



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

2026 Fall District Meeting

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To: CML District Meeting attendees
From: Kevin Bommer, Executive Director
Date: August 26, 2026
Subject: 2026 Fall District Meetings

On behalf of the entire CML staff, we want to thank you for your participation in CML District Meetings! We enjoyed seeing so many of you at our 104th Annual Conference in Westminster, but we know not everyone can attend. Your team at CML travels around the state to meet you where you are at because CML is a statewide organization. Please remember that you can attend any District Meeting (or more than one). You are not restricted to only going to the meeting in your district.

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. 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.

What to expect at District Meetings

1. *You are the voice of your municipality*

You have a role in CML's representation 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.

2. *You have role in the direction of CML*

Staff will provide updates on what's happening at CML and talk a little bit about what to expect out of the state capitol in 2027 and how every municipality can have a seat at the table through the CML Policy Committee. We want to make sure any questions you have are answered and encourage you to share your thoughts with us.

3. *You are among friends!*

CML District Meetings also allow you more time to connect with your friends and colleagues from other municipalities, as well as CML staff, associate members and honored guests. A favorite quote of ours is "the answers are in the room." That could not be truer, and there we will make sure there is time to ask questions and answer those of others. I am particularly eager to introduce you to CML's new Deputy Director, [Evelyn Baker](#) and CML's new Database Specialist, [Eliane Walters](#).

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!



2026 Statewide Ballot Questions of Interest to Municipalities

Colorado voters will see several statewide measures on their November ballot in addition to any local questions. For each statewide question, a detailed analysis by the General Assembly's Legislative Council Staff will be available at <https://leg.colorado.gov/BallotAnalysis>. The Colorado Municipal League has not taken a position on any of these measures (as of September 1, 2024). Not all propositions had received numbers at the time of writing.

Criminal Justice

Proposition 132 (Initiative 85), Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes

This statutory question would enhance the penalties for the possession, sale, or manufacture of fentanyl. If passed, any possession of fentanyl would be a felony, requires a minimum 8-year sentence for any distribution. Recently passed laws categorized minor possession charges as misdemeanors, established options for penalty reductions, and provided a tiered penalty structure for felony distribution charges.

Proposition ____ (Initiative 95), Law Enforcement Reporting Requirements to Federal Authorities

This constitutional amendment would require law enforcement to attempt to determine and then report the unlawful presence or unknown lawful status of any person charged with a crime who has charged with a violent crime or convicted of a prior felony. The measure would restrict recent laws limiting information sharing with federal immigration authorities and restricting local law enforcement's participation in civil immigration enforcement.

Elections

Proposition ____ (Initiative 362), Mail Ballot Verification

This constitutional amendment would require mail ballots for federal or statewide elections (and potentially municipal elections conducted as coordinated elections) to include a voter's signature and the last four digits of their social security number or other qualifying identification number. Non-compliant ballots cannot be counted and the election official must send notice to the voter; the voter would have only eight days from election day (including the time required for the notice) by submitting acceptable identification documents.

Energy

Proposition ____ (Initiative 177), Right to Natural Gas

This constitutional amendment would establish a right to purchase and sell natural gas for use in homes and businesses. The measure could conflict with local ordinances and building codes regulating the installation and repair of natural gas service, delivery, pipelines, and appliances, or requiring electric appliances.

State Funding & Revenue

Proposition NN, Keep and Spend Money for Education and Other Purposes

The General Assembly referred this statutory measure that effectively establishes a higher threshold for taxpayer refunds under TABOR. The new threshold is the current TABOR threshold plus the highest amount the state has spent on K-12 education from certain funding sources in previous years. Any funds exceeding the Proposition NN threshold would be refunded. Revenue between the current TABOR refund threshold and the Proposition NN threshold must be spent on local government property tax reimbursements and K-12 education and programs that support for ten years; after ten years; the General Assembly can define broader purposes. According to Legislative Council Staff, “state revenue is expected to continue to be well below the Proposition NN limit in the next several years, and is not expected to exceed the Proposition NN limit for at least the next five to ten years.”

Proposition 137 (Initiative 308), Designate Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation

This statutory measure would direct money from the general fund derived based on the volume of taxable sales of sporting goods and equipment as additional funding for Greater Outdoors Colorado (47.5% or 38%), the Wildfire Prevention and Water Fund (47.5% or 57%), the Outdoor Equity Fund (2.5%), and the Outdoor Recreation Economic Development Cash Fund (2.5%). The measures could provide additional funding for state grants but would decrease other available revenue.

Special Note about the interaction of state funding measures

According to draft analysis by the Legislative Council Staff, Proposition NN allows the state to keep and spend revenue that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers under TABOR, up to a newly established limit. Because Proposition 137 reduces revenue subject to the constitutional revenue limit, Proposition 137 will reduce the amount of money the state actually keeps and spends under Proposition NN, if both measures pass. If Proposition 137 passes, the amount of money the state will actually keep and spend under Proposition NN may be reduced or eliminated.



To: CML Membership
From: CML Advocacy Staff
Date: September 10, 2026
Subject: 2026 CML Advocacy Update

2027 Legislative Session Preview

While the next legislative session is still months away, CML is already preparing by soliciting requests for CML-initiated legislation and engaging with other stakeholder groups on legislation that may impact our members. CML's Policy Committee — made up of representatives from each municipality — will meet on October 16 to review proposals for CML-initiated legislation. This committee guides CML's legislative policy throughout the year, and municipal participation is what makes this committee a vital part of CML. We encourage every municipality to designate a member who can attend these meetings and provide guidance to the advocacy team.

To learn more about joining the Policy Committee, please contact Bev Stables, Legislative Advocacy Manager (bstables@cml.org).

Data centers

Last session, two competing data center bills (HB26-1030 and SB26-102) died without reaching a compromise. HB26-1030 provided state sales and use tax incentives for data centers while SB26-102 established restrictions on data centers based on environmental concerns. CML initially monitored both bills and eventually took an amend position on SB26-102 based on preemption concerns from committee amendments.

Environmental proponents of SB26-102 may include data center permitting preemptions in legislation for next year as a means of influencing data center development.

Given the timeliness of this issue, expect to see more data center legislation next session with a potential compromise between environmental and business groups. If your municipality has implemented or is considering new ordinances relative to data centers, please let the CML advocacy team know.

E-motorcycle Regulation

Several organizations, including Bicycle Colorado and Children's Hospital Colorado, are working with legislators to run a bill that would regulate e-motorcycles, which are also referred to as e-motos, e-bikes, and e-scooters. E-motos are different than e-bikes in that e-motos go faster and are often louder. The legislative concept is still in its early forms, but

proponents believe the bill would include helmet and age requirements and safety or education courses. If your municipality has regulated e-motos or is experiencing issues with these bikes, please let the CML advocacy team know.

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Technology

Last session, SB26-070 died without reaching a compromise. CML started in an amend status and then was forced to move to oppose given the proponents' unwillingness to negotiate key provisions in the bill, including a requirement for police departments to get a warrant to access ALPR databases after 72-hours from the incident occurring and requiring all ALPR data to be permanently deleted after 30 days. The bill would have also prohibited departments from sharing ALPR data with other states and the federal government, and it would have created prescriptive logging, auditing, and reporting requirements. CML has met with the sponsor of SB26-070, and the bill will be brought back in the 2027 legislative session with the same provisions, although more restrictive. The sponsor has indicated that in 2027, the bill will require a warrant after 24 hours instead of 72 and it would reduce the data retention limit of 30 days down to 7. If your municipality has thoughts, opinions, or regulations of this technology, please let the CML advocacy team know.

Follow-up to SB26-190

SB26-190 was introduced in the final days of the 2026 legislative session. The act requires law enforcement agencies investigating a fatal peace officer use-of-force incident to notify the decedent's immediate family and provide them with unedited audio and video recordings of the incident within 21 days. It also establishes requirements governing the public release of those recordings, extrajudicial statements by law enforcement, and community or critical incident briefing videos. Sponsors of the follow-up bill expect to bring two separate pieces of legislation in 2027. Neither of these bills nor its concepts have been shared in much detail with CML. If your police department has experienced issues following the passage of SB26-190, including an increase in records requests of Section 902, please let the CML advocacy team know.

County Excise Tax

A legislator, with support from some counties, is considering legislation that would give counties excise tax authority. As currently drafted, the bill would allow that authority to extend into incorporated areas.

Generally, CML would likely not object to giving counties general authority to ask voters for an excise tax, *if the authority is limited to unincorporated areas*. However, since municipalities rely on sales tax as their primary revenue source and need full control over their own tax rates — both to avoid overtaxing residents and to raise revenue as needed, CML will advocate for not allowing this authority to extend into incorporated areas. Counties currently have unlimited countywide property and sales tax authority, plus up to a 6% countywide lodging tax, all of which affect the municipal tax base and mill levies.

If this bill moves forward, CML will also ask that the same excise taxing authority be extended to statutory municipalities, largely as a matter of parity — home rule municipalities already have this authority, and counties would gain it under this proposal.

Electronic Ballot Return

Last session, SB 26-119 would have allowed municipalities and special districts to send out electronic ballots to all voters within the jurisdiction. Currently, counties send electronic ballots to military and overseas voters, but no other type of voter is allowed to vote by email. The bill would have allowed a municipality to opt-in to use electronic ballots for all voters. The bill failed in the first committee, but recent stakeholder conversations suggest that a similar bill will be introduced next session.

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 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 Bev Stables, CML legislative advocacy manager at bstables@cml.org.



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Workshops & Events

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, CML holds a variety of trainings for elected officials, municipal staff, and municipal attorneys. These sessions feature speakers and in-person networking opportunities. You can register for events in the **CML online store**.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

**Aug. 26, 2026, in Lamar | Aug. 27 in Monte Vista
Sept. 3 in Sterling | Oct. 21-22 in Denver**

This workshop for local government leaders focuses on practical governance skills such as staff/council relationships, ethics, liability, open meetings, leadership, and grass roots advocacy.

ANNUAL SEMINAR ON MUNICIPAL LAW

Oct. 9-10, 2026, in Snowmass Village

CML's law seminar provides expert Colorado-specific information directly relevant to the daily practice of municipal attorneys — as well as opportunities to network with peers.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Dec. 2, 2026 | Online

This CML virtual workshop equips new leaders with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed. Topics include the structure and functions of local government, defining the roles and responsibilities of elected leaders, as well as understanding open meetings, ethics, and liability.

MUNICIPAL PROSECUTORS' WORKSHOP

Dec. 3, 2026, in Denver

This intensive training event provides essential skills, legal updates, and practical guidance specifically tailored for attorneys practicing prosecution in municipal courts. Registration opens soon.

MAYORS' SUMMIT

2026 date & location TBD

For mayors only! This annual workshop addresses key aspects of municipal leadership, helping mayors lead with confidence and collaborate effectively with their councils, staff, and communities. And it's a great opportunity to meet your fellow mayors from across Colorado.

LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP

Feb. 18, 2027, in Denver

This day-long workshop is your opportunity to learn more about the key municipal issues before the General Assembly, CML's legislative program, and what you and your municipality can do to influence the legislative process.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 22-25, 2027, in Keystone

Join us for our biggest event of the year! The CML Annual Conference is four days of intense learning and productive networking designed to meet the needs of municipal staff and elected officials.

WEBINARS

**Every first Wednesday at noon
(plus additional dates!)**

We know it can be hard to break away from your work to attend in-person trainings, so this free webinar series makes it easy to connect with colleagues and gain topic-specific training every month. Each one-hour webinar features a presentation from an expert with time devoted to an open-ended Q&A with the presenter.





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Publications

AT THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, knowledge is empowerment. We are dedicated to providing our municipal members with a wealth of up-to-date information to support your professional growth and success, and we seek out new subject areas to address emerging challenges facing municipalities. Many of our publications are available in both print and PDF formats, offering flexibility and accessibility to our members. Most importantly, PDF versions are free for members and can be downloaded instantly in the **CML online store**. CML Members can sign up to receive periodicals on the **CML website**. Just log in to your account and navigating to the “preferences” tab.

PERIODICALS

- *Colorado Municipalities* quarterly magazine
- Biweekly electronic *CML Newsletter*
- *Lessons on Local Government* electronic newsletter
- *Statehouse Report* newsletter highlighting CML's advocacy activity at the state Capitol, published weekly during the legislative session
- *Municipal Law Update*, a monthly roundup of court decisions affecting cities and towns

WHITE PAPERS & GUIDES

- *Knowledge Now* white papers on various topics
- *Annual State of Our Cities and Towns* report
- *Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments*, published annually after the legislative session
- Annual CML Compensation Survey

BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

- *Annexation in Colorado*
- *Bob's Rules of Order for Colorado Local Governments*
- *Code Enforcement in Colorado*
- *Colorado Municipal Candidate's Guide*
- *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*
- *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 Prosecutor Handbook*
- *Municipal Taxes and Fees*
- *Open Meetings, Open Records*
- *Small Town Solutions*
- *TABOR: A Guide to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights*
- *Tips for Enhancing Professionalism During Virtual Meetings*
- *Urban Renewal*





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Resources for Municipal Members

ADVOCACY

The Colorado Municipal League is your voice before state and federal government, employing full-time lobbyists to ensure all municipalities are well-represented at the state Capitol.

Ensure your municipality's voice is heard! Contact CML Legislative Advocacy Manager **Bev Stables** to join CML's Policy Committee.

CML LISTSERVS

Listsers enable individuals subscribed to the service to exchange information and ideas via email. Any member can post questions or share information, which are then automatically distributed 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 FUTURE VOTERS

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

We need your help! LOLG seeks government leaders to volunteer in classrooms. Contact **Justelle Grandsaert** to volunteer.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING & RESEARCH

CML administers statewide research polls to assess trends, challenges, opportunities, and other factors that affect municipalities. We carry out a number of research projects each year, and the results are used to advance legislation, inform decision-makers, and track changes over time. Learn more about **CML research** online. CML also provides in-depth information by publishing several books each year, as well as white papers, the biweekly *CML Newsletter*, and the quarterly *Colorado Municipalities* magazine. Visit the **CML online store** to view and order books, and you can manage your periodical subscriptions on the **CML website** by logging into your account, navigating to "My Account," and clicking the "preferences" tab.

Don't forget that included in your CML membership is access to salary and benefits data from municipalities across Colorado. Learn about accessing the system to run reports and update your municipality's data on our **Compensation Survey webpage**.

LEGAL RESOURCES

CML's full-time 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, the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency, and the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association, 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.

NETWORKING

You're not alone. Whether you work for a small or large municipality, there are public servants in other parts of the state doing similar work and experiencing similar circumstances. CML creates connections for you to meet one another. Every in-person training event includes time devoted for networking, informally or formally. Plus, every webinar includes time for open-ended Q&A and chatting.

Or download *CML Connect*, our app that lets you digitally contact other members and register for upcoming programs. You can also follow CML on Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

TRAINING

Training is vital for government workers because it ensures your legal compliance, promotes ethical decision-making, clarifies governmental roles, and builds the leadership skills needed to help you effectively manage public resources and serve your communities. CML offers a variety of training programs designed for you. You can register for events in the **CML online store**.

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, and past webinars have

covered accessibility and ADA compliance, housing, parking, retail and economic development trends, and waste diversion.

Workshops and seminars — Throughout the year, CML holds a variety of one- to two-day trainings for elected officials, municipal staff, and municipal attorneys. These sessions feature speakers on several topics and in-person networking opportunities.

Annual Conference — The CML 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.

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 CML training session they participate in. Officials are recognized during CML's Annual Conference at varying tiers of achievement: Fundamental (30 credits), Leadership (60 credits), and Graduate (100 credits).

Not finding the training session that suits your needs? Tell us about it and we will design a training course for you! Contact CML Engagement and Communications Manager **Kristin Kemp**.





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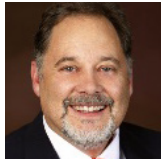
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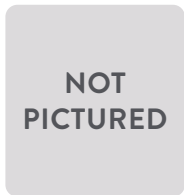
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