determined by members through the CML Policy Committee and the CML Executive Board.

For more information

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Questions about municipal policy?

CML employs four full-time advocates to assist in development and communication of policies. They closely watch proposed legislation and work with legislators to understand municipal impacts.



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