

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

An online training seminar
on the fundamentals
of local governance

NOVEMBER 13



Welcome!



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

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Your Role as a Municipal Leader

Kevin Bommer, CML Executive Director



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What is CML?

- Nonprofit, non-partisan association of 271 Colorado municipalities
- Established in 1923
- Governed by a 21-member Executive Board
- CML exists for its members and because of our members



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CML NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

CML's Strategic Plan



**COLORADO
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Major policies of CML are established by the membership at the annual business meeting and by the CML Executive Board and various committees. Daily operations of the League are carried out by a 17-member staff. CML also has a variety of professional sections and 14 regional districts that give CML depth and breadth in its understanding of municipal needs.



MISSION

Advocacy, information, and training supporting exceptional municipal governance.



VISION

Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado



VALUES

Commitment, service, collaboration

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Your role as an elected official

Two Basic Features

- An elected official decides policy questions, and;
- A professionally trained manager, hired by council, governs municipal administration

In Practice

- The Council/Board paints the big picture, and;
- Entrusts the details of the administration and implementation to direct reports/municipal staff

Your role as a leader

There are differences in elected vs. staff roles, AND similarities.

The public expects and deserves your best, including:

- Honesty
- Accountability
- Personal character
- Lawful, ethical conduct
- Making decisions that put the community first
- Open and fair decision-making processes
- Respect for individuals and the community
- Decorum and professionalism

As you embrace your role, keep in mind:

- Each elected official has different goals and priorities
- Which means it is impossible to reconcile everything everyone wants
- The burden on those on council is to sort out individual goals and priorities
 - What is most important?
 - Where are you willing to compromise?
- Contributes to establishing a singular set of goals, priorities, and directions for your manager and other direct reports

The “Ultimate Challenge”:

- Each elected official has different goals and priorities
- You now represent the whole, not just one issue or opinion - make decisions in the best interests of entire community as that is who it impacts
- Collaboration and consensus-building must be intentionally practiced
- Misunderstanding your role can reduce your effectiveness AND increase the risk of liability for your municipality
- You set the tone in your community!