



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

2021

Legislative Priorities of Colorado Cities and Towns



Affordable housing

CML is initiating legislation to clarify that inclusionary zoning for new rental housing developments is not a form of rent control otherwise prohibited by state law and restore local land use authority over development decisions to local leaders.

Broadband

Voters in 108 municipalities and 40 counties have 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 and unserved areas of the state.

Criminal justice

CML supports collaborative relationships with the state on criminal justice issues, but opposes unduly prescriptive mandates on police and court operations and procedures.

Elections

CML supports clarification of certain recall election provisions in Title 31 via the inclusion of language in the omnibus elections bill initiated by the County Clerks Association.

Hemp

CML supports maximum local control in the authority to regulate business related to the processing, extraction, manufacturing, and sales of consumable and industrial hemp.

Marijuana

CML supports maximum local control of medical and recreational marijuana issues. CML supports legislative and budgetary initiatives that ensure marijuana revenue is used to mitigate impacts, regardless of whether a municipality allows retail activity, delivery, or on-site consumption.

Public safety

CML opposes legislation that purports to remove local control on the use of radio encryption as it is an important tool for law enforcement and firefighting agencies to protect municipal residents. CML supports legislation that enhances local governments' ability to effectively fight wildfires and coordinates state resources to most efficiently respond to catastrophic natural disasters.

Open meetings/open records

CML supports legislation that clarifies that nonsubstantive email communication between elected officials that is related to scheduling, responding to a constituent, forwarding information, or posing a question for later discussion is not considered an open meeting according to the Colorado open meeting law.

Severance tax and federal mineral leases

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, state government administrative costs, and 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, over 70% 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 also important to municipalities. 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.

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Meet the CML advocacy team

CML employs four full-time advocates to assist in development and communication of policies. The team closely watches proposed legislation and works with legislators to understand municipal impacts.



Meghan Dollar

CML legislative advocacy manager
mdollar@cml.org

Advocacy issues: Affordable housing, building codes, criminal justice & courts, employment & labor, retirement/pensions, taxation & fiscal policy, land use & annexation, policy committee and legislative workshop, coordinate advocacy team activities.

State Departments/Offices: DOLA, CDLE, DOR, CDPS, Dept. of Law, Judiciary, PERA/FPPA.



Meghan Mackillop

CML legislative and policy advocate
mmackillop@cml.org

Advocacy issues: Transportation & transit, sustainability, economic development, immigration, telecom/broadband, public safety (incl. communications & disasters), utilities.

State Departments/Offices: CDOT, Colorado Energy Office, DOLA, CDPS, EDDC/OEDIT, PUC, PUC (9-1-1), Office of Resiliency and Recovery, OIT.



Heather Stauffer

CML legislative and policy advocate
hstauffer@cml.org

Advocacy issues: Natural resources & environment, elections, governmental immunity, oil & gas, open meetings/open records, special districts, severance tax/FML/energy impact, water & wastewater/water quality, wildfire.

State Departments/Offices: CDPHE, CDPS, COGCC, DNR, DOLA, OIT, SOS.



Beauclarine Thomas

CML legislative and policy advocate
bthomas@cml.org

Advocacy issues: Beer & liquor/marijuana, health care, hemp, historic preservation, municipal debt & finance, lottery & gaming, purchasing, state budget/JBC, substance abuse.

State Departments/Offices: CDA, DOLA, DOR (enforcement), DHS, GOCO.



Colorado Municipal League

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.

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 residents 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.

Colorado Municipal League

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