ANNUAL REPORT
COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
2020-2021
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.

Kevin Bommer, CML Executive Director
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.

**Mission**
Advocacy, information, and training supporting exceptional municipal governance.

**Vision**
Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado

**Values**
Commitment, service, collaboration
**Key Priorities**

**Municipal Interests**
Protect and promote municipal interests and priorities.

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

**Leadership**
Demonstrate leadership and provide opportunities for leadership from members.

**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.

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.
The numbers tell a story of resiliency, adaptation, and dedication to providing continued service to CML members and they to their citizens and businesses.
**Colorado’s municipalities by the numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City/town manager/administrator</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayors, council members and trustees</td>
<td>1,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home rule municipalities</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents living in home rule municipalities*</td>
<td>3,998,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory municipalities</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents living in statutory municipalities*</td>
<td>284,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territorial charter towns</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents in territorial charter town*</td>
<td>1,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal members</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest municipality*</td>
<td>Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallest municipality*</td>
<td>Lakeside</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Colorado population*  
5,763,976

Residents who live in cities/towns*  
4,284,908

*Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Taxes

- Municipalities with a local sales tax: 224
- Municipalities that self-collect tax: 70
- Highest tax rate: 7.0%
- Lowest tax rate: 1.0%
- Assessed valuation of property in municipalities: $90B
- Total Colorado property tax assessment: 66.4%
- 503 of 581 revenue retention questions passed
- 712 of 1158 municipal tax or tax rate questions passed*
- 321 of 461 debt and obligation 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 5
Editions of CML Newsletter 26
Knowledge Nows 2
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 likes: 1,093
Facebook followers: 1,352
Twitter followers: 2,515
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Colorado teacher conferences sponsored, exhibited and presented (1 virtual, 1 live)</th>
<th>National teacher conference presented (virtual)</th>
<th>University teacher preparation programs presentations (all virtual)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total attendance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total attendance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total attendance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher workshops (virtual)</th>
<th>Social studies &amp; friends meetings</th>
<th>New lessons drafted - school resource officers and special issues, special districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total attendance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Average attendance</strong></td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average reach of Facebook post: 28
Largest reach of Facebook post: 125

**Poster Contest**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 meetings\(^1\)
0

Fall District meetings\(^2\)
13

In-person training opportunities
1

Webinars
15

Statehouse Reports
15

Listservs
7

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.

4
Graduate
100 hours

21
Leadership
60 hours

49
Fundamental
30 hours

\(^1\)Canceled due to COVID-19, \(^2\)Virtual due to COVID-19.
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NLC Congressional Cities Conference</th>
<th>NLC’s City Summit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendees at Congressional Cities Conference</td>
<td>Municipal officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado cities/towns represented</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members from Municipalities</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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

- CML supported 51 bills
- CML opposed 27 bills
- 98% of CML support bills passed
- 85% 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>$2,147,808</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops and meetings</td>
<td>$47,900</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Conference</td>
<td>$102,085</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$58,934</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>$79,145</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>$20,734</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

- **State and federal issues**: $846,029 (34%)
- **Management and general**: $590,007 (24%)
- **Publications and periodicals**: $285,142 (13%)
- **Conference and workshops**: $285,142 (12%)
- **Advocacy and legal services**: $141,346 (6%)
- **Building occupancy**: $118,089 (5%)
- **Depreciation**: $127,897 (5%)
Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado
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.