



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Legislative Priorities of Colorado Cities & Towns

KEY MUNICIPAL ISSUES FOR 2023

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The availability and affordability of housing is of utmost concern to Colorado's municipalities. CML supports an adequate supply of diverse housing options, regardless of income level, and continued support from state and local governments, as well as private partnerships, for such an effort. CML is opposed to state preemption of local authority to adopt and enforce zoning and land use ordinances and any interference with home rule authority granted by Art. XX, S. 6 of the Colorado Constitution.

BROADBAND

Voters in over 120 municipalities and 40 counties have overwhelmingly voted to exempt themselves from the requirements of SB 05-152. CML supports legislation freeing up revenue to bring fast, reliable broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the state and opposes legislation adding additional requirements and burdens on local governments encumbering financing or permitting broadband deployment.

CAPACITY BUILDING

An increase in municipal workload, combined with staffing shortages, has impacted many municipalities' ability to successfully compete for state grant opportunities. CML supports the inclusion of direct technical and administrative assistance in existing or newly created programs to assist municipalities in applying for state and federal grants.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CML supports collaborative relationships with the state on criminal justice issues but opposes unduly prescriptive mandates on police and court operations and procedures, as well as expansion of local taxpayer liability. CML also supports legislative efforts to mitigate and manage increased rates of vehicle theft in local communities.

ELECTIONS

CML is initiating legislation to clean up and update portions of Title 31 municipal election code as it relates to recall elections and procedures for filling vacancies on city or town

councils. Municipal clerks should have clear direction on procedures for Title 31 recall elections, as well as procedures for filling vacancies in the event there are not enough members of the governing body for a quorum.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

CML supports maximum local control of medical and recreational marijuana and other regulated substances. CML supports legislation and initiatives that ensure marijuana revenue is used to mitigate impacts, regardless of whether a municipality allows retail activity, delivery, or on-site consumption. CML will initiate or support legislation to advocate for a greater degree of local control of the operation of natural medicine facilities in their communities, which was a deficiency in Proposition 122.

MUNICIPAL COURTS

CML will initiate legislation to study the feasibility of municipal courts having access to the statewide case management system, which could create efficiencies for municipal courts, as well as county and district courts statewide. CML also supports the extension of the First Appearance Grant Program, established in 2018, and supports expanding that program to allow municipalities to receive reimbursement for costs associated with HB 22-1067, which requires municipal courts to conduct a bond hearing for a person detained on a municipal offense within 48 hours.

OPEN RECORDS

CML opposes undue burdens placed upon municipal operations and unfunded mandates borne by taxpayers revenue that would provide preferential treatment to specific entities and overcomplicate public records access. CML will oppose any requirement to provide itemized estimates and receipts for Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) requests and carving out CORA fee exemptions for members of the media or other entities.

PUBLIC SAFETY

CML supports legislation to expand the use of automated vehicle identification systems in

local communities unless that legislation contains prescriptive and burdensome requirements that would only deter the use of the systems by local governments.

SUSTAINABILITY

CML supports sustainability and sustainable solutions to meet the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. CML supports state and local partnerships to improve waste diversion and recycling programs across the state in a manner that respects local control.

TAX AUTHORITY

CML and 68 self-collecting municipalities support efforts to simplify collection efforts without impairing local control, including collection of remote sales taxes in a manner that complies with *South Dakota vs. Wayfair*. CML supports the state in their efforts to partner with the business community and supports municipalities that self-collect their sales and use taxes but opposes any efforts to undermine constitutional home rule authority to set tax policy and manage tax administration and audits. CML discourages state sales tax exemptions that negatively impact statutory municipalities.

TRANSPORTATION

CML supports legislation that would provide local governments with support in enforcing noise ordinance violations from commercial vehicles that fail to have mufflers installed. CML opposes "off-the-top" diversions from the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF).

WILDFIRE

CML supports legislation that aims to help municipalities recover from large-scale wildfires and prevent future wildfires through proactive fire mitigation efforts. CML will oppose legislation that does not allow municipalities the ability to identify and implement the most appropriate means of mitigation and fire prevention for their individual communities.

Meet the CML advocacy team

CML employs four full-time advocates to assist in development and communication of policies. The team closely watches proposed legislation and works with legislators to understand municipal impacts.



Heather Stauffer

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Advocacy Issues: Building codes, natural resources & environment, elections, governmental immunity, oil & gas, open meetings/open records, severance tax/FML/energy impact, water & wastewater/water quality, and wildfire.



Meghan MacKillop

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Advocacy Issues: Public health, substance abuse, affordable housing, land use & annexation, air quality, transportation & transit, sustainability, and municipal courts.



Mollie Steinemann

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Advocacy Issues: Beer & liquor, regulated substances, hemp, criminal justice, purchasing, special districts, immigration, and public safety.



Jaclyn Terwey

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Advocacy Issues: Employment & labor, economic development, retirement/pensions, taxation & fiscal policy, historic preservation, lottery & gaming, municipal debt & finance, telecom/broadband/IT, and utilities.



Colorado Municipal League

The Colorado Municipal League (CML) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 to represent the interests of 270 member cities and towns. CML can be trusted to be a reliable source of information about the impact of legislation on Colorado's municipalities and their residents. Policies are determined by members in CML's Annual Policy Statement, and positions on legislation are established by the CML Policy Committee and the CML Executive Board.

Local control and home rule

CML is a strong advocate for the state's tradition of local control and constitutional principle of home rule, both of which allow cities and towns maximum flexibility and discretion in municipal finance, implementation of local policy, and delivery of public services. Local control should remain local and home rule should stay at home. Neither should be centralized at the Statehouse.

Municipal government is the cornerstone of good government in Colorado, and the League values the partnership that exists with state and federal officials. The citizens who municipal officials represent are the same as those represented by legislators. The policies legislators enact affecting municipalities must be implemented by municipal leaders and local taxpayers. To maintain the strength of this partnership, CML urges legislators to consider the impacts of decisions on the municipalities in their respective districts.