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**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025  
WORKSHOP, 5:30 PM  
FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM  
625 UTE AVENUE**

**1. Discussion Topics**

- a. HomewardBound of the Grand Valley Funding Request
- b. Museums of Western Colorado
- c. Proclamation Review
- d. City Council 2025-2026 Legislative Policy

**2. City Council Communication**

An unstructured time for Councilmembers to discuss current matters, share ideas for possible future consideration by Council, and provide information from board & commission participation.

**3. Next Workshop Topics**

**4. Other Business**

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*What is the purpose of a Workshop?*

The purpose of the Workshop is to facilitate City Council discussion through analyzing information, studying issues, and clarifying problems. The less formal setting of the Workshop promotes conversation regarding items and topics that may be considered at a future City Council meeting.

*How can I provide my input about a topic on tonight's Workshop agenda?*

Individuals wishing to provide input about Workshop topics can:

- 1. Send input by emailing a City Council member ([Council email addresses](#)) or call one or more

members of City Council (970-244-1504)

2. Provide information to the City Manager ([citymanager@gjcity.org](mailto:citymanager@gjcity.org)) for dissemination to the City Council. If your information is submitted prior to 3 p.m. on the date of the Workshop, copies will be provided to Council that evening. Information provided after 3 p.m. will be disseminated the next business day.

3. Attend a Regular Council Meeting (generally held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall) and provide comments during "Public Comments."

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## Grand Junction City Council

### Workshop Session

Item #1.a.

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**Meeting Date:** December 1, 2025  
**Presented By:** Mike Bennett, City Manager  
**Department:** City Manager's Office  
**Submitted By:** Mike Bennett

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### Information

#### **SUBJECT:**

HomewardBound of the Grand Valley Funding Request

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Following the City Council discussion at the October 13, 2025, Workshop, Council requested Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley (HBGV) attend the next regularly scheduled Workshop on Nov. 3, 2025 to present their request for funding. HBGV requested this meeting be postponed as the completed review of their next steps as an organization. Specifically, Council requested information on the amount of funding being requested, information regarding all requests to other entities and pending funding amounts, a complete picture of the financial gap HBGV is facing, funding calculations which determined the closure(s) and how many weekends the North Ave. shelter would be closed prior to opening in the winter months. Also requested were financials including revenues, expenditures, payroll structure, cash flow projections and burn rate, and the number of people served at the shelter, daily costs, and how many were served elsewhere during the closure. Since this time, HBGV has reopened the shelter seven days a week and the HBGV Board has voted to permanently close the shelter in early 2026. This item is for HBGV to provide an update of their gaps in funding, request of the City and other entities and plans moving forward.

#### **BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:**

Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley continues to evaluate their current operations and funding for the North Avenue shelter. The HBGV Board voted November 19th to permanently close the North Avenue shelter in early 2026 to prioritize and sustain their Pathways shelter moving forward. Fundraising has enabled the North Avenue shelter to remain open through January 5, 2026 and depending on fundraising may extend no further than February 27, 2026, if successful. HBGV is also seeking funding for a gap in funding for Pathways.

For background the City has funded HBGV for various operational services over the years. This funding is in addition to the nearly \$1 million toward the Unhoused Resource Center. Operational expenses for funding the North Ave. Shelter were \$50,000 in 2022 and some previous years. In 2023, this amount was increased to \$150,000. In 2024 and 2025, this funding was increased to \$225,000. The City funded HBGV up to \$500,000 per year to operate the Unhoused Resource Center and upon closure of this facility, the City committed limited funding of up to \$75,000 per month through the end of 2025 to operate the Navigation Center. The latter two funding sources were not fully requested from HBGV for those operations before they were closed.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for discussion and possible direction of usage of remaining unspent funds to HBGV in 2025.

**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

This item is for discussion and direction from City Council.

**Attachments**

None



## Grand Junction City Council

### Workshop Session

Item #1.b.

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**Meeting Date:** December 1, 2025  
**Presented By:** Mike Bennett, City Manager  
**Department:** City Manager's Office  
**Submitted By:** Jay Valentine

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#### **Information**

##### **SUBJECT:**

Museums of Western Colorado

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Museums of Western Colorado will provide Council with an update on their current status, recent findings, and potential next steps on their efforts to sustain the museum long-term.

##### **BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:**

The Museum of Western Colorado operates three primary facilities: Dinosaur Journey, the Museum of the West, and Cross Orchards Historic Site. Museum leadership has been working to identify long-term strategies to stabilize operations and strengthen its role as a regional cultural asset. They will present an update to City Council on their ongoing sustainability planning and potential implications for the Museum's future.

##### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

##### **SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Discussion only

#### **Attachments**

None



## Grand Junction City Council

### Workshop Session

Item #1.c.

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**Meeting Date:** December 1, 2025  
**Presented By:** Selestina Sandoval, City Clerk  
**Department:** City Clerk  
**Submitted By:** Selestina Sandoval

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### Information

#### **SUBJECT:**

Proclamation Review

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The regularly scheduled Civic Proclamations will be shared with Council for review and feedback.

#### **BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:**

Proclamations are classified into two categories: Civic and Social. Civic Proclamations recognize topics that have a significant impact on the broader community or closely align with City services, and they are read during regular City Council meetings. These proclamations are typically recurring and presented annually.

Social Proclamations are requests for proclamations that are submitted by members of the public or organizations to highlight a specific individual, industry, cause, or priority area. Issuance of Social Proclamations is at the discretion of Council, and they are typically issued and mailed to the requester if approved. Currently, all proclamation requests that are not regularly scheduled Civic Proclamations are reviewed during Council workshops for approval. Council may also choose, at its discretion, to read Social Proclamations during regular City Council meetings.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

n/a

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION:**

This is for discussion only.

### **Attachments**

1. Civic Proclamation List

<u>ORGANIZATION/RECIPIENT</u>	<u>CIVIC or SOCIAL</u>	<u>EVENT DATE</u>
Inclusive City	Civic	January-25
National Crime Stoppers Month	Civic	January-25
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Civic	January 20, 2025

Black History Month	Civic	February-25
American Red Cross Month	Civic	March-25
Women's History Month	Civic	March-25
Cesar Chavez Day	Civic	March 31, 2025

Days of Remembrance	Civic	April-25
Arbor Day	Civic	April 26, 2025

National Police Week	Civic	May 11-17, 2025
National EMS Week	Civic	May 18-24, 2025
National Peace Corps Volunteers	Civic	May-25
Juneteenth	Civic	June 19, 2025
Parks & Recreation Month	Civic	July-25
PRIDE Week	Civic	September 2-7, 2025
Constitution Week	Civic	September 17-23, 2025
National Hispanic Heritage Month	Civic	September-25
Arts and Humanities Month	Civic	October-25
Fire Prevention Week	Civic	October 5-11, 2025
Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce	Civic	October 15, 2025
Sister City Day - El Espino	Civic	November-25
A Salute to Veteran's Day	Civic	November 11, 2025
National Hospice and Palliative Care	Civic	November-25
7th Annual Interfaith Awareness Week	Civic	November 19-25, 2025
International Day of the Migrant	Civic	December-25



## Grand Junction City Council

### Workshop Session

Item #1.d.

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**Meeting Date:** December 1, 2025

**Presented By:** Mike Bennett, City Manager, Johnny McFarland, Assistant to the City Manager

**Department:** City Manager's Office

**Submitted By:** Johnny McFarland, Asst. To the City Manager

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### Information

#### **SUBJECT:**

City Council 2025-2026 Legislative Policy

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This item is for the City Council to review the City Council's Legislative Policy (Policy) and consider adoption of its 2025-2026 legislative priorities. The Policy is intended to establish the roles of staff and Council with regard to legislative tracking, advocacy, and communication. The Policy also includes the annual adoption of the Council legislative priorities to position the City for advocacy on relevant legislative matters. Resolution No. 85-24 was adopted by City Council in November 2024, which established a Council Legislative Policy and established the City Council's general support for the CML 2024-2025 Legislative Statement, which guided the City's legislative work through the 2025 General Assembly Regular Session. The attached draft Resolution and Policy have been updated to reflect the 2026 General Assembly Regular Session, but otherwise remain unchanged in form and function.

#### **BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:**

For many years, the City has actively engaged in state legislative affairs, tracking and advocating for policies that advance its interests. Through these efforts, the City has fostered strong relationships with state legislators and other elected and appointed officials. The City is also an active member of the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and its Executive Board, a statewide advocacy organization representing nearly every city and town in Colorado. CML collaborates with state legislators on municipal policy issues, both during and outside the legislative session, relying on member feedback to inform its legislative policy positions. Attached to this staff report is the current 2025-2026 CML Policy Statement.

For context on the CML Policy Statement development process, CML has an

established committee that reviews and recommends updates to its Policy Statement, which occurs between the fall and summer. Updates to CML's Policy Statement are driven by a steering committee known as the CML Policy Committee, which is composed of representatives from each of the state's member municipalities. The Policy Committee annually reviews the CML Policy Statement beginning in October. This process includes the review and recommendations of proposed updates by the CML Executive Committee, followed by a final vote from the full CML membership at the Annual Business Meeting held during the CML Annual Conference in June of the following year. The 2025-2026 Policy Statement is attached for City Council review. There were no changes between the attached Policy Statement and the 2024-2025 Policy Statement, which was concurred with by City Council in Resolution. No 85-24.

Given the City's ongoing role in legislative advocacy, the importance of keeping City Council informed and involved, and the critical nature of legislative engagement, staff recommends the annual review and adoption of a formal legislative policy and an annual legislative agenda. The Council previously approved Resolution No. 85-24, establishing the City Council's legislative policy for 2025. The resolution language includes a provision that the City Council will annually review the policy and update it if needed, which is the purpose of bringing this item before the City Council now.

The Council-adopted legislative policy defines the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, Council, Council's designated legislative liaison, and the City Manager regarding legislative communication and action. This policy also establishes a process for annual adoption of a Council legislative agenda. This agenda serves as the City's official stance on proposed state and federal legislation, helping to foster awareness and consensus on key issues. Additionally, it provides guidance for external stakeholders, including state and federal delegates, as well as advocacy organizations at the regional, state, and federal levels. The recommended agenda for Council's consideration includes CML's Legislative Policy Statement, which broadly reflects the policy areas and positions most relevant to municipal governments. While Council's adopted agenda would provide a firm basis for any legislative work done on behalf of the City, the policy would still allow for Council consideration, on an *ad hoc* basis, of issues not clearly defined within the adopted legislative agenda. Finally, the proposed policy establishes a process for the Council to consider City-initiated legislation.

This process, along with the annual adoption of priorities, will ensure that Council members and staff clearly understand their roles and responsibilities, as well as the Council's legislative positions. This will enable the appropriate parties to respond promptly to proposed legislation and keep all Councilmembers informed and involved in any actions taken on behalf of the City.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

For City Council Discussion

**Attachments**

1. DRAFT\_POL-Legislative Policy 20251120
2. DRAF\_RES-Leg Policy 20251120
3. 2025-2026-cml-policy-statement

## 1 City of Grand Junction Legislative Policy

2 The 2025-2026 City of Grand Junction Legislative Policy (“Policy” or “Legislative Policy”)  
3 establishes the City Council’s position relating to certain legislative matters, whether those be  
4 federal, state, or local. The Policy outlines the procedures that will guide and set the roles of the  
5 City Council and Staff in legislative matters.

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

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

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

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

**Commented [JS1]:** Which one? “May” is likely best ...

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

## 26 Legislative Advocacy Processes

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

31 Typical advocacy positions include:

- 32 • *Support* - legislation that advances the City’s goals and priorities.
- 33 • *Oppose* – legislation that could negatively impact the City or does not advance the City’s
- 34 goals and priorities.
- 35 • *Monitor* – legislation of interest that could positively or negatively impact the City but
- 36 requires additional review before a position is taken and will allow the City to remain at the
- 37 table among legislators and other stakeholders for consideration of potential bill
- 38 modifications

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

- 41 1. The City Manager, or designee, will track legislation and identify positions on legislative  
42 matters that align with the City's current approved Legislative Policy and are likely to have a  
43 significant impact on the City.  
44
- 45 2. The City Manager, or designee, will consider the advocacy positions and analysis  
46 completed by City Staff, local government/professional associations, and CML when  
47 determining the City's advocacy positions.  
48
- 49 3. The designated Council legislative liaison, and the City Manager, or designee, shall  
50 determine appropriate advocacy actions, if any, and review all requests for advocacy on  
51 legislation to most efficiently and effectively advance the purposes of the City's Legislative  
52 Policy. Advocacy actions may include but are not limited to, letter(s), telephone call(s),  
53 email(s), meeting with the sponsor(s), and/or opponent(s), or testimony.  
54
- 55 4. Only those people who have been expressly authorized by the City Manager, Mayor,  
56 designated legislative liaison, or a majority of the City Council, may advocate positions on  
57 pending or proposed legislation on behalf of the City as expressed in the adopted policy  
58 statement.  
59
- 60 5. The City Manager, or designee will coordinate the initiation and development of legislative  
61 advocacy communication with the Mayor, designated Council liaison, and the City Attorney  
62 as deemed necessary. Such communication may include internal and external meetings,  
63 correspondence, and other means for the development and/or exchange of ideas expected  
64 to advance the purposes of this Policy.  
65
- 66 6. Advocacy actions taken on behalf of the City will be executed by the Mayor, designated  
67 Council liaison, or the City Manager depending on the legislative issue. In the Mayor's  
68 absence, the City's legislative advocacy may be executed by the Mayor *pro tem*. If the  
69 Mayor and/or Mayor *pro tem* is unavailable or timing is a factor, the City Manager, or  
70 designee, is authorized to advocate in accordance with this Policy. The Mayor may  
71 designate in writing other members (s) of the City Council to advocate on behalf of the City.  
72 When feasible and time permitting, the City Manager shall notify the City Council of an  
73 advocacy action prior to the execution of such action.  
74
- 75 7. When an advocacy letter or email pursuant to this policy statement is sent to the Colorado  
76 General Assembly or the United States Congress, City Councilmembers shall be included  
77 as a copy ("cc") on the correspondence.  
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- 79 8. When a member of City Council or Staff testifies before the Colorado General Assembly or  
80 the United States Congress on behalf of the City, City Council Members shall be notified in  
81 writing within a reasonable timeframe after completion of the testimony.

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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.

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE POLICY OF THE CITY COUNCIL

RECITALS:

The 2026 session of the Colorado General Assembly will convene on January 14, 2026; 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 2026 is expected to be no different. The 2025-2026 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 Council to act as the legislative liaison annually. The Assistant to the City Manager Johnny McFarland is the designated staff member for the 2026 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 2026.

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 2025-2026 Policy Statement as guidance for the 2026 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 2026 legislative session(s).

38 GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL

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40 \_\_\_\_\_  
41 Cody Kennedy  
42 President of the City Council

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45 ATTEST:

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48 Selestina Sandoval  
49 City Clerk

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COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

# POLICY STATEMENT

2025-2026





# CML POLICY STATEMENT

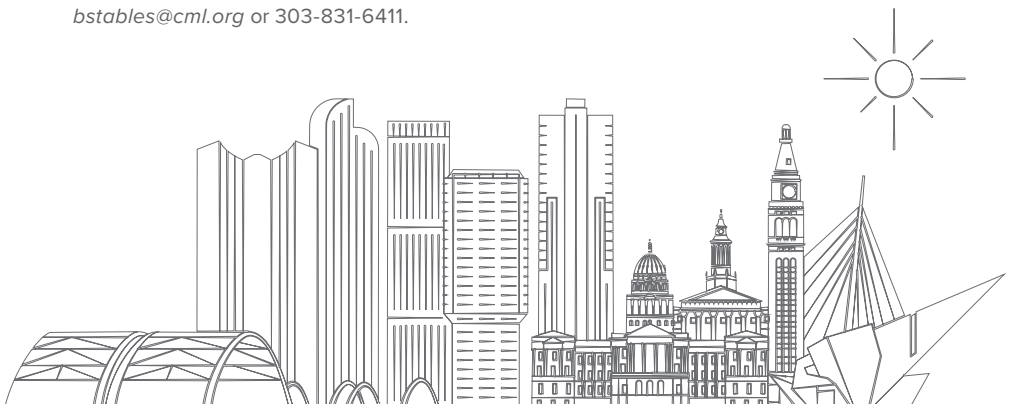
The Colorado Municipal League supports cooperation among local, state, and federal officials to provide a strong partnership with Colorado's cities and towns. CML's dedicated advocacy team is a reliable source of information about legislative issues and their impact on Colorado's cities and towns and their residents.

The CML Policy Statement has evolved throughout the history of the League and guides the CML Executive Board, committees, and advocacy team during the legislative session and throughout the year. The CML Policy Committee, which is open to representation from each municipal member and CML professional section, is charged with developing policy recommendations and proposing amendments to the Policy Statement. During the business meeting (held each year at the CML annual conference), CML members consider any recommendations and adopt the Policy Statement for the next year.

The CML Policy Statement consists of several major policy items but is not exhaustive. When legislation or policy issues are considered, the CML staff, Policy Committee, and Executive Board look first to the Policy Statement to develop recommendations and formal positions. If a specific issue is not found within the Policy Statement, the Policy Committee and the Executive Board will consider and establish a CML position, if any.

We welcome input and suggestions from members on CML policy and positions. We remain proud to be your source for advocacy, information, and training.

If you have questions or comments about CML policies, please contact Interim CML Legislative Advocacy Manager Beverly Stables at [bstables@cml.org](mailto:bstables@cml.org) or 303-831-6411.



# CML 2025-2026

# POLICY STATEMENT

## LOCAL CONTROL AND MUNICIPAL HOME RULE

In order to consider local conditions and address local requirements, community issues and needs should be addressed locally. State and federal government interference can undermine home rule and local control. Therefore, the League:

- Urges state and federal officials to respect Colorado's tradition of local control and allow municipal officials to address local problems without interference from the state and federal government.
- Urges Congress and the executive branch to respect the roles and responsibilities of states and local governments and similarly urges state officials to avoid preempting local authority.
- Supports state enabling legislation that provides municipalities with authority and flexibility to address local needs.
- Recognizes the desire of the citizens statewide and in many local communities – with adoption of a constitutional amendment in 1902 and expanded amendments approved in 1912 and 1970 – to establish municipal home rule and opposes state action that attempts to weaken home rule authority and flexibility.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Citizens are best served when officials of federal, state and local government (including municipalities, counties, special districts and school districts) respect the roles of each entity and work toward common solutions. Therefore, the League:

- Supports increased dialogue and cooperation among federal, state and local officials and the development of cooperative intergovernmental solutions to common problems.

## STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES

Programs and regulations mandated by the state or federal government stretch the financial resources of municipalities. These costs, if not paid by the state or federal government, prevent municipalities from fulfilling local needs and priorities.

Therefore, the League:

- Opposes unfunded state and federal mandates that impose financial burdens on municipalities and their citizens.
- Supports the statutory requirement for the General Assembly and Congress to reimburse municipalities for the cost of state mandates and to make clearer this requirement in state fiscal notes prepared for the General Assembly and Congress.

## STATE FISCAL FAIR PLAY

Municipal finances are closely interrelated with state finances and policies. State adherence to fiscal fair play policies will greatly help municipalities and their citizens. Therefore, the League:

- Supports appropriate action to address the state and local financial crises caused by the interaction of various constitutional amendments and the economy.
- Supports continued state sharing with municipalities of equitable portions of existing and future revenues derived from traditional state-collected, municipally shared sources.

- Urges the state to avoid or exercise restraint in relying on fees, charges and other cash funding of programs that affect municipalities, especially in the areas of technical assistance, in programs where municipal participation is mandated by state law, and in regulatory programs that affect municipalities.
- Opposes state granted exemptions or other state actions that erode municipal sales, use, property and other revenues unless the state provides adequate replacement revenues.
- Opposes disproportionate cuts in state programs that benefit municipalities.
- Opposes the state utilizing local funds or requiring local governments to collect state revenues in order to fund state programs.

## **SALES AND USE TAXES**

The primary revenue sources for municipalities are local sales and use taxes. Statewide, municipalities generate more than \$5 in these taxes to every \$1 of property taxes. Sales and use taxes have enabled municipalities to fund public services and improvements and keep municipal property taxes relatively low. Appropriate actions at federal, state and local levels should preserve or enhance these local revenues. Therefore, the League:

- Supports retention of authority for all municipalities to set local tax rates and for home rule municipalities to collect their own taxes and determine their own tax bases.
- Supports broadening the state and local sales and use tax base.
- Supports appropriate legislation or court action allowing state and local governments to require businesses to

collect state and local sales and use taxes on remote sales.

- Supports cooperative efforts among municipalities to standardize municipal sales and use tax practices and utilization of technology for the convenience of taxpayers, the business community, and municipalities.
- Supports a level playing field between local brick-and-mortar businesses and remote sellers through the requirement for remote sellers to collect and remit municipal sales taxes based on the point of delivery
- Supports programs that allow businesses to remit state and local sales taxes to a single point while preserving home rule authority over tax rates, base, and audit authority.
- Opposes further reductions in the state and local sales and use tax base.
- Opposes legislation that would preempt the authority of state and local governments to apply their sales and use taxes to remote sales.

## **MUNICIPAL FINANCE**

### **Capital Financing**

The League:

- Supports enhancement of municipalities' flexibility to finance public projects economically and efficiently.
- Opposes any efforts to abolish or impair the effectiveness of the municipal bond interest exemption.

### **Census**

The League supports sufficient federal funding support of the decennial census in order to assure a complete and accurate count that reflects population, municipal borders, regional equity, and hard to count populations.

### **Double Taxation**

The League supports state legislation and local practices that eliminate the financial

inequities created by the imposition of taxes on municipal residents for county services that are provided primarily or solely to residents in unincorporated areas.

### **Federal Policies**

The League:

- Supports distribution of federal funds to municipal governments with a minimum of red tape and without excessive diversion at the federal and state levels.
- Supports establishment of advisory committees comprised of local government officials to ensure ongoing local input on state assumption and administration of federal programs that affect local governments.
- Supports continued funding of the Community Development Block Grant program.
- Supports continued direct funding of federal housing programs.
- Supports funding the Energy Block Grant program.
- Supports repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act or revisions thereto, including raising the project exemption amount, to eliminate wasteful red tape and enable state and local governments to stretch tax dollars for public works projects.
- Supports repeal or revisions in the application of the Fair Labor Standards Act to local governments to avoid the Act's costly and burdensome impacts on local government operations.
- Encourages recognition of Colorado's unique economic, social and physical characteristics when federal action affects programs or projects of local concern.
- Opposes the direct or indirect taxation of the activities and operations of municipal government.
- Opposes tax reform proposals that would exacerbate the federal deficit, increase the cost of municipal capital

investment, interfere with traditional state and local tax systems or preempt the deductibility of state and local taxes.

- Opposes the denial of funds based upon a state's or municipality's failure to meet requirements of an unrelated program or because of factors beyond the control of the state or municipality.
- Opposes cuts in federal programs that disproportionately affect municipalities.
- Opposes imposition of federal standards upon local government operations and employees that do not apply equally to federal and state government operations and employees.
- Opposes the sale of federal lands to finance federal programs without local input.
- Supports the efficient and effective use of Federal passthrough funding administered by the State of Colorado with special attention to lowering project overhead costs and increasing local flexibility within federally mandated and reviewed companion regulations. The suitability of administrative requirements should be proportionate to project complexity, such as the difference between an Environmental Assessment and a more complex and expensive Environmental Impact Statement.

### **BEER AND LIQUOR**

The League:

- Supports the greatest amount of local control possible for liquor licensing and permitting.
- Supports coordination with the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division.

### **CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

The League supports voluntary consolidation of local government entities and services by mutual agreement.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The League:

- Supports state – and community -based intervention, prevention and rehabilitation programs and state initiatives that respect the key role of communities and local government officials.
- Supports ensuring that municipal governments retain flexibility in implementing federal and state criminal justice programs.
- Supports state funding for regional and local public safety programs that rely on the co-responder model which partners mental and behavioral health professionals with law enforcement for contacts with individuals with mental and behavioral health issues.
- Opposes state preemption of municipal authority to regulate firearms within municipalities.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The League:

- Encourages the state to provide adequate funds and staff for strong, multifaceted programs to promote the economic vitality of Colorado that:
  - » Encourage the diversification and expansion of local economies, including support for existing business, creation of new jobs, regional partnerships, and promotion of tourism.
  - » Are closely coordinated with local governments.
  - » Ensure the state will not promote a specific economic development project against the wishes of the community or communities most directly affected by the project.
- Encourages the federal government to support state and local government activities promoting economic development.

- Supports incentives to promote and encourage the rehabilitation and revitalization of local economies and downtowns.

## **EDUCATION**

The League supports education as a community-wide value. The League believes effective early childhood and pre-kindergarten through adult education systems supply our municipalities with an educated community. The most effective programs are those partnerships among our educational institutions, local stakeholder and local governments.

## **ELECTIONS**

The League:

- Supports the right of all municipalities under the Colorado state statutes to conduct free and fair nonpartisan elections at the municipal level that are unencumbered by state and federal overreach.
- Supports the continued retention of authority for home rule municipalities to administer the election process as a matter of local concern.
- CML supports municipal control over alternative voting methods in local elections, and options for alternative voting methods in coordinated elections.

## **ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS SERVICES**

The League:

- Opposes federal or state restrictions that would limit the ability of municipalities to create new municipally-owned utilities.
- Opposes federal restrictions that would dictate territorial service areas or restrict the ability of municipally owned utilities to service customers

within their municipalities, including newly annexed areas.

- Opposes federal legislation requiring states to implement retail competition.
- Opposes federal or state restructuring of the electric or natural gas industry if such restructuring restricts municipal authority to regulate the use of rights-of-way and to franchise and tax utilities and services, interferes with services provided by municipally owned utilities, fails to protect interests of all consumer classes or sacrifices environmental and social objectives protected under existing regulatory policies.
- Opposes efforts to prevent municipalities from extending utility services to newly annexed areas or providing utility services to customers in unincorporated county properties adjacent to the municipality.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The League:

- Supports local control of local emergency services and involvement of the state as a resource to local government in the areas of information, coordination and training.
- Supports state funds for those state agencies that serve as a resource to local emergency services.
- Supports a voluntary uniform statewide fire incidence reporting program.
- Supports close cooperation at all levels of government and increased federal funding to assist local government homeland security and first responder responsibilities.
- Supports increased funding for emergency communications, accounting for the loss of landlines and the increased use of mobile devices, as well as legislation allowing local governments to increase fees for support of emergency communication.

## **ENERGY**

### **Energy Planning**

The League recognizes several compelling reasons for developing a comprehensive energy policy. Energy conservation saves dollars. Energy conservation and renewable energy production creates jobs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and supports local economic development efforts.

Energy conservation reduces our nation's dependence upon foreign oil and improves our energy security. Municipalities are in a position to lead by example. Municipalities are able to provide education and access to information that advocates the economic and environmental benefits of increased energy efficiency. Therefore, the League:

- Supports the development of a balanced, long-term statewide energy plan with an overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a mix of non-renewable fossil fuels, renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency and conservation programs.
- Supports the creation and expansion of statewide goals that provide targets and incentives for the implementation of renewable energy strategies and that also recognize the unique concerns of municipal electric and gas systems.
- Supports empowering municipalities to implement sustainable, reliable, and resilient long-term municipal energy needs.
- Supports municipal efforts to assess energy efficiency opportunities in their own operations and in their communities as a whole, setting energy efficiency targets, and creating local action plans.
- Supports retrofitting municipal facilities with energy efficient technologies, policies that enhance municipal energy

conservation, and programs that promote the generation of alternative energy sources.

- Supports working with appropriate state and local agencies to educate municipalities on the use of energy efficient building codes.
- Opposes state preemption of municipalities in setting and implementing long-term renewable energy goals.

### **Natural Resource Production**

Municipalities are directly and indirectly affected by the impacts of energy extraction activity and understand the boom-and-bust nature of it. The League also acknowledges the importance of the extraction industry to the state and local economy. Therefore, the League:

- Supports enhanced local input and mitigation powers of municipalities in addressing the environmental, health, safety, and economic impacts of energy extraction.
- Supports the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment substantively involving local governments affected by energy extraction, including recognition of local health, safety, and environmental impacts.

### **Severance Tax and Federal Mineral Lease Revenue**

The League:

- Supports a continued dialogue with local governments regarding the collection and distribution of severance tax and federal mineral lease revenues.
- Supports raising the severance tax rate and removing severance tax exemptions in order to generate additional revenue for local governments.
- Supports DOLA's continuing administration of the Energy Impact

Loan and Grant program to assure greater transparency and accountability of the funds.

- Supports the development of a permanent trust fund using a portion of existing and/or any new revenues from severance taxes and/or federal mineral lease revenues so long as such revenues in a trust fund can be made available to municipalities and counties impacted by energy extraction.
- Opposes any reduction in the existing revenue streams of severance tax and federal mineral lease revenue to counties and municipalities.
- Supports financial and technical assistance to local governments affected by the development of coal, oil shale, and other natural resources to permit planning for, and provision of, municipal services and facilities.
- Opposes the appropriation of energy impact and mineral lease funds, historically set aside for local governments, to finance state programs and administrative costs of state government.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

In addressing environmental concerns, the League:

- Supports federal and state programs that encourage cleanup and reuse of "brownfield" property.
- Supports full federal funding for cleanup and ongoing maintenance and monitoring of contaminated federally owned or managed sites.
- Supports reasonable and practical application of air and water pollution control laws by federal and state administrative officials and encourages restraint in modifying legislation and regulations that have a fiscal impact on municipalities. Particularly in the area

of water quality, enforcement should be correlated with the availability of funds necessary to achieve stated goals.

- Supports adequate state regulation and enforcement of drilling and mining sites, production facilities and waste product storage and disposal facilities.
- Supports practices to assure public health, safety, environmental protection and the protection of domestic water sources;
- Opposes state preemption of local land use and watershed regulations.
- Supports the local control of the regulation of plastics and single-use containers.
- Opposes inequitable increases in the proportion of municipal cash funding support for state environmental and hazardous waste programs.
- Opposes state preemption of local government authority to adopt environmental ordinances.
- Opposes additional state mandates or regulations on locally owned or operated landfills that do not provide the subsequent funding necessary to comply with the new requirements.

## **EQUITY**

The League supports efforts to end inequity based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, age or disability. The League supports the protection of the rights and dignity of individuals, and encourages programs and policies that address equity in areas such as criminal justice, employment, environment, housing, homelessness, health care, education, substance abuse treatment, and mental health.

## **HOUSING**

The availability and affordability of

attainable and habitable housing is an important concern to Colorado's municipalities. Therefore, the League:

- Supports an adequate supply of diverse housing options, regardless of income level, and continued public—and private—sector support for such an effort.
- Supports clarifying state statute to reflect that local governments have the authority to require affordable housing in new developments.
- Supports increased financial assistance from the federal government for housing needs of low—and moderate—income families.
- Supports state financial support for the Division of Housing's loan and grant program for low—and moderate—income housing.
- Supports the continued efforts of the Colorado Housing Finance Authority to work with municipalities on the Authority's various housing loan programs.
- Supports efforts to upgrade substandard housing.
- Supports the preservation, revitalization and redevelopment of existing neighborhoods.
- Supports public and private financial assistance programs to address the needs of the persons experiencing homelessness.
- Supports state funding to support programs to address persons experiencing homelessness.
- Supports programs that involve municipalities in addressing foreclosures.
- Supports the creation of an adequately financed statewide housing trust fund.
- Opposes state preemption of local authority to adopt and enforce ordinances that regulate use of public spaces.

## **INITIATIVE REFORM**

The League:

Supports efforts to maintain the state constitution as a basic framework for government rather than as an embodiment of statutory law, while maintaining the citizen lawmaking process, by supporting additional protections for statutory law made by citizen initiative.

## **LIMITED GAMING**

Recognizing the important role that gaming plays in the economies of Colorado's gaming towns and cities, and surrounding communities, the League:

- Supports Colorado's limited gaming framework as written in the Colorado Constitution.
- Supports preservation of the limited gaming fund which distributes portions of the proceeds of tax collected to the state historical fund and gaming cities and towns.
- Supports preservation of the local government limited gaming impact fund which provides grants to local communities for gaming impacts.

## **LOTTERY**

The League supports preserving all lottery proceeds for park, recreation, open space, and wildlife purposes pursuant to the Great Outdoors Colorado program adopted by Colorado voters.

## **MARIJUANA AND HEMP**

Per the language of Amendment 64, the League:

- Supports maximum local control for municipal regulation and licensing of cultivation facilities, product manufacturing facilities, testing facilities, and retail stores.
- Supports local option to prohibit cultivation facilities, product

manufacturing facilities, testing facilities, and retail stores.

Additionally, the League:

- Supports maximum local control for municipal regulation and licensing of hemp cultivation, both indoor and outdoor; manufacturing; testing; extraction; and retail stores.
- Supports maximum local control to enforce local ordinances on both marijuana and hemp.

## **MUNICIPAL COURT OPERATIONS**

The League supports the authority of home rule municipalities to provide, regulate, conduct and control municipal courts as stated in Art. XX of the Colorado Constitution. Specifically, the League:

- Supports state funding for municipal specialty courts and restorative justice programs to deliver necessary resources and reduce recidivism.
- Opposes imposition of state surcharges on municipal court fines for the purpose of funding state programs.
- Opposes limitations on the authority of municipalities to enforce their own ordinances in municipal courts.

## **MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE**

The League supports local control and determination of local land use issues. In general, the League supports state laws and policies that encourage new residential, commercial and industrial development to occur within existing municipalities and that discourage the sprawl of urban, suburban or exurban development into rural and unincorporated areas of the state. In addition, the League specifically:

- Supports prohibition of the incorporation of new cities and towns adjacent

to, or within the service areas of, existing municipalities.

- Supports increased municipal and, within unincorporated areas, county controls over the formation of special districts, placing additional limitations on the powers exercised by such districts and, where practicable, providing for the dissolution or phasing out of special districts.
- Supports appropriate efforts to permit application and enforcement of municipal ordinances, such as building codes, fire codes, subdivision regulations and zoning ordinances, to buildings and improvements proposed to be constructed by government entities.
- Supports municipal discretion concerning the imposition of development fees and requirements.
- Supports municipal discretion to adopt, update, and enforce local building codes, including those that meet or exceed state standard.
- Supports the clear authority of municipalities to collect an impact fee for schools.
- Supports financial and technical assistance to municipal governments in the areas of planning and land use.
- Supports municipalities, when appropriate, in utilizing sub-local governments (neighborhood, nonprofit, and civic organizations and homeowners' associations) in developing and implementing solutions to specific localized issues.
- Encourages measures that promote intergovernmental cooperation on land use issues.
- Encourages coordination of land use and transportation planning.
- Encourages municipalities when using tax increment financing to promote

communication and intergovernmental cooperation with affected local governments.

- Opposes efforts to restrict municipal annexation authority.
- Opposes delegation of municipal land use authority to state agencies or preemption of municipal land use controls.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions, beyond those constitutional restrictions that have been defined by recent Supreme Court decisions, on the ability of federal, state or local governments to regulate private property or to exercise the power of condemnation for the benefit of public health, safety and welfare.
- Opposes unreasonable restrictions on urban renewal authorities and downtown development authorities.
- Opposes federal or state preemption of municipal land use with the wildland urban interface.

## **NATURAL DISASTERS**

The League:

- Supports specific modifications to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) to better define an "emergency," specify the amount of time for repayment of any TABOR reserve dollars spent, and to create clarity to ensure state financial assistance can be used specifically for recovery without violating TABOR revenue and spending limitations.
- Supports state financial support to assist local governments with disaster mitigation, response, and recovery in their communities.
- Supports legislation that reduces systemwide underinsurance and improves the transparency of the coverage gap that a private property owner has with their existing policy.

- Supports eliminating the practice of insurance companies requiring contents itemization in total losses to receive the contents coverage stated in a policy.
- Supports regulating the loss ratio for property and casualty insurance so that premiums paid go to cover losses and do not become excessive.
- Supports exploration of reinsurance for disaster impacts and supports legislation to address insurance availability to ensure community members have access to insurance.
- Supports exploration of public insurance to address availability.

## **POLICE, FIRE AND OTHER PENSION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

The League:

- Supports equitable levels of state funding for volunteer firefighters' pensions.
- Opposes mandates that increase the cost of or create inequities among municipal employee pension, workers' compensation, or other employee benefits.
- Opposes mandated Social Security or Medicare coverage for public employees, mandated benefit levels or funding standards for municipal employee pension plans, or other unreasonable burdens or restrictions in connection with the administration of municipal employee benefit plans.
- Opposes mandated "Police Officers Bill of Rights" interfering with the management and budget prerogatives of local governments.

## **POSTAL SERVICE**

The League supports legislation and administrative action by the United States Postal Service requiring use of mailing

addresses and ZIP codes that reflect the corporate boundaries of cities and towns in order to eliminate confusion among citizens and businesses and to reinforce community identities.

## **PRIVATIZATION**

The League supports the use of private-sector businesses to provide public services when determined by municipal officials to be in the public interest.

## **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

The League opposes efforts to interfere with a municipality's ability to determine the terms and conditions of municipal employment.

## **PUBLIC LIABILITY**

Because of the financial burdens caused by the increasing number of lawsuits against municipalities and their officers and employees, the deterrent that litigation presents to continued service by public officials and the need to assure that municipal liability does not impair the provision of necessary services to the public, the League:

- Supports the availability of public liability insurance at reasonable costs and the ability of municipalities to reduce such costs through selfinsurance or other reasonable means.
- Supports reasonable federal limitations on and reduction in the liability for monetary damages payable by public entities, public employees, and elected officials in suits brought under federal laws.
- Supports limitations on the liability of municipalities and their officers and employees.
- Opposes efforts to expand the liability of public entities and public employees.

## **PURCHASING**

The League supports the authority of municipal officials to determine local purchasing and contracting procedures.

## **RECORDS**

The League:

- Supports transparent record-keeping practices and the right of municipal governments to keep, maintain their own records.
- Opposes undue burdens placed upon municipalities to report or provide municipal records to the public, state, or federal government.
- Supports the authority of municipalities to charge research and retrieval fees for open records requests.

## **REGULATION OF NICOTINE PRODUCTS**

The League:

- Supports the greatest amount of local control possible for the regulation of nicotine products.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The League supports state funding for local treatment, prevention, diversion, and recovery programs to address impacts of the substance abuse, mental health, and opioid epidemic in Colorado.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

The League:

- Supports the concept of sustainability and sustainable solutions that meet the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- Opposes state preemption of local government authority to adopt environmental ordinances that are more protective than state standards.
- Supports state and local partnerships

and resources to improve waste diversion and recycling programs across the state in a manner that respects local control.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The League:

- Supports the retention of municipal regulatory authority over cable television systems.
- Supports affordable access by all municipalities to redundant high speed broadband, telecommunication and information services.
- Supports options to level the playing field for smaller broadband and telecommunications providers to compete throughout Colorado.
- Supports federal and state resources for the development of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas and enhanced service in all service areas.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions on local control of municipal rights-of-way.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions on the authority of local governments to develop or acquire their own broadband or telecommunications infrastructure.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions on municipal franchising, regulatory and taxing authority over telecommunications systems.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The League:

- Supports a comprehensive statewide solution that solves Colorado's long-term transportation challenges at every level government and provides a sustainable revenue source that meets the needs of Colorado citizens today as well as future generations , including funding to assist local governments to improve air quality.

- Supports increased funds to finance pressing surface transportation needs as long as an equitable portion of new revenues is returned to cities and towns.
- Supports state Department of Transportation assumption of street lighting and general maintenance costs on state highways within municipalities.
- Opposes additional “off-the-top” diversions from the Highway Users Tax Fund.
- Supports clarification that federal railroad laws do not preempt local governmental authority to protect the safety and environment of citizens.
- Supports preservation of the federal funding guarantees for transportation and proportional allocation of all federal transportation taxes and funds for their intended transportation purposes.
- Supports efforts to improve commercial and general aviation throughout Colorado.
- Supports close cooperation among Colorado Department of Transportation, counties, municipalities and interested stakeholders in improving Colorado’s multi-modal transportation system.
- Supports legislation that enables and encourages autonomous vehicles that are clean-fueled and safe, while preserving local control over regulation and local implementation.
- Encourages a balanced state transportation policy that addresses the need to maintain and expand alternative transportation modes and public infrastructure adjoining roadways and rights-of-way, and demand management options to improve Colorado’s transportation system by supporting:
  - » Close cooperation among Colorado Department of Transportation, counties, municipalities and interested stakeholders in improving

Colorado’s multi-modal transportation system;

- » Preservation of the constitutional requirement that highway user revenues be used for the construction, maintenance and supervision of the public highways of the state, comprising all modes including, but not limited to, facilities for air, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel, and;
- » Greater flexibility and increased revenues for multi-modal transportation systems.
- » Fair and equitable funding for the development and implementation of electric vehicle infrastructure across the state.

## WATER

In addressing statewide water concerns, the League:

- Supports water policies that protect Colorado water resources.
- Supports the constitutional doctrine of prior appropriation and the constitutional priority given to domestic water use.
- Supports the inventorying and protection by municipalities of their water rights.
- Supports appropriate water conservation efforts and sustainable water resource management practices by all users.
- Supports efforts to increase knowledge of water-related issues of concern around the state to municipalities.
- Supports participation in statewide discussions of water use and distribution.
- Supports appropriate coordination of municipal water use with other uses including agriculture, mineral resource development, energy development, recreation, and open space.

- Supports federal and state financial aid programs assisting municipalities, including recognition of the special needs of smaller municipalities, with the construction and improvement of water systems to protect water quality and to comply with federal and state mandates.
- Supports continued federal and state funding for wastewater treatment and drinking water facilities to reduce local costs and expedite construction of necessary treatment and collection facilities.
- Supports stakeholder input and involvement in developing laws and regulations related to water and wastewater issues.
- Encourages on-going communication by federal land managers with affected municipalities regarding the leasing of federal lands that might impact local

land use and environmental policies including, but not limited to, local watershed ordinances.

- Supports continued and additional funding for the Colorado Water Plan and programs to implement its goals.

## **YOUTH**

The League:

- Supports municipal and other efforts to address youth issues and needs.
- Recognizes the influence that parents in partnership with nonprofit and religious organizations, local businesses and other governmental jurisdictions have on the development of youth.
- Encourages utilization by public schools in cooperation with local governments of League-published or other civics curriculum to educate students in state and local government.

# About CML



Founded in 1923, CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents and serves Colorado's cities and towns. The Colorado Municipal League counts as members all 271 cities and towns in the state.

The Colorado Municipal League believes that local problems are best resolved at the local level of government and that people are best served by a strong and responsive local government.

The League's core functions are advocacy, information, and training.

## **ADVOCACY**

CML represents the interests of Colorado municipalities before the state and federal governments and in the courts.

The League employs a team of legislative and legal advocates to ensure that all municipalities are well-represented in the state capitol and that the interests of cities and towns and their residents are protected through participation in certain appellate court cases. The work of state agencies also is under the watchful eye of CML, as are statewide ballot issues.

## INFORMATION

CML provides accessible information that helps municipal officials and staff serve their communities and residents. Each year, CML staff respond to individual inquiries with information, advice, and sample documents. CML periodicals include the award-winning quarterly magazine, *Colorado Municipalities*; bi-weekly *CML Newsletter*; and *Statehouse Report*, a weekly report on legislation of municipal interest that is sent while the General Assembly is in session.

Publications produced by CML reflect important technical and legal research on a variety of issues impacting municipal government.

The CML website, *cml.org*, and social media presence, ensure that the most up-to-date information is available to our members. CML also produces short, informative videos on topics important to municipal officials; visit the CML website to view.

## TRAINING

Each year, CML offers dynamic events and workshops to support your continuing education and training on such topics as leadership, council collaboration, municipal finance, land use and planning, personnel issues, telecommunications, legislative issues, strategic planning, and more.

MUNiversity recognizes the efforts of officials who go the extra mile to increase their knowledge and their capacity to lead. Since 1991, hundreds of municipal elected officials have participated in this highly successful program.

MUNiversity is based on interactive, affordable, capacity-building learning opportunities that promote a better understanding of municipal government and provide the tools to be a more effective community leader. The program is simple:

- Any municipal elected official may participate. This includes mayors, councilmembers, and trustees.
- There is no cost for enrolling.
- There are no required courses. You select the credited training that fits your specific needs from CML workshops and conferences.

For more information about this program and other CML services, contact the CML office in Denver at 303-831-6411 / 866-578-0936.



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