



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

2025 Fall District Meeting

- ❖ Welcome letter from Kevin Bommer, CML executive director
- ❖ CML advocacy update
- ❖ CML policy committee
- ❖ Upcoming Events/Trainings
 - Annual Seminar on Municipal Law – 10/10 – 10/11
 - Policy Committee Hybrid Meeting – 10/17
 - Effective Governance Workshop at CML – 10/22 – 10/23
 - Newly Elected Officials Virtual Workshop – 11/13
 - Effective Governance on the Road Meeker – 11/19
 - Effective Governance on the Road Ridgway – 11/20
 - Policy Committee Hybrid Meeting – 12/5
 - Legislative Workshop – 2/19/26
- ❖ CML resources
- ❖ CML executive board and staff



To: CML District Meeting attendees
From: Kevin Bommer, Executive Director
Date: September 10, 2025
Subject: 2025 Fall District Meetings

We are grateful that so many of you join us for the CML Annual Conference each June. We also know that there are many more elected officials and staff often face challenges that make it difficult to take time away to attend. One of the best parts of the job is to meet you where you are. Connecting with members across our great state and visiting the cities and towns that are the foundation of Colorado and CML helps CML better understand and represent your needs.

CML has always placed a strong emphasis on outreach, offering accessible opportunities to network and learn from both the League and one another. We understand that your time is valuable, and we are honored whenever we can come to you. This is what you expect of your League, and it is a commitment we are proud to fulfill.

What to Expect

CML exists for our members and because of our members. The League is your partner in municipal leadership, helping you meet the needs of your communities and excel in your work.

You also play a key role in ensuring CML represents and protects the interests of all Colorado municipalities. Your feedback and suggestions help us better serve you. These meetings provide a direct way to share your input on CML's advocacy, information, and training, ensuring we deliver the resources and support that matter most to you and your colleagues.

District Meetings also give you time to connect with friends and colleagues from other municipalities, as well as associate members and honored guests. One of our favorite sayings is "the answers are in the room." That is especially true in these gatherings, where there will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions, exchange ideas, and learn from each other.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, concerns, or requests for assistance at kbommer@cml.org, or call or text me at (303) 564-0442.

Thank you for your service to your communities and for your continued participation in CML. We look forward to seeing you!



To: CML Membership
From: CML Advocacy Staff
Date: September 10, 2025
Subject: 2025 CML Advocacy Update

This memo is intended to introduce CML's membership to the CML Advocacy Team and provide a recap of special session as well as a preview for the 2026 legislative session.

CML is pleased to welcome two new members of our advocacy team. We are excited for Owen Brigner and Emma Donahue to put their skills and experience to work advocating for Colorado's cities and towns.

Owen Brigner



I am so excited to be joining CML's advocacy team! I will be responsible for advocating municipal interests before the state legislature. My issue areas include criminal justice, public safety, governmental immunity, and immigration. I'll also assist in training and answering inquiries for other municipal officials on various topics. In my previous role, I worked for Denver City Council Member Amanda Sawyer, where I served as her senior aide, led research efforts, managed her office's constituent services, and played a key role in passing two pieces of legislation — one being a first-of-its-kind in Denver related to land use and the placement of gas stations, and another enhancing public safety by strengthening Denver's neglected and derelict buildings ordinance. I can't wait to meet and work with all of you!

Emma Donahue



Emma is responsible for advocating municipal interests before the state legislature. Her issues include elections, natural resources and environment, oil and gas, open meetings and open records, severance tax, water, and wildfires. She also assists in training and answering inquiries for other municipal officials on various topics. Prior to joining CML, Emma worked for the National Endowment for Financial Education supporting national policy to increase financial education, especially in K-12. She has worked with political candidates and organizations across the state, including high profile legislative, city council, and state level

candidates. Emma has assembled grassroots organizations, building coalitions to reach consensus on some of Colorado's most challenging issues and passing legislation at the state and local levels.

Recap of 2025 Special Session

Facing a budget shortfall of an additional \$1 billion in the fiscal year that began July 1, largely due to changes in federal funding and tax code that was part of H.R. 1 at the federal level, Gov. Polis called the legislature back for a special legislative session starting August 21 and ending August 26.

The purpose of the special session was to address the budget shortfall, as well as make fixes that AI-industry representatives said are needed for Senate Bill 24-205, "Consumer Protections for Artificial Intelligence." That legislation sought to address bias in AI technology, but the state and business community argued that those changes resulted in significant cost burdens for them.

Several budgetary bills were passed by the legislature to create more revenue through the elimination of certain tax credits and changes that impact businesses. None of these bills have a direct impact on local governments. And while there were two competing AI proposals, proponents on both sides failed to reach a deal. Instead, the legislature passed a deadline extension of SB24-205 to go into effect June 30, 2026. This allows time during the 2026 regular legislative session to find a compromise.

2026 Legislative Session Preview

While the next legislative session is still a few months away, CML is beginning to engage on legislation that may impact local governments. CML's Policy Committee will meet on October 17th to review proposals for CML-initiated legislation.

A major land use bill may be coming back next session known as Yes In God's Backyard (YIGBY). While details are not yet available, CML staff anticipate a version similar to last year's bill that would have allowed churches and schools to bypass local zoning to develop residential property on land they own. CML was opposed to that legislative effort and would likely have serious concerns with a similar proposal next session.

Some form of compromise on artificial intelligence is expected and will hopefully not impact local governments. The proposed changes to SB24-205 might only apply to businesses across the state.

Finally, similar to this past year, budget projections for next year are bleak. These budget constraints will heavily impact the legislature's work – it will likely limit lawmakers' ability to pass legislation that costs the state money, which could result in more unfunded mandates on

local governments. CML is also closely monitoring any future sweeps to severance tax, Proposition 123 funds, or any other funding sources dedicated to local governments.

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



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CML WORKSHOPS

ANNUAL SEMINAR ON MUNICIPAL LAW

Oct. 10-11 in Steamboat Springs | In-person

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.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Oct. 22-23 in Denver | In-person

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.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Nov. 13 | Virtual workshop

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.

ELECTION SERIES

Nov. 13, Dec. 11., Jan. 8, March 12, May 14 | Webinar

Sharpen your election knowledge with Karen Goldman, MMC, as she leads CML and CMCA's webinar series for municipal clerks. Each session covers essential election best practices, from calendars and petitions to ballot verification and election debriefs. Clerks can also earn ½ CMCA credit per webinar.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE ON THE ROAD

November 2025 in Meeker & Ridgway | In-person

CML takes its Effective Governance training on the road! Join us for workshops focused on the fundamentals of local governance, such as staff/council relationships, ethics, liability, open meetings, leadership, grass roots advocacy, and more.

MAYORS' SUMMIT

January 2026 | In-person

For mayors only! CML's 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. 19, 2026 | In-person

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.

Register for CML events at www.cml.org/home/networking-events



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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 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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Lone Tree
city manager

VICE PRESIDENT



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mayor

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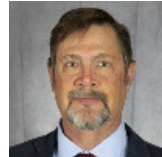
Wynetta Massey
Widner Juran LLP
of counsel



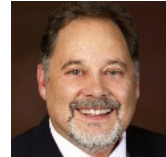
Kim Boyd
Kiowa
town administrator



Sharon Davis
Arvada
Councilmember



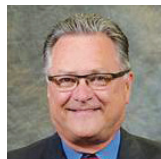
Dave Frank
Montrose
mayor



Jason Gray
Castle Rock
mayor



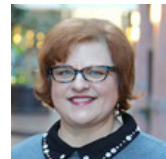
Duane Gurulé
Rocky Ford
mayor



Dale Hall
Greeley
mayor pro tem



Liz Hensley
Alamosa
mayor pro tem



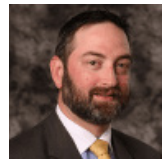
Sarah Johnson
Colorado Springs
city clerk



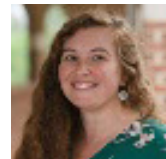
Dan Kramer
Estes Park
town attorney



Angela Lawson
Aurora
council member



James Marsh-Holschen
Broomfield
council member



Rachel Medina
Cortez
mayor



Candy Meehan
Norwood
mayor



Joshua Rivero
Parker
mayor



Hollie Rogin
Lyons
mayor



Anna Stout
Grand Junction
council member



Scott Trainor
Fountain
city manager



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Alex Miller
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Karen Rosen
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Robert Sheesley
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