

## RESOLUTION NO. 85-24

### A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE POLICY OF THE CITY COUNCIL

#### RECITALS:

The 2025 session of the Colorado General Assembly will convene on January 8, 2025; the General Assembly considers and acts on a wide array of issues, many of which have or may have a direct and/or indirect effect on the City, its operations and the services delivered to the community.

With this Resolution, the City Council sets, adopts, and determines its priorities regarding anticipated State legislative matters and outlines the issues in which the City is interested and may become involved in. Furthermore, the City Council establishes a procedure for participation in those matters; participation which may include, but not be limited to, writing letters, making calls, testifying, or otherwise appropriately expressing the City's position relative to any hearing, bill, or other matter before the General Assembly.

The City has a long and strong relationship with the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and 2025 is expected to be no different. The 2024-2025 CML Policy Statement is attached and incorporated by this reference as if fully set forth. While CML has an excellent perspective on what is important to municipalities, it represents 271 municipalities, many of which are on the Front Range and may have a different perspective on legislative/policy needs than others.

While there have been few instances over many years when CML's position is divergent from Grand Junction's, the City Council continues to rely on City staff and a designated member of the Council to monitor legislative and policy action during the General Assembly sessions. The 2025 session is no exception.

The City Council shall select a member of the Council to act as the legislative liaison annually. The Assistant to the City Manager Johnny McFarland is the designated staff member for the 2025 session. In addition to Mr. McFarland, the other professional City staff will be providing their expertise to evaluate actions proposed by, coming to or pending before the General Assembly in 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL THAT the City does hereby adopt the attached Legislative Policy and by and with this Resolution the City Council expresses its general concurrence and support for the CML 2024-2025 Policy Statement as guidance for the 2025 legislative sessions; and,

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved that the City Council does authorize and direct the Council legislative liaison, with the assistance of City staff, to work with CML in support of the policy agenda as the same is reflected in bills, resolutions, and measures before the Colorado General Assembly during the 2025 legislative session(s).

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL

  
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Abram Herman  
President of the City Council

ATTEST:

  
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Selestina Sandoval  
City Clerk



## City of Grand Junction Legislative Policy

The 2024-2025 City of Grand Junction Legislative Policy (“Policy” or “Legislative Policy”) establishes the City Council’s position relating to certain legislative matters, whether those be federal, state, or local. The Policy outlines the procedures that will guide and set the roles of the City Council and Staff in legislative matters.

This Legislative Policy is adopted by Resolution of the City Council with the understanding that the Council intends the Policy to provide a process by which the City’s interests are represented in key issues of concern to City government.

Unless otherwise directed by City Council, this Legislative Policy will serve, until amended or replaced, as the guide to when and on what matters the City Council will express a position, if at all, on legislative matters that may be either general specific, and/or breadth such that any legislation introduced may be deemed to have a positive or negative impact on the delivery of governmental services, the operation of government or that has a similar effect. Additionally, the absence of a topic from this policy does not suggest that it is unimportant to the City. If/when a legislative matter(s) arises that is not included, the City Council may either apply this policy or determine on an *ad hoc* basis if the City will express a position on the matter(s).

It is the intent of the City Council to review and revise this Legislative Policy annually in November. Said review will generally coincide with the Colorado Municipal League (CML) articulation of its legislative agenda.

The City Council may consider City-initiated legislation, if any, in the summer prior to the legislative session.

As a member of CML, the City benefits from a full-time presence at the capital and additionally benefits from CML’s bill identification, monitoring, and advocacy consistent with its own adopted policy agendas. While not perfectly consistent with Grand Junction, CML generally advances and protects Grand Junction’s interests and those of municipalities throughout the State.

### Legislative Advocacy Processes

As provided in this Policy, legislative advocacy positions and processes are intended to provide clear direction and guidance to the City Council and Staff on who will be engaged in the legislative tracking and advocacy process and ensure that their actions reflect the City’s objectives and priorities.

Typical advocacy positions include:

- *Support* - legislation that advances the City’s goals and priorities.
- *Oppose* – legislation that could negatively impact the City or does not advance the City’s goals and priorities.



- *Monitor* – legislation of interest that could positively or negatively impact the City but requires additional review before a position is taken and will allow the City to remain at the table among legislators and other stakeholders for consideration of potential bill modifications

The City Council and Staff will utilize the following procedures when engaging in legislative advocacy:

1. The City Manager, or designee, will track legislation and identify positions on legislative matters that align with the City's current approved Legislative Policy and are likely to have a significant impact on the City.
2. The City Manager, or designee, will consider the advocacy positions and analysis completed by City Staff, local government/professional associations, and CML when determining the City's advocacy positions.
3. The designated Council legislative liaison, and the City Manager, or designee, shall determine appropriate advocacy actions, if any, and review all requests for advocacy on legislation to most efficiently and effectively advance the purposes of the City's Legislative Policy. Advocacy actions may include but are not limited to, letter(s), telephone call(s), email(s), meeting with the sponsor(s), and/or opponent(s), or testimony.
4. Only those people who have been expressly authorized by the City Manager, Mayor, designated legislative liaison, or a majority of the City Council, may advocate positions on pending or proposed legislation on behalf of the City as expressed in the adopted policy statement.
5. The City Manager, or designee will coordinate the initiation and development of legislative advocacy communication with the Mayor, designated Council liaison, and the City Attorney as deemed necessary. Such communication may include internal and external meetings, correspondence, and other means for the development and/or exchange of ideas expected to advance the purposes of this Policy.
6. Advocacy actions taken on behalf of the City will be executed by the Mayor, designated Council liaison, or the City Manager depending on the legislative issue. In the Mayor's absence, the City's legislative advocacy may be executed by the Mayor *pro tem*. If the Mayor and/or Mayor *pro tem* is unavailable or timing is a factor, the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to advocate in accordance with this Policy. The Mayor may designate in writing other members (s) of the City Council to advocate on behalf of the City. When feasible and time

permitting, the City Manager shall notify the City Council of an advocacy action prior to the execution of such action.

7. When an advocacy letter or email pursuant to this policy statement is sent to the Colorado General Assembly or the United States Congress, City Councilmembers shall be included as a copy ("cc") on the correspondence.
8. When a member of City Council or Staff testifies before the Colorado General Assembly or the United States Congress on behalf of the City, City Council Members shall be notified in writing within a reasonable timeframe after completion of the testimony.
9. The City Manager may issue a letter of concern or interest without taking a formal position on a bill/proposed legislation. The City Manager's Office, in consultation with the City Attorney, as deemed necessary, is responsible for drafting and issuing letters of concern. When feasible and time permitting, the City Manager will notify the City Council of a letter of concern or interest prior to transmittal.
10. The City Manager, or designee, will provide the City Council with periodic updates as determined appropriate by the City Manager, summarizing legislative matters on which the City has a stated position, or others as determined relevant by the City Manager or upon inquiry by a Councilmember.