



ANNUAL REPORT

COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 2020-2021







CML Annual Report 2020-2021

A message from the executive director



Greetings,

The Colorado Municipal League's Annual Report is submitted to CML members every year to share information and data demonstrating the League's progress toward established goals in CML's Strategic Plan. The core functions of advocacy, information, and training are the foundation for everything CML does.

However, this Annual Report is much different than any other, and readers will note dramatic departures from normal in many of the statistics. This is not surprising, given the far-reaching impacts of COVID-19 on member municipalities, elected officials and staff, and CML operations. Indeed, the numbers tell a story of resiliency, adaptation, and dedication to providing continued service to CML members and they to their residents and businesses.

On behalf of the CML Executive Board and myself, I wish to thank the Colorado Municipal League staff for their hard work during challenging times, as well all of CML's member elected officials and staff who worked hard to meet the needs of their cities and towns.

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Kevin Bommer, CML Executive Director

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About CML

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 16-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.

CML is guided by a comprehensive strategic plan that informs key priorities and goals that support the League's mission, vision, and values.









Municipal Interests

Protect and promote municipal interests and priorities.

Key Priorities



Ensure municipal leaders have information they need and the opportunity to inform others.



Goals

- 1. Defend and advance municipal interests in the courts, in the legislature, and at the ballot box.
- 2. Empower members to be leaders on municipal issues and advocate for CML policies and positions.
- 3. Be the leading statewide information resource on municipal issues.
- 1. Provide quality opportunities for meaningful member interactions with CML and each other.
- 2. Provide innovative and personalized training and outreach opportunities.
- 3. Implement a robust communications and training plan focused on increased engagement and improved content delivery.
- 4. Increase the resources available for municipal staff and elected officials.
- 5. Collaborate with organization partners to maximize resources and increase efficiency.
- 6. Provide effective and timely delivery of information and outreach opportunities.
- 7. Envision the future needs of CML and member municipalities.



Demonstrate leadership and provide opportunities for leadership from members.

- 1. Support the development of leaders within municipalities.
- 2. Inspire participation in CML by elected officials and staff.
- 3. Promote principles of good governance and civic dialogue to advance individual and collective municipal interests.



CML Annual Report 2020-2021

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Colorado's municipalities Residents who live in by the numbers **Colorado population*** cities/towns* 4,284,908 5,763,976 Home rule municipalities **Statutory municipalities** 103 168 Mayors, council City/town manager/ members and trustees administrator **Residents living in home Residents living in** rule municipalities* 1,830 statutory municipalities* 180 3,998,963 284,835 **Territorial charter towns Municipal members** Largest municipality* Smallest municipality* Lakeside Denver **Residents in territorial** 270 charter town* 729,239 1,110

*Colorado Department of Local Affairs



Taxes



Municipalities with a local sales tax 224



Highest tax rate¹

Lowest tax rate¹

70

(\$)



Assessed valuation of property in municipalities² \$90B Total Colorado property tax assessment **66.4%**

Municipalities that

self-collect tax



503 of 581 revenue retention questions passed³

321 of 461 debt and obligation guestions passed³

712 of 1158 municipal tax or tax rate

municipal tax or tax rat questions passed* *Since 1993

1 Colorado Department of Revenue, 2 Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

Publications

CML publications provide municipalities with information and guidance around common issues. CML produces a bi-weekly newsletter, quartely magazine, books, Knowledge Now white papers, weekly Statehouse Report during the legislative session, and other publications as needed to ensure municipalities have critical information at their fingertips.



Editions of Colorado Municipalities



Editions of CML Newsletter **26**



Knowledge Nows





Publications

- Municipal Prosecutor's Handbook
 Open Meetings, Open Records
 - How to Hire a Local Government Manager or Administrator
 - Beer and Liquor Book
 - Tips for Enhancing Professionalism during Virtual Meetings of Local Government

Social Media

CML utilizes social media to share information about current events and engage membership. Additionally, CML responds to inquiries from membership and the public through these properties.



Facebook followers



LinkedIn followers 1,385

Lessons on Local Government by the numbers

CML partners with the Special District Association of Colorado (SDA) to present Lessons on Local Government. This resource provides teachers with free local government resources and curriculum materials that meet state social studies standards, as well as prepares students to be informed residents. More information is available at *lessonsonlocalgovernment.org*.

National teacher

(virtual)

conference presented

- 2 Major Colorado teacher conferences sponsored, exhibited and presented (1 virtual, 1 live) Total attendance 2225
- 2 Teacher workshops (virtual) Total attendance 17

95

Total attendance

 Social studies & friends meetings Average attendance
 32

- 6 University teacher preparation programs presentations (all virtual) Total attendance 73
- 2 New lessons drafted school resource officers and special issues, special districts



Largest reach of Facebook post

125



Poster Contest

5

Schools Classes Students







Training opportunities

The CML training program provides valuable, current information for elected officials and municipal staff. Training topics are determined through legislative changes, legal changes, member inquiries, and requests. CML strives to provide frequent, affordable training opportunities to ensure that Colorado municipalities have access to critical information.

Officials who participated in CML training 1,281

Engagement by the numbers



Spring Outreach meetings¹





In-person training opportunities

Webinars

Fall District meetings²

13



AC Listservs

¹Canceled due to COVID-19. ² Virtual due to COVID-19.

MUNIversity

MUNIversity is CML's program to recognize municipal elected officials investing time and resources to participate in educational events in an effort to increase their knowledge of municipal government and enhance their capacity to lead.



Leadership 60 hours

49 **Fundamental** 30 hours

Virtual Conference 2020

CML was unable to hold its planned in-person Annual Conference, but our organization adapted and held our first ever virtual conference. The conference took place over the course of three days and consisted of 28 educational sessions.



Virtual Conference attendees

522



Mamet Award Mayor John Suthers

The Sam Mamet Good Governance Award. established in 2019 in honor of retired CML Executive Director Sam Mamet, honors an individual who exemplifies and seeks to expand the application of principles of good governance. The inaugural winner of this award was Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers.

NLC participation **NLC** Congressional **Cities Conference**

Attendees at Congressional Cities Conference

Colorado cities/ towns represented

Municipal officials **59**

NLC's City Summit 47 Members from 17

Municipalities





Advocacy

CML's legislative advocacy team works directly with members of the Colorado General Assembly and other organizations to advocate on behalf of Colorado municipalities.



CML Advocacy team followed nearly **300 bills**



98%

of CML support

bills passed



of CML oppose bills were defeated or amended to remove CML's opposition

Finance

Revenue - CML received 88% of revenue in dues from municipal and associate memberships in 2020. CML municipal dues increased 2.8% in 2020 and all municipal members who paid their dues by January 31st received a 3% rebate. Over 98% of CML members received the rebate. Due to the pandemic, the annual conference was virtual, resulting in a reduction in sponsorship and registration revenue. The remaining annual revenue was generated from workshops, publications, and interest income.









1%

\$58,934





Finance

Expenses - CML is the primary source for municipal advocacy, information, and training. CML services provide members with innovative training opportunities, informative research and publications, and effective attorneys and lobbyists who advocate successfully for the collective interests of all Colorado municipalities. As displayed below, expenses in 2020 reflect CML's commitment to excellent customer service, strategic plan goals, and services and programs for members.

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24%







Publications and periodicals \$285,142 13%

Management and general \$590,007



Conference and workshops \$285,142 12%

Depreciation \$127,897 5%





CML President's Initiative



Each year, CML's Executive Board president selects a president's initiative. 2020-2021 President, Centennial City Attorney Bob Widner, selected equity and diversity. As part of this initiative, the Executive Board formed a Subcommittee on Equity and Diversity, which aided in the production of an equity and diversity edition of *Colorado Municipalities*, a webpage with resources for municipalities, several educational sessions at CML events and a Board and staff equity training.

CML statement on equity and diversity

The Colorado Municipal League is committed to supporting our members' efforts to embrace and increase equity and diversity in their communities. We provide training, resources, and tools that facilitate sharing and enhance learning to help local elected leaders build inclusive communities where people from all backgrounds and orientations thrive socially, economically, academically, and physically.

The League also values diversity within its membership, elected leadership, and staff. We strive to support a CML Board and committees that reflect the communities we serve. Diversity of opinions, ideas, and solutions ensure that we are considering the needs of our members and Colorado residents in all our decisions.



Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado

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