



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 50, No. 13, June 28, 2024

## CML elects Executive Board



### More than 1,200 municipal leaders attend Annual Conference

*By Rachel Woolworth, CML municipal research analyst*

**M**unicipal officials from around the state elected representatives to the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Executive Board during the League's Annual Business Meeting, held in Loveland on June 20 during the organization's 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference.

CML holds Board elections annually per its bylaws. This year, 20 candidates ran for one of 11 positions in four population categories.

Five new members were elected to the Board. Cortez Mayor Rachel Medina and Montrose Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank were elected to represent the medium population category of 8,000 to 59,999. Medina will serve a two-year term and Frank a one-year term.

Estes Park Town Attorney Dan Kramer, Norwood Mayor Candy Meehan, and Lyons Mayor Hollie Rogin were elected to represent the small population category of less than 8,000. All three members will serve two-year terms.

Six members were re-elected to the Board. Colorado Springs City Attorney Wynetta Massey was elected to represent the largest population category of 250,000 or more. Greeley Mayor Pro Tem Dale Hall, Broomfield Council Member James Marsh-Holschen, and Parker Councilmember Joshua Rivero were elected to represent the large category of 60,000 to 249,999. Lone Tree City Manager Seth Hoffman and Golden Mayor Laura Weinberg were elected to represent the medium population category.

**CONTINUES ON PAGE 4**

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

# EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO

## CLERKS' CORNER

### On the road

By Karen Goldman, CML municipal clerk advisor

In support of the Colorado Municipal Clerk's Association's (CMCA) main goal of providing education, in the late 1980's, it embarked on a program called 'On the Road Workshops'. This program allowed clerks who couldn't attend the Clerks' Institute to still benefit from educational opportunities offered by CMCA. Trainers traveled to municipalities across Colorado to train clerks on topics they requested to learn. The first training, in records management, took place in Wiggins and since then, trainers have been to La Junta, Trinidad, Montrose, Gypsum, Severance, Cañon City, and others. COVID-19 suspended this program, now titled 'Professional Development Outreach' or PDO. The clerks' association is now poised to resume the PDOs.

While CMCA hosts important small sessions on very specific topics (Lunch and Learns), these are no substitute for the six-hour comprehensive classes that make up the PDOs. While some might say it's easier for clerks to merely carve out an hour or so for these sessions, the depth of information provided in the PDOs simply cannot be communicated in the short sessions. Also, there

is something to be said for meeting personally with your colleagues to exchange ideas, information, and to share stories.

And, for those working toward their Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designations, an important and worthy endeavor, please note that points are awarded for attending the PDOs.

Generally, PDOs are held from May to around September to take into consideration the good weather Colorado experiences then. If anyone wants to see a particular topic taught and is interested in hosting a PDO or wants/need further information, contact Karen Frawley at [kfrawley@windsorgov.com](mailto:kfrawley@windsorgov.com).

For those of you who are concerned about being away from your office for one entire day, remember, the information you receive from these classes will make the days you do stay in your office and do your work much more valuable because you will have a better idea what to do and how to do it.

So, if there are clerks out there who are still concerned that they can't afford to be away from their office for a single day, they should ask themselves: Can I afford to stay?

## CML MEMBER SURVEY

Your opinion matters! From July 1-19, CML is conducting a membership survey designed to help us understand what we're doing well and how we can better meet your needs. Please watch for a survey link from ETC Institute and complete our Member Survey by July 19.



COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE **NEWSLETTER**

CML Newsletter (ISSN 7439903) is published biweekly by the Colorado Municipal League, 1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203-2207, for Colorado's municipal officials. (USPS 075-590) Periodical postage paid in Denver, Colorado.

**Editor: Denise White**  
**Designer: Alex Miller**  
**Circulation/mailling lists: Mark Vanderbrook**

POSTMASTER: Send address change form 3579 to Colorado Municipal League, 1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203-2207; (p) 303-831-6411 / 866-578-0936; (f) 303-860-8175.

Subscription to CML Newsletter is offered as a portion of member dues.

Get this newsletter by email. The CML Newsletter is available by email three days before it arrives in the mail! Sign up at [bit.ly/CMLNewsletter](http://bit.ly/CMLNewsletter).

## CELEBRATE WITH CML!

CML wants to hear about your community's successes. Tell us about a grant you've won, water tank that's finally finished, or anything else you're excited about. Email CML Publication & Design Specialist Alex Miller, [amiller@cml.org](mailto:amiller@cml.org).

## Digital accessibility: It's not just the law, it's the right thing to do

By Sara Spaulding,

City of Grand Junction communications and engagement director

At the core of service for a government agency is a focus on how best to meet the community's needs. The recent passage of House Bill 21-1110, which requires accessibility compliance of all government websites, has intersected with municipalities' desire to do the right thing for employees, as well as community members.

At the City of Grand Junction, implementing a digital accessibility plan to meet the initial deadline for compliance of July 2024 began in the spring of 2023. With support from the city manager, a task group comprised of city departments including IT, communications and engagement, human resources, and the city clerk's office was established to create and implement a citywide accessibility plan.

While the priority was meeting the deadline for HB21-1110 compliance, the task group kept coming back to how the legislation required a renewed focus on accommodating the unique needs of everyone whether seeking city services and programs or delivering them.

Updating the website was the first task. This included deleting redundant or outdated files per the retention policy, remediation of the remaining files for accessibility, acquiring necessary tools to review progress and to facilitate accessible file creation, and training staff to create

accessible files and presentations, use accessibility checkers, and add alt text and captioning to graphics and other media.

In addition to addressing accessibility on the city website, the communications department deployed the use of iPads with access to live remote video translation, including American Sign Language, for use at community meetings and events and city customer service locations. The city's IT department added the same application to city-issued iPhones for use by the police and fire departments at traffic stops, during medical calls, and when responding to fires.

While some of the tactics of the city plan required dedicated budget dollars, one of the most impactful and least costly initiatives was establishing a CrossAbility Roundtable.

Differently abled community members were invited to join the roundtable from organizations including the Center for Independence and Strive. Members were then asked to provide feedback on effective methods of communication, available adaptive technology, and what changes to city communications would be useful in order to accommodate specific needs for accessibility.

Input will help the team learn about communication preferences and which technologies or changes to current prac-

tices would be the most effective. This feedback has already led to important changes on the website including the position of the Google translate button, the color of the accessibility button, and the change of icons to brightly colored buttons using just words instead of obscure line drawings.

One significant outcome of feedback from the CrossAbility Roundtable is the importance of addressing color blindness and readability. While not necessarily on the list of state accessibility requirements, color blindness can mean community members, councilmembers, and staff are not able to fully access information provided by pie charts or other graphs depending on the colors used, as often those will appear to them as one shade of gray. Additionally, aging community members often struggle with reading postcards, flyers, and other written materials if printed in smaller than 12-point type.

While meeting the state deadline for accessibility compliance remains a priority for government communications teams across the state, community members needing accommodations should be included in the stakeholder process. To be effective, accessibility plans must include everyone in order to truly serve everyone. Ensuring that all government communications are accessible is absolutely the right thing to do.

---

## Certificate in affordable housing

Lack of affordable housing supply has culminated in a housing crisis. As communities scramble to tackle this problem, the demand for skilled professionals in the affordable housing sector is growing.

To meet this need, the University of Denver offers an Executive Certificate in Affordable Housing. The program features in-depth training from interdisciplinary experts, and it provides participants with fast-tracked pathway to learn the com-

plexities of affordable housing development and the practical skills necessary to work in this specialized sector.

This is a non-degree program. No university transcripts or credits will be offered. Participants who complete the coursework will receive an Executive Certificate in Affordable Housing from the University of Denver.

More information is available online at [www.du.edu/affordable-housing](http://www.du.edu/affordable-housing).

## Land use webinar

The Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA) Division of Local Government will present a webinar, "New Colorado Land Use and Housing Laws — Overview for Local Governments," on June 27. The webinar will help local government officials understand what changes to expect from the land use and housing bills passed by the Colorado General Assembly. Visit [tinyurl.com/225b92w2](http://tinyurl.com/225b92w2) to register. A recording of the webinar will be made available on DOLA's website.





STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX MILLER

More than 1,200 municipal leaders attended the Colorado Municipal League 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on June 18-21 in Loveland.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX MILLER

EPA Region 8 (Mountains and Plains) Administrator K.C. Becker speaks at the Meeting of the Minds luncheon June 20.



STAFF PHOTO BY KHARYL JACKSON

Former NFL running back Justin Forsett presents "Greatness Grows Best in the Shadows" on June 19 at the conference.

**FROM PAGE 1**

The Board also elected officers for 2024-2025. Massey will serve as president, Hoffman as vice-president, and Weinberg as secretary/treasurer.

The CML Annual Conference drew more than 1,200 of Colorado's municipal leaders. Attendees participated in keynote addresses from Justin Forsett and Heather

R. Younger, lunch programs with Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Administrator K.C. Becker, and Colorado Supreme Court Justice Melissa Hart, and 40-some concurrent sessions. Session topics included affordable housing, home rule, hiring and staff retention, tiny town solutions, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and more.

The conference also honored the significance of Juneteenth by connecting attendees to historical information on the holiday and showcasing artwork from local Black artists. Other conference highlights included mobile tours to Chimney Hollow Reservoir and a Habitat for Humanity project in Greeley, sunrise yoga, a meet and greet with miniature cows, and a 5K Fun Run.

## Get to know the new members of the CML Executive Board



### **DAVE FRANK**

#### **MONTROSE MAYOR PRO TEM**

Former Mayor Dave Frank is starting his second term on the Montrose City Council and is the current mayor pro tem for Montrose. Dave has been actively involved in CML for the past four years, serving on the Policy Committee, with one stint as chairman. He has achieved Leadership level in CML's Muniversity and was recently the host committee chair for the District 10 outreach meeting in Montrose.



### **DAN KRAMER**

#### **ESTES PARK TOWN ATTORNEY**

As debates over housing continue to swirl through the statehouse and potentially into our courts, Dan Kramer says it is more important than ever that the CML Executive Board include not only elected officials, managers, and clerks, but also a few experienced municipal attorneys who have advocated on matters of land use and home rule. As a board member, Kramer will support the work CML is already doing to educate the public and communicate their positions on the critical issues facing all of us.



### **RACHEL MEDINA**

#### **CORTEZ MAYOR**

Rachel Medina is a third-generation Coloradoan who grew up in Longmont with her two brothers. She moved to Durango for college and eventually to Cortez, for a job opportunity, where she purchased her first house. "I love this town, volunteering and working for my community." Medina served on the Cortez Planning & Zoning Commission and Parks & Recreation Board. These experiences motivated her to run for city council and ultimately become Cortez's youngest mayor.



### **CANDY MEEHAN**

#### **NORWOOD MAYOR**

Candy Meehan is passionate about supporting and strengthening local governments, and she believes serving on the CML Executive Board will allow her to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of Colorado municipalities. She is committed to working collaboratively with her fellow board members to address the unique needs of all areas and promote policies that foster community development and resilience. Meehan is ready to bring her skills and energy to the Board and work tirelessly to represent the interests of municipalities across Colorado.



### **HOLLIE ROGIN**

#### **LYONS MAYOR**

As the second-term mayor of a small statutory town surrounded by bigger municipalities, Hollie Rogin knows firsthand how challenging it can be to make our voices heard. She's dedicated to doing just that. She represents the Town of Lyons as a member of Metro Mayors Caucus and serves as a board director for the Denver Regional Council of Governments. She actively engages with state legislators and can be found at the Capitol testifying during hearings on bills that impact us all.

## Website provides resources to mitigate wildfire

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) recently completed climate data and methodological updates to its Wildfire Risk to Communities website, a free online tool for helping communities understand, explore, and reduce wildfire risk. The website is available at [wildfirerisk.org](http://wildfirerisk.org).

First established in 2020, [wildfirerisk.org](http://wildfirerisk.org) is a resource for local elected officials, land use planners, fire managers, and state policymakers seeking essential data and solutions related to wildfire threats across municipalities, counties,

tribal areas, and states. The website is operated by the USFS in partnership with Headwaters Economics and Pyrologix.

The recent updates to [wildfirerisk.org](http://wildfirerisk.org) provide more precise insights into wildfire risk for local communities, linking risk type with effective mitigation strategies and identifying how wildfire disproportionately impacts certain populations. The website also includes curated resources to help communities become wildfire ready.

Other key improvements in the latest update to [wildfirerisk.org](http://wildfirerisk.org) include:

- The latest vegetation data to better understand available fuel sources
- Updated weather datasets to reflect current climate conditions more accurately
- The latest advances in methods for simulation modeling of wildfire hazard
- Updated and improved building footprint datasets and U.S. Census Bureau data sources for representing the locations of buildings and housing units.

## RSVP for State Revolving Fund regional workshops

This summer, the Colorado State Revolving Fund (SRF) program is coming to you!

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is hosting a pair of regional workshops this summer, one on July 11 in Alamosa and another July 23 in Akron. The workshops will cover topics including SRF basics (such as details about Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding); funding options for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure; planning, asset management, and available technical assistance; and current and upcoming regulations regarding lead and emerging contaminants.

The department will have staff available to answer questions about specific projects and discuss situations unique to your community.

State Revolving Fund loans have very low interest rates so that they are affordable to repay. The fund finances the design and construction of Colorado water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

RSVP for the Alamosa workshop by June 28, at [tinyurl.com/y9xt62xa](http://tinyurl.com/y9xt62xa).

RSVP for the Akron workshop by July 12, at [tinyurl.com/3c74pzye](http://tinyurl.com/3c74pzye).

## Landfill Remediation Grant Cycle anticipated to open to applicants July 1

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is preparing to begin accepting applications for the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program.

During the 2023 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 23-1194, creating the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program. The program will provide grants to eligible local governments to help with the costs of environmental remediation efforts for, and management of, closed landfills owned by local governments.

CDPHE will host a pre-application informational webinar at 10 a.m. on June 27 to assist applicants with applying, deadlines, and requirements for submitting the application. To register, visit [tinyurl.com/4tf5mbk5](http://tinyurl.com/4tf5mbk5).

CDPHE anticipates the final Grant Cycle No. 1 Request for Application will be released and the application period will open July 1. The department will provide a separate notification to stakeholders when the final Request for Application has been released.

## Mayors Leadership Academy

Leading a city comes with unique challenges — and solutions. In partnership with Colorado Municipal League and the Metro Mayors Caucus (MMC), Civic Results is launching its first Mayors Leadership Academy, beginning Aug. 8. This in-person program, held in varying locations

around the metro Denver area and the state of Colorado, will offer full-day sessions monthly from August to March that are focused on building skills, networks, and relationships. For more information, please email [info@civicresults.org](mailto:info@civicresults.org) or visit [tinyurl.com/mtya984b](http://tinyurl.com/mtya984b).

## Metro Area BID DDA URA Mobile Tour

Many Colorado communities are curious about districts and authorities that can focus on redevelopment, reuse, and place management in downtown and commercial areas. Why sit in a conference room to learn, when you can hit the road and tour some Business Improvement District,

Downtown Development Authority, and Urban Renewal Authority projects?

Colorado Municipal League and Downtown Colorado, Inc. are pleased to announce our fifth annual financing mechanism mobile tour. Register today by visiting [tinyurl.com/34mdvnzj](http://tinyurl.com/34mdvnzj).

**CML thanks everyone  
who attended our 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Conference. See you next year  
in Breckenridge!**



**2024 ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**



**COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE**



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

USPS 075-590

Periodical postage  
PAID  
at Denver, Colorado

1144 Sherman St. • Denver, CO • 80203-2207

- CML elects new members to Executive Board
- RSVP for State Revolving Fund workshops
- Member Spotlight: Grand Junction
- Clerk's Corner: On the road

Featured in this issue

Vol. 50, No. 13, June 28, 2024

# NEWSLETTER

COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

