



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 51, No. 4, February 21, 2025

STEP UP TO SERVE

## CML Executive Board

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF COLORADO'S CITIES AND TOWNS

By KEVIN BOMMER, CML EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you're interested in serving on the Colorado Municipal League Executive Board, now is the time to start planning. CML will accept applications from Monday, April 7, to Friday, May 23.

CML bylaws establish staggered terms, ensuring that half of the board seats in each category are on the ballot. Additionally, a second seat in the Largest category will be up for election as President Wynetta Massey transitions to Immediate Past President. Current board members whose terms are expiring may seek re-election, provided they meet all necessary criteria.

### BOARD SEATS ON THE BALLOT:

- **Largest Category (Population 250,000+):** Two positions (one for a two-year term, one for a one-year term)
- **Large Category (Population 50,000–249,999):** Three positions (two-year terms)
- **Medium Category (Population 8,000–49,999):** Three positions (two-year terms)
- **Small Category (Population <8,000):** Three positions (two-year terms)

Candidates meeting all qualifications will be placed on the slate by the CML Nominating Committee and be voted on by the membership at the CML Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, June 26 during the 103rd CML Annual Conference in Breckenridge. Voting procedures will be outlined in the "Notice of Annual Business Meeting", which will be sent to all member municipalities before the conference.



CML Executive Board members are elected at-large, meaning each member municipality can vote for candidates in all population categories.

Population figures for the June 2025 election will be based on Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) estimates used to establish 2025 municipal dues for member municipalities. Members can contact CML to confirm their population category.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

CML bylaws require that Executive Board members be elected or appointed officials of member cities and towns. To be nominated for a board position, an official must:

- Submit an application to the Nominating Committee by Friday, May 23.
- Obtain and submit a written letter or resolution signed by the mayor (or appropriate substitute, if needed) affirming the endorsement of the applicant's candidacy by the city council or board of trustees, also by Friday, May 23. Note: Each city council or board of trustees may endorse only one nominee from their municipality. Individual endorsements or endorsements signed by staff do not suffice this requirement.

Sample application and endorsement letters will be available on the CML website by Monday, April 7. Additional information and reminders will be published in future newsletters, on the CML website, and through direct member communication.

For applications, endorsements, or questions about the Executive Board or election process, contact Executive Director Kevin Bommer at [kbommer@cml.org](mailto:kbommer@cml.org).

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

# EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO

## CML WEBINARS

### Prepare for Colorado's EPR Program with CML and Recycle Colorado

In 2026, Colorado will roll out a statewide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program, offering free recycling services to residents without financial cost to local governments. To help municipalities prepare for this significant transition, the Colorado Municipal League, in partnership with Recycle Colorado, launched a six-part monthly webinar series which started in January.

This series is designed to help local governments understand the policy, explore best practices, and collaborate regionally. Sessions will cover essential topics, including EPR basics, collection models, end-markets, local policy options, and partnership opportunities.

#### DETAILS

- **When:** Monthly webinars from January to July 2025
- **Cost:** Free for CML and Recycle Colorado members
- **Format:** Virtual sessions (Zoom link sent to registrants)
- **Extras:** Access to recorded webinars and presentation materials

#### UPCOMING TOPICS

- **Collection Models** (Feb. 26): Options for improving waste diversion
- **End-Markets** (March 27): Responsible recycling and community opportunities
- **Partnership Models** (April 23): Collaborating with peers and partners
- **Local Policy Dive** (May 22): Policy options to enhance EPR systems
- **EPR and The State** (July 23): Updates from CDPHE's EPR program

**EPR 101** (Jan. 30) recording is available online: Get an overview of Colorado's new recycling program and steps to prepare your community.

#### REGISTER NOW

Join one or all sessions and gain valuable insights to help your community prepare for EPR implementation. Registration is required for each session.

For more information visit [tinyurl.com/34cc8bjw](https://tinyurl.com/34cc8bjw) or contact Jenifer Freeman at [jfreeman@constellationstrategies.net](mailto:jfreeman@constellationstrategies.net) or Denise White, CML engagement and communications manager, at [dwhite@cml.org](mailto:dwhite@cml.org).

Don't miss this opportunity to optimize your community's recycling systems and prepare for the future!



COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE **NEWSLETTER**

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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. Get in touch with CML Publication & Design Specialist Alex Miller, [amiller@cml.org](mailto:amiller@cml.org), to have your community featured in the CML Newsletter.



# Get involved in Doing Democracy Day 2025 on March 6

Doing Democracy Day (DDD) is back, and this year's event promises to be another exciting opportunity for students to engage with real-world issues alongside local leaders like you! Join us on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at the Longmont Museum for a day dedicated to civics, community involvement, and preparing the next generation of citizens.

CML encourages municipal officials, both elected and staff, to engage with students throughout the year to help educate them on civics, government, and the importance of being an active, informed citizen. After all, today's students are tomorrow's voters and leaders.

Doing Democracy Day is a perfect way to make a difference, as it brings students from schools across the region to wrestle with local issues and policies, with local leaders and educators acting as their guides.



## DOING★DEMOCRACY★DAY

DDD is a multi-community, multi-school event that challenges students to research critical local issues such as affordable housing, homelessness, and social media's impact on mental health. Students will also explore the debate around cell phone bans, the use of red light cameras, and the idea of raising the minimum wage to \$20. They will discuss the concept of allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections, as well as the significance of local history and the upcoming 250/150 celebrations in 2026. Throughout the day, students will engage with local leaders to develop their ideas and solutions, gaining valuable insights and feedback from experienced community members.

As a leader, you'll have the opportunity to participate in leader interviews, where you'll share your expertise on pressing local issues, or serve as a judge for the student presentations. No preparation is necessary—just your insights and willingness to engage with the students!

Doing Democracy Day is just one way to engage young minds in civic discourse. You can also explore the Lessons on Local Government resources from CML and the Special District Association of Colorado (SDA). These free materials are a great tool for teachers, meeting the new state social studies standards and preparing students to become informed, active citizens.

If you're interested in participating, please RSVP via the form online at [tinyurl.com/2apj42d4](https://tinyurl.com/2apj42d4) or reach out to Kent Willmann at [kentwillmann@gmail.com](mailto:kentwillmann@gmail.com) for more information. Your involvement is invaluable to the success of this event, and we look forward to having you join us March 6!

## Downtown Colorado, Inc. hosts 25th Annual IN THE GAME Vibrant Downtown Event

Join us for the 25th annual IN THE GAME Vibrant Downtown Event, hosted by Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) in Greeley from April 1 to 4, 2025. This interactive, four-day event is designed to inspire action and spark innovation among Colorado's community and economic development leaders.

The first half of the event will focus on community problem-solving, and the second half will explore the latest trends and cutting-edge ideas for the future of downtowns and the state as a whole. Attendees will have the opportunity to leave the conference room and dive into Greeley's vibrant downtown, engaging with the places and projects that are making an impact.

Get ready for focused content like:

### **The Colorado Challenge Accelerator**

**Program:** Discover how communities can revitalize challenging projects with funding strategies, partnerships, and brownfield cleanups.

### **Tax Increment Finance & Redevelopment**

**Tools:** Learn the ins and outs of funding tools for blighted areas and coaching community developers. Bonus: DCI's Annual Colorado Urban Renewal Dinner is the perfect place to continue the conversation.

**BID and DDA programming:** Sessions like Return on Emotion and Next-Gen Downtown Management will get you thinking about the future of downtown development. Plus, the Annual Colorado BID/DDA District Dinner is always a highlight!

IN THE GAME offers valuable educational sessions and peer-to-peer exchanges, featuring nationally recognized and local speakers, with a shared goal of inspiring participants to take action.

Visit the DCI website for more information on speakers, workshops, tours, and to register for this event: [tinyurl.com/mvzhhdby](https://tinyurl.com/mvzhhdby).

## 2025 Western Places | Western Spaces Conference

The 2025 Western Places | Western Spaces conference, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute at the University of Denver, will focus on adapting our communities to meet the challenges of aging infrastructure, an aging population, and evolving regulatory systems.

This event, happening March 5-7, 2025, will offer sessions on key topics including housing, energy, water, transportation, small towns and rural communities, climate resilience, equity, and more.

Network with thought leaders and practitioners at the forefront of planning and land use law as we explore innovative solutions to build a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future.

For more details, including potential scholarships, and to register, visit the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute's website, [tinyurl.com/y8cuf9vp](https://tinyurl.com/y8cuf9vp).

## Draft RFA for Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program is available for comment

The draft Grant Cycle No. 2 Request for Applications (RFA) for the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program was released earlier this year and is available by visiting the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program webpage, [tinyurl.com/2akyyfes](https://tinyurl.com/2akyyfes).

The RFA for the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program is available and the department plans to accept applications through March 28. The RFA, as well as a questions and answers document for the RFA, will be available on the Solid Waste and Materials Management Program's Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program webpage. A separate notification will be made to stakeholders when the final Grant Cycle No. 2 RFA has been released.

Additionally, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment hosted

a pre-application informational webinar to assist applicants with applying and requirements for submitting the application through the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program. The recording is available on the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program webpage.

The Colorado General Assembly passed HB23-1194 during the 2023 legislative session. HB23-1194 created the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program to provide funding to eligible local governments to help pay the costs of environmental remediation and mitigation efforts for and management of closed landfills that are owned by the eligible local governments to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment.

## Funding opportunities open through June 30 via Division of Housing

The Division of Housing, part of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, has opened funding opportunities for grants and loans, available through June 30.

The Division of Housing is anticipating up to \$134 million of funds being made available to award to projects and programs throughout State Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025).

The development of scoring criteria is actively underway as the division has shifted to quarterly, competitive application cycles for rental and homeownership projects.

Any funds that are not awarded at the end of a cycle will roll forward to a future round. The division will communicate whether funds rolled forward to ensure applicants know of the additional availability of funds.

The Letter of Interest deadline will be 45 days prior to the application deadline to allow time for letters to be published to the division's website for transparency.

After submitting an application for one or more of the below funding cycles, applicants can expect their application to be reviewed by the division and State Housing Board. If deemed complete, a decision regarding an award will be made, and the applicant notified.

The complete funding calendar is available on the Division of Housing website, [tinyurl.com/yc5u4ybb](https://tinyurl.com/yc5u4ybb).



## Nominations open for 2025 Good Governance Award

Celebrate outstanding municipal leadership! The 2025 Sam Mamet Good Governance Award honors Colorado municipal officials and staff who exemplify transparency, accountability, innovation, and ethical leadership.

### WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

Elected officials, municipal staff, or public service leaders, such as board members or volunteers, actively serving in their role at the time of nomination. (Current Executive Board members are not eligible.)

### HOW ARE WINNERS RECOGNIZED?

Recipients will be honored at the 2025 CML Annual Conference in Breckenridge, receive a commemorative award, complimentary registration to the 2026 conference, and recognition in regional media.

### NOMINATE A LEADER TODAY!

Nominations accepted through March 28; submit at [tinyurl.com/bdd3e2sv](https://tinyurl.com/bdd3e2sv).

## Become a conference sponsor

Looking to increase your organization's exposure to influential decision makers in Colorado's cities and towns?

Become a sponsor of the Colorado Municipal League Annual Conference. CML associate members receive a discount on all conference sponsorship opportunities. Sponsors exhibit space is limited and sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

More information on sponsorships is available at CML's website, [www.cml.org/conference/2025-sponsor-opportunities](http://www.cml.org/conference/2025-sponsor-opportunities). CML's sponsor guide, which includes sponsor application materials, is online at [tinyurl.com/yunbyrm8](https://tinyurl.com/yunbyrm8).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

are available to attend the CML Annual Conference. More information at [cml.org/conference](http://cml.org/conference)

Join us for the 2025

# CML ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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## Associate Membership renewal deadline approaching: Renew by Feb. 28 to continue enjoying your benefits

As the Feb. 28 renewal deadline approaches, we want to remind all our members—municipal and associate alike—of the lasting value you bring to the Colorado Municipal League. Your support plays an essential role in strengthening local government across Colorado.

For our Associate Members, renewing your membership means continuing to benefit from a wealth of exclusive opportunities to engage with municipal leaders, stay informed, and elevate your presence within Colorado's local government community. By renewing, you'll maintain access to:

- A network of municipal leaders and policymakers across the state.
- Discounts on event fees, including the Annual Conference,

and exclusive advertising and sponsorship opportunities.

- Visibility through your listing in CML's online membership directory.
- Essential resources such as subscriptions to the *CML Newsletter*, *Colorado Municipalities* magazine, and the *Statehouse Report*, keeping you up to date on the latest developments in municipal issues and legislation.

Renewing your membership is more than just a transaction—it's an ongoing investment in CML's ability to support municipalities and organizations like yours.

CML's mission of providing advocacy, information, and training continues to guide our work on behalf of Colorado municipalities. Your continued

involvement ensures that CML remains a steadfast partner to all 271 municipalities in Colorado, empowering communities at the local, regional, and state levels

Simply put—CML exists for our members and because of our members. Together, we work to strengthen and support the interests of local governments across Colorado. We are excited to continue this work with you.

To renew your membership, please visit [cml.org](http://cml.org) and log in to your account to complete your renewal.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to CML Marketing & Communications Specialist K. Jackson, at [kjackson@cml.org](mailto:kjackson@cml.org) or 303-831-6411.



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# CML LEGAL CORNER



## Immigration issues in municipal law enforcement

By Rachel Bender,  
CML senior associate counsel

Recent changes at the federal level have resulted in state and local governments struggling to navigate numerous immigration issues. Building off the last Legal Corner, discussing municipal legal implications of federal immigration actions, this article will focus on guidance for the day-to-day work of peace officers in the context of immigration laws.

### FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

It is important to remember that immigration enforcement is solely within the authority – and responsibility – of the federal government. While state and local governments cannot actively obstruct federal immigration matters, the federal government cannot force state or local governments to carry out federal law, directly or indirectly, pursuant to the anti-commandeering restrictions of the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

However, when federal authorities request assistance with immigration efforts, the proper municipal response quickly becomes murky when influenced by the personal perspectives of officials and the nuances of between state and federal law. Further complicating matters, the U.S. Department of Justice has recently issued memos pushing the boundaries of the anti-commandeering doctrine, such as withholding federal funds from “sanctuary jurisdictions,” and creating a tension between “voluntary cooperation” allowed under Colorado law and being required to do “something more” to avoid losing funding.

These imminent risks are highlighted by two recent lawsuits. First, the federal government has sued Illinois and Chicago, asserting that their immigration-related laws are preempted by federal law. In another case, San Francisco is suing the

federal government over the withholding of federal funds from so-called “sanctuary jurisdictions.” Based on these developments, the federal immigration framework is an open question with many developments expected over the coming months.

### MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

The most prominent immigration consideration for municipalities is likely how law enforcement interacts with members of the public under both state and federal law. One guiding principle to remember is that presence in the United States without proper documentation is not, on its own, a criminal offense (unless the person was previously removed). Responding to criminal offenses within an officer’s jurisdiction should remain the focus of local law enforcement to avoid conflicts with constitutional and statutory requirements.

In evaluating how to interact with individuals, law enforcement must be mindful of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures. Law enforcement interactions must be voluntary, meaning that a reasonable person would feel free to leave unless an officer has reasonable suspicion for a stop or probable cause to detain an individual or search a location. Although an officer can ask questions, individuals need not answer and may simply walk away if an officer does not have a legal basis to detain them. This is true even when it comes to questions about immigration status. Officers can also ask to search a location, but a search is generally not permitted without a judicial warrant.

What if an officer views a person’s government identification (ID) obtained pursuant to a Colorado law allowing individuals not lawfully present in the United States to apply for and obtain an ID? Under C.R.S. §

42-2-510, mere possession of such an ID does not authorize the individual’s arrest. In other words, an individual with this type of ID can only be arrested if an officer has probable cause that they committed a crime.

Similarly, C.R.S. § 24-76.6-102 prohibits peace officers from arresting or detaining an individual based solely on an immigration detainer requesting that local officials detain the person identified therein. A detainer is an administrative request from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”); it is not a judicial warrant and is not based on probable cause that a crime has been committed. Colorado courts have found that law enforcement agencies that held individuals based solely on a detainer violated the law, resulting in significant damages payouts. Peace officers should be wary of enforcing administrative detainers, although they retain full authority to detain someone when there is probable cause that the person has committed a crime.

Regardless of citizenship status, other constitutional provisions remain applicable when someone has been detained for criminal conduct, including the Fifth Amendment right to remain silent and the Sixth Amendment right to consult with a lawyer.

Ultimately, peace officers should consider public safety, jurisdictional authority, and community trust in determining how to engage with federal authorities and the people in their communities. Municipalities should also continue to keep an eye on the administrative, legislative, and legal developments happening at the federal level that may inform law enforcement response around immigration.

*This column is not intended and should not be taken as legal advice. Municipal officials are always encouraged to consult with their own attorneys.*



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