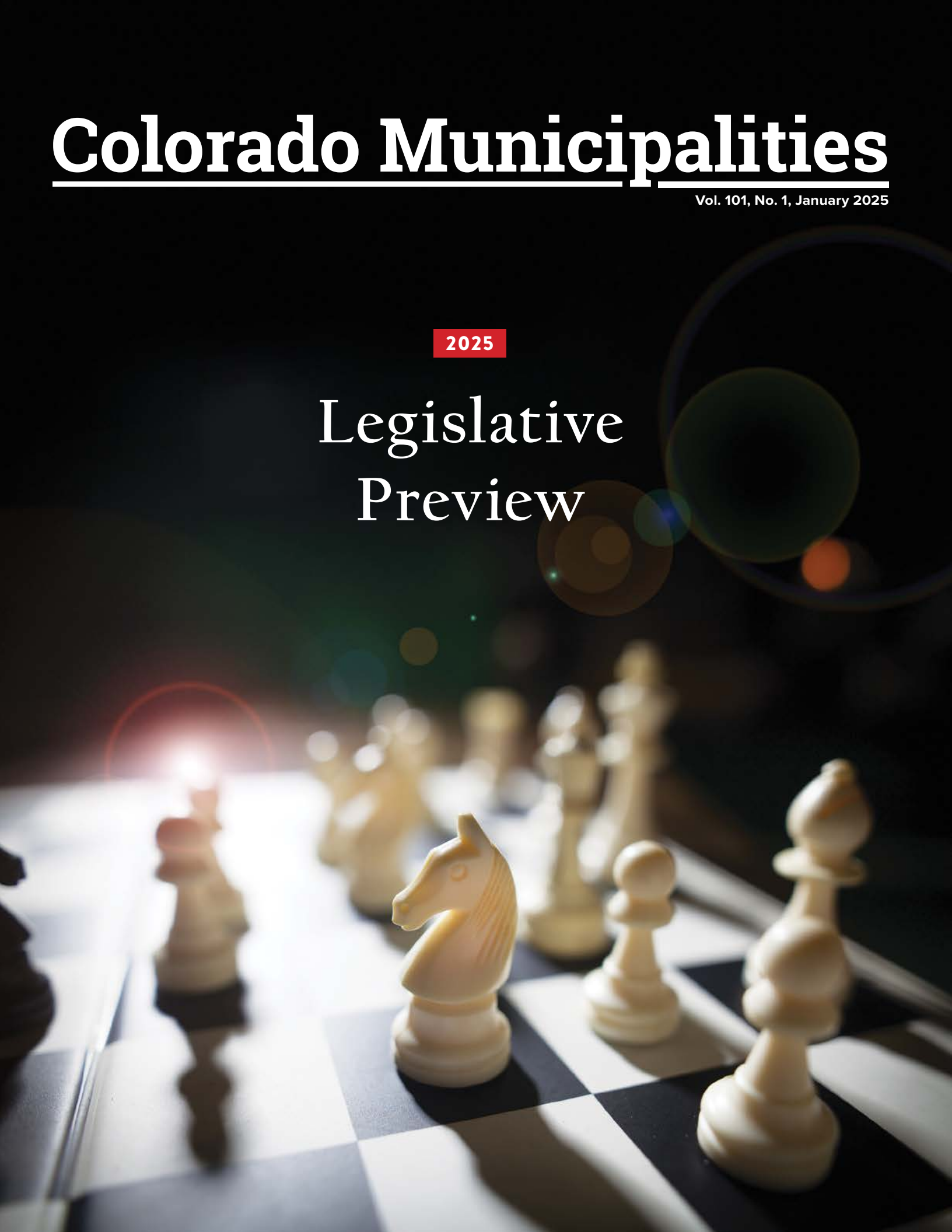



Colorado Municipalities

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2025

Legislative Preview



A photograph of the Colorado State Capitol building in Denver, Colorado, featuring a prominent central dome and classical architectural elements. The building is set against a clear sky, with trees and streetlights visible in the foreground.

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**Empowered
cities & towns,
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~~~~~

ABOUT SOME OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS

ABOUT SOME OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS



DAVE FRANK IS A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR PRO TEM OF MONTROSE. DAVE HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN CML FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. HE CURRENTLY SERVES ON THE CML EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND HE HAS SERVED ON THE POLICY COMMITTEE, WITH ONE STINT AS CHAIRMAN. DAVE HAS ACHIEVED LEADERSHIP LEVEL WITH CML'S MUNIVERSITY AND WAS RECENTLY THE HOST COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR THE DISTRICT 10 OUTREACH MEETING IN MONTROSE. DAVE SERVES IN LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE STATE OF COLORADO OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL (COAC), AS VICE CHAIR OF THE COAC ADMIN COMMITTEE, VICE CHAIR OF REGION 10, ON THE MONTROSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, MONTROSE DOWNTOWN AREA REVITALIZATION TEAM, MONTROSE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD, AND IS PRESIDENT OF THE MONTROSE ROTARY CLUB.



ELIZABETH HASKELL IS A LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ADVOCATE FOR THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE. ELIZABETH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVOCATING MUNICIPAL INTERESTS BEFORE THE STATE LEGISLATURE. HER ISSUES INCLUDE BEER AND LIQUOR, EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR, RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS, TAXATION AND FISCAL POLICY, LOTTERY AND GAMING, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, MUNICIPAL DEBT AND FINANCE, AND PURCHASING. SHE ALSO ASSISTS IN TRAINING AND ANSWERING INQUIRIES FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS TOPICS. ELIZABETH JOINED THE LEAGUE IN OCTOBER 2023.



WYNETTA MASSEY IS PRESIDENT OF THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE EXECUTIVE BOARD. SHE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SINCE 1990 AND WAS APPOINTED CITY ATTORNEY/CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER IN 2014. SHE HOLDS BACHELOR'S DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI IN SPEECH COMMUNICATION (WITH HONORS) AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW IN 1989. WYNETTA IS A NATIONAL SPEAKER ON A VARIETY OF MUNICIPAL LAW TOPICS, INCLUDING ETHICS, LAND USE, MARIJUANA REGULATION, AND THE COUNCIL-MAYOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT. SHE CHAIRED THE CML BAM COMMITTEE AS SECRETARY-TREASURER, SERVED ON THE CML POLICY COMMITTEE, AND CHAIRED CML'S AMICUS COMMITTEE AND ATTORNEYS SECTION. WYNETTA ALSO SERVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IS AN IMLA LOCAL GOVERNMENT FELLOW, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO IMLA'S LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM, AND IS A 2022 RECIPIENT OF THE EPPS AWARD FOR LONGEVITY IN SERVICE TO A COMMUNITY.



JEREMY SCHUPBACH IS A LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ADVOCATE FOR THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE. JEREMY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVOCATING MUNICIPAL INTERESTS BEFORE THE STATE LEGISLATURE. HIS ISSUES INCLUDE REGULATED SUBSTANCES, HEMP, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, SPECIAL DISTRICTS, IMMIGRATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, MUNICIPAL COURTS, TELECOM/BROADBAND/IT, UTILITIES, AND STATE DEPARTMENTS/OFFICES. HE ALSO ASSISTS IN TRAINING AND ANSWERING INQUIRIES FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS TOPICS. JEREMY JOINED CML IN OCTOBER 2023.



ROBERT SHEESLEY IS GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE. ROBERT MANAGES LEGAL SERVICES FOR CML, RANGING FROM EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO ADVOCACY FOR MUNICIPAL INTERESTS IN THE COURTS. HE ASSISTS THE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TEAM, FIELDS INQUIRIES FROM COLORADO MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS, STAFFS THE CML AMICUS COMMITTEE, AND FILES FRIEND OF THE COURT BRIEFS IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL INTERESTS. ROBERT IS THE FORMER CITY ATTORNEY OF COMMERCE CITY. HE JOINED THE LEAGUE IN 2021.



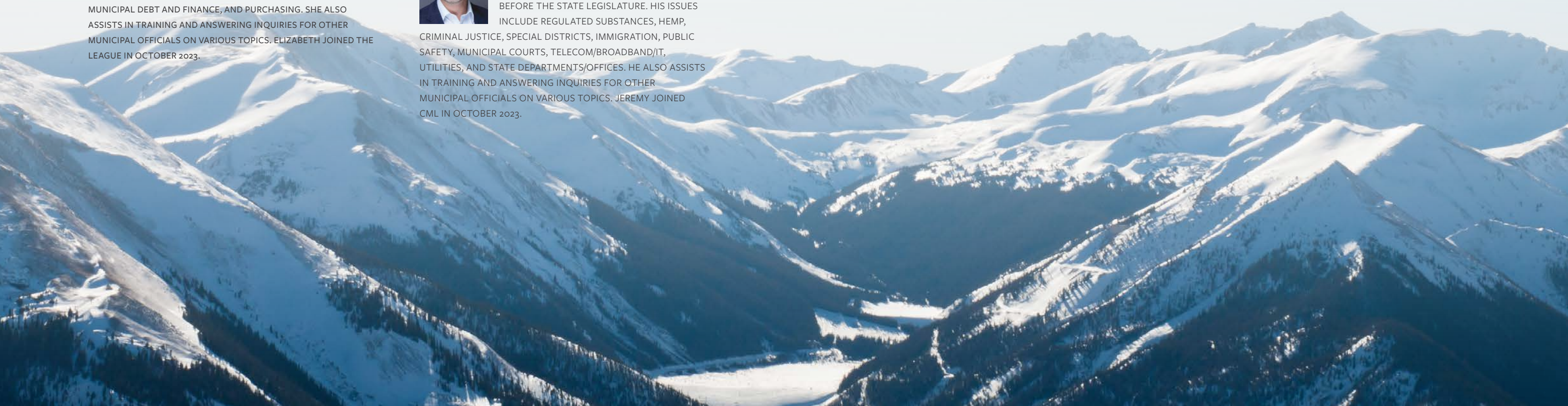
BEVERLY STABLES IS A LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ADVOCATE FOR THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE. BEVERLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVOCATING MUNICIPAL INTERESTS BEFORE THE STATE LEGISLATURE. HER ISSUES INCLUDE PUBLIC HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, LAND USE AND ANNEXATION, AIR QUALITY, TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT, AND SUSTAINABILITY. SHE ALSO ASSISTS IN TRAINING AND ANSWERING INQUIRIES FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS TOPICS. BEVERLY JOINED THE LEAGUE IN OCTOBER 2023.



HEATHER STAUFFER IS CML'S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY MANAGER. HEATHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVOCATING MUNICIPAL INTERESTS BEFORE THE STATE LEGISLATURE. HER ISSUES INCLUDE BUILDING CODES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY, OIL AND GAS, OPEN MEETINGS/OPEN RECORDS, SEVERANCE TAX/FML/ENERGY IMPACT, WATER AND WASTEWATER/WATER QUALITY, AND WILDFIRE. SHE ALSO ASSISTS IN TRAINING AND ANSWERING INQUIRIES FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS TOPICS. HEATHER JOINED CML IN JULY 2019.



RACHEL WOOLWORTH WORKS AS A PROJECT ASSOCIATE FOR COMMUNITY BUILDERS AND FORMERLY WORKED AS COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S MUNICIPAL RESEARCH ANALYST. SHE RECEIVED HER MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER. RACHEL SPENT THE LAST DECADE RESEARCHING AND WRITING ABOUT THE RURAL WEST THROUGH AMERICORPS TERMS IN ALAMOSA AND SANTA FE AND FIVE YEARS WORKING AS A REPORTER AND THEN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE HERALD DEMOCRAT IN LEADVILLE.



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- DISTRICT 12**
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- DISTRICT 13**
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- DISTRICT 15**
Ken Riley, Keystone mayor



About CML

The Colorado Municipal League is a nonprofit association organized and operated by Colorado municipalities to provide support services to member cities and towns. The League has two main objectives: 1) to represent cities and towns collectively in matters before the state and federal government; and 2) to provide a wide range of information services to help municipal officials manage their governments.

MISSION

Colorado Municipalities is published to inform, educate, and advise appointed and elected municipal officials about new programs, services, trends, and information to help them perform their jobs and better serve their citizens and communities.

Letters to the editor

Have thoughts about an article that you read in *Colorado Municipalities*?

Want to share those thoughts with your colleagues across the state?

CML welcomes thought-provoking letters to the editor! Send comments to CML Engagement & Communications Manager Denise White at dwhite@cml.org.

Advertise

Each issue of *Colorado Municipalities* reaches 5,000 municipal officials and decision makers. To reach those who lead Colorado cities and towns, contact CML Engagement & Communications Manager Denise White, dwhite@cml.org.

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Join CML

For associate membership information, contact CML Engagement & Communications Manager Denise White at dwhite@cml.org.



President's Corner

Make your voice heard during legislative session

BY WYNETTA MASSEY, CML EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! This may be the busiest time of the year for Colorado's municipalities as we all race to complete projects, tie up loose ends, prepare year-end reports, and gear up for what's to come. Now is a great time to take a breath and pause to reflect on all the good you do for your communities and start planning for a new, exciting legislative session! Your CML staff has been working this fall to prepare to take advantage of the opportunities and meet the challenges that every legislative session presents.

Your approval of the Annual Policy Statement at our June Conference set the tone. Your feedback during district meetings and other CML outreach efforts, and your participation on the Policy Committee add to CML's legislative conversation. The Policy Committee has and will continue to review member-proposed bills, analyze other legislative efforts, and make position recommendations to your CML Executive Board. The Board takes all this input into consideration when shaping CML's legislative

agenda during our monthly Board meetings. When urgent issues arise, the Board can and will provide policy and position direction to CML staff so you can be sure the General Assembly is aware of CML's legislative objectives in real-time.

As some bills move at lightning speed during the session, please make sure your voice is heard by



keeping in touch with CML Staff, the Policy Committee, Board members, and your House and Senate representatives. If there is anything CML can do to help you during the session, please do not hesitate to contact us. I can assure you that CML will continue to represent and defend Colorado municipal interests, and we thank you

for your partnership in that mission.

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season and has a happy and healthy new year! In April, we're going to talk about getting "Back to the Basics" — why we do what we do in municipal government and why that matters for our citizens and our communities.

See you then!

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Each issue of *Colorado Municipalities* reaches 5,000 municipal officials and decision makers. Want to be seen by those who lead Colorado cities and towns? Contact CML Marketing & Communications Specialist Kharyl Jackson at 303-831-6411 or kjackson@cml.org.

Legislative

priorities for 2025



By Heather Stauffer, CML legislative advocacy manager, and CML legislative & policy advocates Elizabeth Haskell, Jeremy Schubach, and Beverly Stables

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During the 2025 Colorado General Assembly legislative session, CML expects to see a range of policy proposals and priorities that will have a direct impact on local governments across the state. With a continued focus on affordability, sustainability, taxation, and criminal justice, municipalities should prepare for discussions on critical issues such as housing affordability, transportation infrastructure, climate resilience, municipal court sentencing, and local revenue mechanisms.

The budget is expected to take center stage during the Colorado legislative session, as the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) grapples with the arduous task of cutting millions of dollars from the state budget and lawmakers face critical decisions on funding priorities and the allocation of resources across a range of programs. Given the complexity of the fiscal landscape, CML will be closely monitoring the JBC's recommendations, as cuts to state programs often have direct impacts on local funding, and to ensure that fiscal burdens are not shifted to the local level.

With the outcome of the 2024 elections shaping the legislative

landscape, this session may bring shifts in party dynamics and policy direction that will impact the type of legislation we see. CML will be keeping a close watch on emerging legislation and will be poised to advance the interests of municipalities across the state.

Below are CML's specific legislative priorities, at the time of this writing, going into the 2025 Legislative Session.

HOUSING

The availability and affordability of housing is of utmost concern to Colorado's municipalities. CML supports state incentives that support commu-

nities' efforts to build affordable housing and appropriate state assistance in strategic planning. CML supports the state addressing construction defects litigation reform as a means to increase the availability of affordable housing. CML opposes state preemption of local authority to adopt and enforce zoning and land use ordinances and any interference with home rule authority granted by Art. XX, S. 6 of the Colorado Constitution.

CML supports protecting municipal authority to establish and enforce permitting processes, including those that apply to housing development.



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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CML supports legislation that gives municipalities the tools to address repeat offenders who are released on Personal Recognizance bonds and fail to appear in court, as many municipalities across the state have seen a rise in petty and misdemeanor crimes. CML supports programs that increase access to the right to counsel for people facing jail sentences. CML supports protecting municipal authority to address alleged police misconduct. CML opposes prescriptive mandates on police and court operations, the expansion or removal of liability caps, and legislation that

would require municipal sentencing to mirror state court limits.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CML supports measures that promote intergovernmental cooperation on land use issues and supports state laws and policies that encourage sustainable residential, commercial, and industrial development to occur within existing municipalities.

CML supports the prohibition of the incorporation of new cities and towns adjacent to, or within the service areas of, existing municipalities. CML opposes efforts to restrict municipal annexation authority.

TAXATION

CML supports the state extending excise taxing authority to statutory municipalities as a means of generating revenue that can be used to address local concerns and fund essential public services. Additionally, CML supports explicit state authorization allowing statutory municipalities the option to levy a vacancy tax with the approval of voters.

TRANSPORTATION

CML supports state funding for transportation infrastructure improvements that seek to prevent vehicular collisions with vulnerable road users.



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CML opposes “off-the-top” diversions from the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) and further opposes efforts to alter HUTF allocations that result in reduced funding for local governments to invest in roads and bridges. CML supports state efforts to improve the safety and reliability of public transportation through investment of state and federal funds. CML opposes state preemption of municipal authority for transportation planning at the local level.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

CML opposes statutes that violate the state’s unfunded mandate statute as well as the prohibition on unfunded mandates in the Taxpayers Bill of

Rights (TABOR) and place additional fiscal burdens on local governments and their taxpayers.

STATE BUDGET

CML opposes cuts to the state budget that disproportionately impact municipalities, as these reductions threaten vital services and programs that municipalities rely on to serve their communities. CML opposes the sweeping of severance tax revenue — funds that were intended to support municipalities impacted by energy development — into the state’s general fund.

MUNICIPAL LIABILITY

CML opposes legislation that at-

tempts to increase liability for municipalities through either expansion of private rights of action, removal of caps or limits on damages, or removal of remedies provisions in law. Increased liability places an undue financial burden on local governments, which could divert limited resources away from critical public services and undermine the ability to serve communities effectively. Exposure to excessive liability could lead to higher insurance premiums, which would further strain public finances and could result in cuts to essential programs like public safety, infrastructure, and community services.

SPOTLIGHT

How CML takes positions on legislation

By **Heather Stauffer**, CML legislative advocacy manager

Prior to the start of each legislative session, CML begins its policy development process. This process guides our legislative priorities when the General Assembly meets in January. Below is an overview of CML’s policy development process as well as CML’s legislative priorities as established at the time of this writing.

The largest driver of CML’s policy development is the CML Policy Committee, which is informed by CML’s member-approved annual policy statement, and all members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to be represented. Each member municipality of CML is entitled to designate one representative and one alternate to the League’s Policy Committee. (Cities

over 100,000 in population are entitled to designate two representatives and one alternate.) In addition, CML section chairs are automatically appointed as non-voting members of the committee. The chair of the Policy Committee is appointed by CML’s board president.

The Policy Committee has significant policy development responsibilities. It is responsible for:

- Reviewing requests from member municipalities for CML-initiated legislation and recommending specific positions to the CML Executive Board.
- Reviewing requests for policy positions from member municipalities and recommending specific positions to the Executive Board.
- Review of known or potential leg-

islative issues or bills, consideration of staff recommendations, and recommending specific positions to the Executive Board.

- Review of the League’s annual policy statement that guides League positions on policy issues affecting municipalities and proposing revisions, if necessary. (Any recommended changes are voted on by CML members at the Annual Business Meeting that takes place as part of CML’s Annual Conference.)

The CML Policy Committee met in October and December of 2024 and will meet again in January, February, and March of 2025. All recommendations of the Policy Committee are reviewed and approved by the CML Executive Board.



SPOTLIGHT

NEW FACES AT THE STATE CAPITOL



Carlos Barron

House District 48 | Republican

Rep. Carlos Barron was born in Salamanca, Guanajuato Mexico, and has been a Colorado native since he was just over a year old. He studied business management in college before joining his father's oil and gas services business. Barron was appointed to the City of Fort Lupton Planning Commission before serving on city council since 2021. He resides in Fort Lupton with his wife of thirteen years, Carla, and their three children, Santiago, age 11; Lucia, age 9; and Camila, age 4.

"It has been the greatest honor to serve my local municipality in the best way I could. I know this municipality will be in great hands with the current mayor and council we have. Our community has some great people that will step up to continue the great leadership our city is known for. Coming from this great community gave me the best understanding on the importance of local control and how changing legislation at the state level will affect the diverse range of local municipalities we have in this state."



Max Brooks

House District 45 | Republican

Rep. Max Brooks is a former council member for the town of Castle Rock. He was raised in Lakewood and has lived in Castle Rock for almost 20 years. Brooks has served as a liaison for a variety of boards and commissions for both Douglas County and Castle Rock, including the Douglas County Housing Partnership, Douglas County Homeless Initiative, and Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority. He previously worked for KOA-AM radio for two decades and is an avid baseball fan.



Lisa Feret

House District 24 | Democrat

Rep. Lisa Feret brings a wealth of local government experience to the state legislature as a former member of the Arvada City Council, veteran, and social worker. During her tenure she championed affordable housing initiatives, environmental and disaster preparedness projects, and efforts to improve public infrastructure on the local level. As she transitions to the state legislature, Feret is focused on advancing policies that promote economic opportunity for working families, including simplifying access to quality healthcare and expanding access to food. A staunch advocate for community engagement, she aims to ensure that all voices, particularly those from underserved communities, are heard in the legislative process.



Jaque Phillips

House District 31 | Democrat

Rep. Jaque Phillips, a civil rights attorney and former Thornton City Council member, will be serving House District 31. She obtained a doctorate at the University of Northern Colorado and a law degree at the University of Denver. Throughout her career she has focused on amplifying the voices of those who feel unheard and championing the rights of every citizen. She plans to spend her time at the Capitol focusing on issues important to her community, including affordable housing, homelessness, economic stability, and public safety.

"My local government experience has shown me the challenges our communities face. In the statehouse, I'll advocate for stronger partnerships and policies that empower local governments to better serve their residents."



Chris Richardson

House District 56 | Republican

Rep. Chris Richardson is a two term Elbert County Commissioner and 23-year Army veteran, including service in the Iraq War as a tank commander and colonel commanding a brigade at Fort Carson. After retiring from the Army, he became active in local political, civic, veterans, and agricultural organizations, including the Eastern Central Council of Local Governments and the Eastern Transportation Planning Region. In addition, he has served on the Elizabeth School District School Board and the state's Commission on Property Taxation. Richardson and his wife, Andrea, have one daughter, Avery.

"Our rural communities are the beating heart of the eastern plains; as the former chair of the Eastern Colorado Council of Local Governments and a CML member, I look forward to representing the 20 incorporated cities and towns of House District 56."



Gretchen Rydin

House District 38 | Democrat

Rep. Gretchen Rydin served on the Littleton City Council for three years prior to being elected to represent House District 38, including two years as mayor pro tem. Rydin has a master's in social work from Howard University and is licensed in clinical social work and addiction counseling. She provides services to clients at a community mental health center. Focusing on her areas of expertise, she plans to pursue policies related to mental health and addiction, equitable housing, the arts, and small business.

"Local governments are where the magic happens — they're the heart of our communities and our democracy. I plan to continue championing their innovation, resilience, and ability to solve problems as I serve in the Colorado State Legislature."



Marc Snyder

Senate District 12 | Democrat

Sen. Marc Snyder is an attorney focused on wills, trusts, and estates law, including helping families with children who have disabilities. A former state representative, he has been in the legislature since 2018. Prior to holding state office, he served as mayor of Manitou Springs from 2010-2016. As a representative, he focused on affordability for middle income housing, supporting small business, and environmental protection. As a senator, his priorities will continue to focus on further affordability bills, wildfire protection, and public safety in Colorado. Snyder and his wife Kelly have two daughters and live in Manitou Springs.

"I hope to bring all I've learned in 20 years of local government and public office to the Senate to make sure that what we do at the capitol works for my constituents and all the good people of Colorado."



Rebekah Stewart

House District 30 | Democrat

Rep. Rebekah Stewart, formerly of the Lakewood City Council, brings a wealth of experience in public service to the state legislature. During her time on city council, Stewart was known for her dedication to improving community infrastructure, advocating for affordable housing, and fostering economic growth while ensuring sustainability. As she transitions to the state legislature, Stewart's priorities include bolstering education funding, expanding healthcare access, and increasing housing affordability. She is committed to supporting small businesses and creating policies that foster innovation and job growth in her district.

"Serving in government on a local level has continually reinforced my deep belief in the importance of community-centered policy making. At the end of the day I want every decision I make and piece of legislation I run to be rooted in how it will make the lives of my neighbors and community better long after I'm in office."

LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

For the First Regular
Session of the 75th
Colorado General Assembly



On the move

Lawmakers take aim at transforming public transit

By **Beverly Stables**, CML legislative & policy advocate



Land use and housing have dominated the legislative landscape for the past two years at the Colorado Capital. Legislators appear ready to move on to new horizons — and they seem to be setting their sights on transit.

During the interim session, legislators on the Transportation Legislation Review Committee (TLRC) held weekly meetings with a variety of stakeholders to discuss challenges and solutions to the state’s need for transit reform.

Frustrations around Regional Transportation District (RTD) service were a frequent topic of debate. Some stakeholders emphasized the need to address emissions while others advocated for better accessibility for those

with disabilities. Still others lamented RTD’s limited frequency of service and safety concerns

Legislative solutions to the varied challenges heard throughout these conversations are yet to emerge. In the meantime, TLRC is advancing several pieces of legislation to be introduced during the 2025 session.

One bill regarding paratransit services aims to increase accessibility in public transit by improving paratransit (meaning complementary parallel transit services for individuals with disabilities). A relatively small number of municipalities across the state currently provide paratransit services — mainly large cities along the Front Range and mountain towns with near-by ski resorts.

This proposal will require such local governments to establish plans to provide paratransit services during an emergency, ensure fare collection technology is comparable to that offered for regular or fixed route services, and conduct an impact analysis before reducing the service area of paratransit services. Colorado Municipal League, along with the Colorado Association of Ski Towns, will monitor this legislation closely to ensure that adverse municipal impacts are limited.

Another bill focuses on increasing transportation mode choice and targets municipalities within Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with populations greater than 25,000. These local governments would be required to set mode choice



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targets (mode choice refers to the share of total trips completed via biking, carpooling, public transportation, single-occupancy vehicles, and walking) and to make plans to implement them. As currently drafted, such municipalities would also be required to calculate their projected greenhouse gas emissions reductions resulting from the proposed mode choice targets.

The League’s executive board has adopted an “Amend” position for this bill, directing CML staff to work on reducing the municipal impact of the proposal by requiring MPOs to come up with mode choice targets that lo-

cal governments could use as guidelines for transit planning. Alternatively, League staff may seek to increase the population threshold for local governments that fall under the bill’s requirements.

Finally, a third proposal deals with local funding for protecting vulnerable road users. This bill provides local governments with the option to impose an additional fee on vehicle registrations in their jurisdictions to fund projects that protect “vulnerable road users,” largely pedestrians and bicyclists. The bill supports the principle of local control and allows municipalities to access additional

funding to create walkable and bikeable areas in their communities. The League’s executive board voted to support this proposal, and CML staff will work to advocate for its passage throughout the legislative session.

With rumors of tight budget constraints for the state’s upcoming fiscal year, CML staff will be on high alert for legislation that forces local governments to expend resources to implement state policy goals. This may prove to be particularly prevalent in the transit space, as the push for improvements and reform often collides with the reality of limited state funding.

Criminal justice reform

Personal recognizance bonds, retail theft, and police misconduct

By **Jeremy Schupbach**, CML legislative & policy advocate



AS we approach the new year, criminal justice reform is expected to be a major theme of the legislative session, presenting significant implications for municipalities. Colorado Municipal League anticipates that key issues, including personal recognizance (PR) bonds, constraining retail theft, criminal penalties, the right to counsel in municipal courts, and police misconduct — an issue that was raised in House Bill 24-1460 — will shape the landscape for communities, law enforcement, and municipal courts.

CML is initiating legislation that will expand exceptions to the requirement to impose a PR bond for low level offenses, which include municipal offenses.

Specifically, the bill will allow municipal courts to impose a cash or surety bond instead of a PR bond when individuals repeatedly fail to appear (referred to as an FTA) for court proceedings, providing a tool for courts to better address this issue.

These challenges strain municipal resources, exacerbate court backlogs, and put the community and peace officers at risk as these individuals often escalate their criminal activity. CML's legislation will advocate for narrow reforms that prioritize public safety and reduce repeat offenses while ensuring equitable access to justice, especially for those with limited financial means or legitimate hardships when in the municipal court system.

Communities across the state are experiencing an increase in retail theft incidents. This poses a significant challenge to local law enforcement and businesses, and CML expects to be involved with legislation around stricter penalties or other alternatives for shoplifting or other municipal offenses.

CML also expects there to be legislation that addresses the right to legal counsel for individuals facing potential incarceration in municipal courts and attempts to align municipal sentencing authority with state sentencing laws. Because this issue currently sits before the Colorado Supreme Court, CML believes any legislation addressing sentencing parity should wait until that case is decided. CML will also look to

ensure protection for home rule authority that allows municipalities to address community-specific needs and challenges effectively through their municipal courts. CML hopes to work with the bill's proponents to strike the right balance on language regarding the right to counsel.

CML's legislation will advocate for narrow reforms that prioritize public safety.

Legislators are expected to introduce multiple measures related to police misconduct this session, including establishing a "Police Officer Bill of Rights," updating body camera policies, and strengthening whistleblower protections. This effort, which comes from last session's HB24-1460, is intended by the sponsors to enhance accountability and transparency in law enforcement.

Municipalities, however, may face challenges proposed by these changes, especially aspects that add administrative burdens and undue legal penalties or create unfunded mandates.

CML will hold a place at the table as these discussions around criminal justice unfold throughout the legislative session and will work hard to ensure that any reform or changes to criminal justice laws balance public safety and judicial fairness, protect local authority under the Constitution, and safeguard municipal resources.



Adobe Stock

Colorado's budget struggle

What it means for municipalities

By **Heather Stauffer**, CML legislative advocacy manager



All eyes will be on the state budget this upcoming year, with the Colorado General Assembly facing significant fiscal challenges stemming from a combination of factors including the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) cap, which limits state spending increases to inflation and population growth, unexpected Medicaid cost overruns, property tax reductions from prior years, and the phase-out of federal pandemic relief funds. Altogether the legislature is looking at a projected shortfall of nearly \$672 million.

Colorado's General Assembly is constitutionally required to balance the budget every year. If current projections hold, FY 2025-2026 will re-

quire deep cuts to the state budget that will likely reduce or redirect spending across many state programs.

The legislature is looking at a projected shortfall of nearly \$672 million.

Cuts proposed in the governor's budget request for the year present several challenges for local governments that depend on state funding for key services, infrastructure, and community support programs.

One of the most notable proposals impacting local governments is the

sweep of severance tax funds to the general fund from programs traditionally earmarked for local governments. Severance tax dollars are collected from entities based on their extraction of oil, coal, gas, and minerals from the earth. The revenue from this tax is distributed between state and local governments to support community development and conservation efforts with 50% allocated to the Department of Natural Resources and 50% allocated to the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Local Government Severance Tax Fund. Funding allocated to DOLA is again divided, with 30% going to direct distribution to local governments, and 70% available for discretionary loans and grants.



Adobe Stock

Recent budget proposals suggested sweeping 20 million dollars over the next two years from funding used for local government loans and grants and placing it in the general fund. While the proposal to redirect these funds into the general fund will help address the state's fiscal shortfall, it could severely impact local governments counting on the availability of these funds for projects in their community. This includes funding for water infrastructure, road repairs, environmental remediation, and local eco-

economic development initiatives, among others. The bottom line is that funding that supports local water infrastructure, roads, and community needs must be prioritized and protected in the state budget.

In addition to severance tax sweeps, CML staff will be watching for reductions in funding for affordable housing programs earmarked for local governments, which could hinder local efforts to address homelessness and housing affordability. Reductions to transportation funding, which could

affect local governments' ability to maintain and expand infrastructure, and reductions in funding for programs like the Defense Council's First Appearance Program, which provides local governments funding for legal representation for individuals appearing in court for the first time.

CML's advocacy team will continue to work on behalf of municipalities to ensure critical services and programs on the local level are not disproportionately affected by budget reductions at the state.



2025

The
STATE
of our
CITIES
&
TOWNS

POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

BY RACHEL WOOLWORTH | COMMUNITY BUILDERS PROJECT ASSOCIATE

Colorado municipalities work with other local governments to get the job done

The 2025 State of Our Cities & Towns survey, administered from August to October 2024, inquired about the power of partnerships between Colorado municipalities and other local governments, including counties, school districts, and special districts. Specifically, the survey investigated how such partnerships are helping cities and towns overcome challenges across the key areas of emergency services, housing, public transit and transportation infrastructure, and utilities.

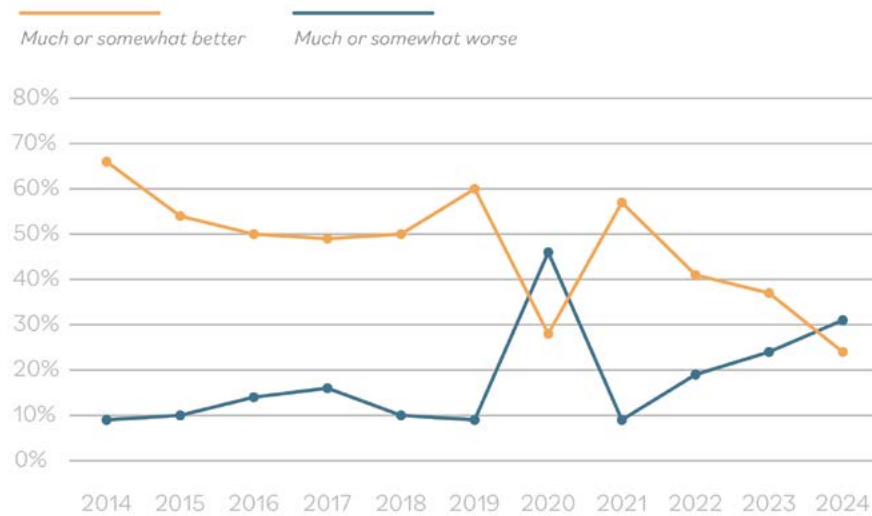
As another legislative session begins, Colorado Municipal League’s advocacy team will utilize survey results to better understand the challenges Colorado’s municipalities are facing, as well as the collaborative solutions cities and towns are utilizing to address them. This year’s data reminds us why it is imperative for the state legislature to provide local governments space to work together to create place-based solutions to local problems.

A summary of findings is outlined below. The full report will be released on CML’s website in January.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Municipalities reported few changes to local economic performance and municipal revenue from the previous fiscal year. Small municipalities and cities and towns in the Eastern Plains were less likely to see improvements in economic performance and municipal revenue

Changes to municipal revenue over the past decade



than their larger counterparts in other geographic regions of the state.

Sales and use taxes, charges for services, investment and interest income, and property taxes emerged as the top increased revenue sources for responding cities and towns. And for the first

year since 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, a slightly larger share of municipalities reported worse revenues over the previous year than those that reported better. Municipal revenue growth has been on a slight decline in Colorado since 2021.

Municipal officials identified state-mandated expenditures as the top challenge for cities and towns going into 2025. More than 75% of survey respondents, across all population sizes and geographic regions, identified state-mandated expenditures as a moderate or major challenge for their municipal government. Affordable housing, the top challenge in CML’s 2024 survey, dropped to second while unfunded street maintenance ranked third.

MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS

Cities and towns across the state frequently collaborate with other local governments, including municipalities, counties, school districts, and special districts, to get things done. About 95% of survey respondents reported partnering with another local government in at least one topical area. Front Range municipalities and large cities of over 25,000 people partner with other local governments at higher rates than smaller municipalities in other areas of the state.

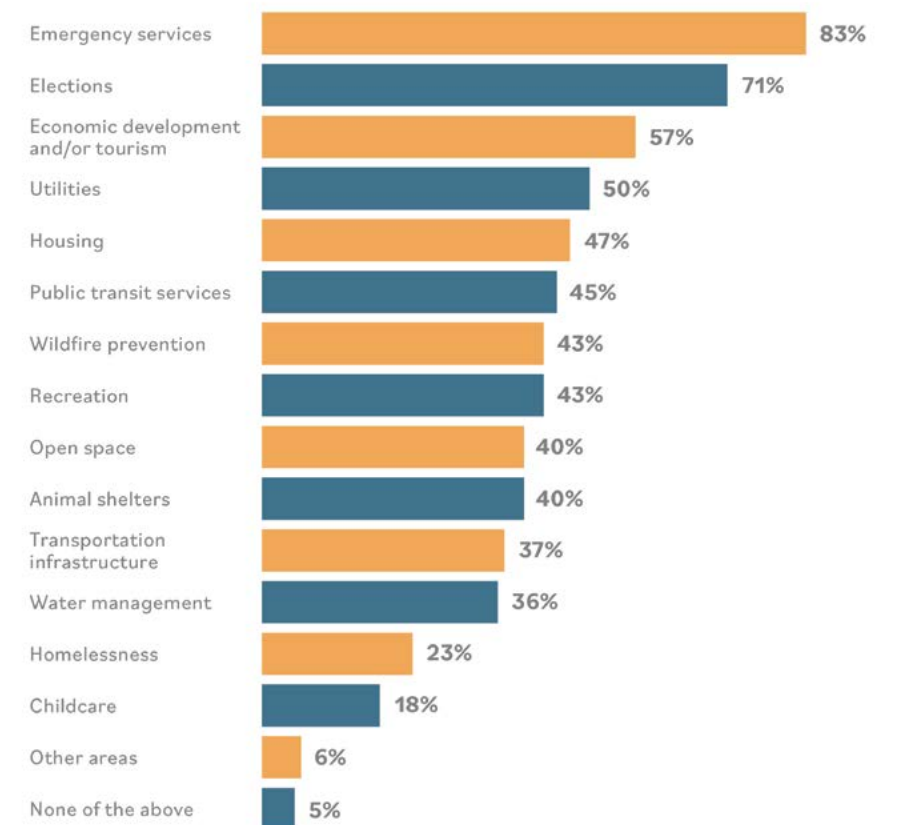
The most common areas for intergovernmental partnership included emergency services, elections, and economic development. Trends in partnerships emerged largely based on place and population. For example, municipalities located in the Mountains/Western Slope region were the most likely to partner on affordable housing while small municipalities of less than 2,000 people were the most likely to collaborate on law enforcement.

When looking across topical areas, the most impactful benefits of intergovernmental partnerships included

Challenges looking to 2025

1. State-mandated expenditures
2. Lack of affordable housing
3. Unfunded street maintenance
4. Inflation
5. Federally mandated expenditures
6. Tight labor markets
7. Increased demand for municipal services
8. Increased liability insurance costs
9. Unfunded water/wastewater needs
10. Increased health insurance costs

Areas in which municipalities partner with other local governments



“improving quality of services,” “reducing costs,” and “aggregating resources.” About two-thirds of municipalities that partner with other local governments ranked “improving quality of services” as a top three benefit.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

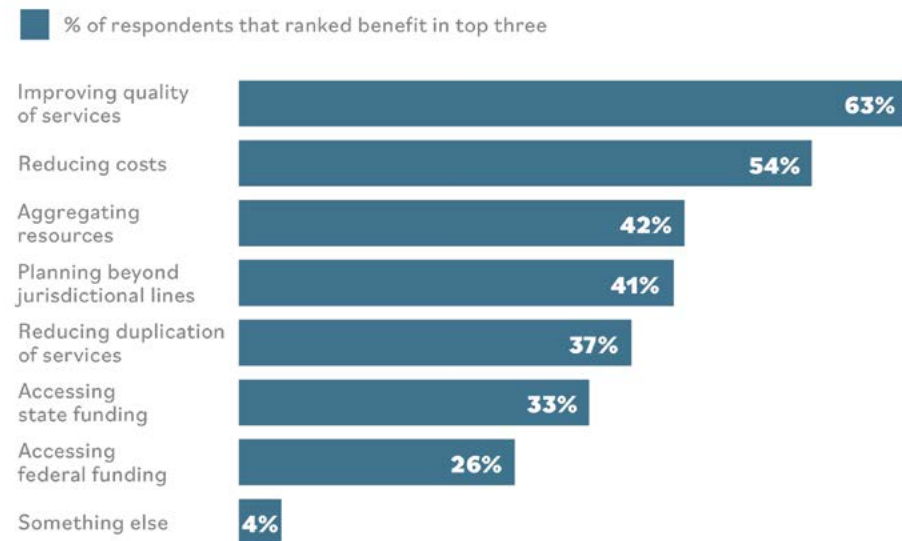
Emergency services emerged as the most common area of partnership for municipalities. More than 80% of responding cities and towns collaborate with other local governments to provide emergency services, whether in law enforcement, fire protection, or ambulance response.

Of the municipalities that maintain emergency services partnerships, about 45% collaborate with a sheriff’s office to provide law enforcement services. Some municipalities, such as Central City, Minturn, and Lyons, have dissolved their police departments to collaborate with a sheriff’s office on a full-time basis.

Most municipalities reported collaboration improving the quality of services.

Other municipalities with intact police departments, such as Lakewood, Cheyenne Wells, and Leadville, partner with other agencies, including sheriff’s offices and other municipal police departments, to provide law enforcement services, such as on-call coverage and victim services, on a part-time basis.

Benefits of intergovernmental partnerships



Of the responding municipalities with emergency services partnerships, about one-fifth operate fire services within municipal government. About two-thirds of cities and towns access fire protection services through a special district to which municipalities sometimes contribute funding or facilities and equipment.

Of the responding municipalities with emergency services partnerships, only about 15% of respondents operate ambulance services within municipal government. About 30% access ambulance services through a fire district and about 20% through county government.

HOUSING

About 47% of responding municipalities partner with other local governments on housing. Such partnerships include regional housing authorities, collaboration on housing needs assessments and grants, shared development costs, and land donations.

Housing authorities emerged as the most common form of collaboration within the housing realm. Cities and towns most commonly contribute direct funding (64%) and leadership (54%) to support housing authorities in their jurisdictions. A majority of responding municipalities have also collaborated with other local governments on housing needs assessments in the last four years, most frequently citing a better understanding of the regional housing landscape, clarity in decision-making between local governments, and diversity in community voices represented as positive impacts of such partnerships.

Though less common, various municipalities utilize partnerships with special districts to reduce and/or waive development fees, as well as collaborations with counties, school districts, and federal agencies to share development costs associated with affordable housing. Land donations, both from and to municipalities, also serve as an

important tool in building affordable housing. Municipalities such as Carbondale and Littleton have been gifted land donations while municipalities such as Silverton and Broomfield have gifted land to other local governments.

TRANSPORTATION

About 45% of responding municipalities partner with other local governments on public transit services. Fixed-route transit services, such as the Summit Stage bus route from Fairplay to Breckenridge, emerged as the most common area of partnership for cities and towns. On-demand transit services, such as the Via Mobility Services shuttles shared by 14 municipalities across Weld County, were also common.

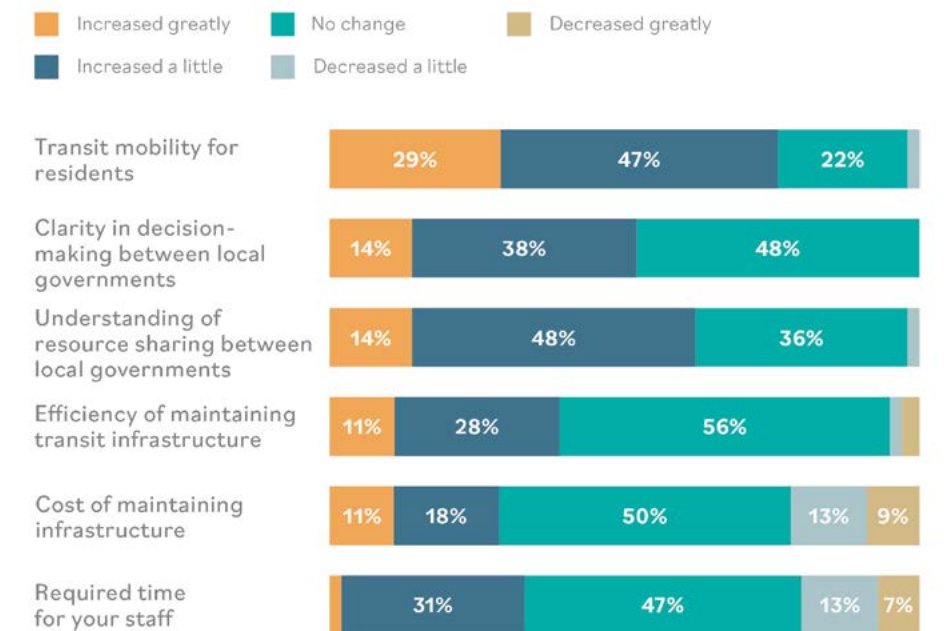
About 37% of responding cities and towns partner with other local governments to build and maintain transportation infrastructure. Of those municipalities, cities and towns most frequently collaborate on trails (75%), roads (67%), and bike paths (64%).

A majority of municipalities that partner with other local governments on public transit services or transportation infrastructure said such collaborations increase transit mobility for residents (76%), understanding of resource sharing between local governments (62%), and clarity in decision-making between local governments (52%).

UTILITIES

About 50% of responding municipalities partner with other local governments to provide at least one utility to residents, whether water, wastewater, broadband, gas, or electricity.

Impact of public transit and transportation infrastructure partnerships



About 75% of cities and towns operate their own water utility while about 55% operate their own wastewater utility. Most municipalities reported their water and wastewater utilities generating enough revenue to cover service costs.

About 85% of responding municipalities said residents access broadband through a private company such as Spectrum or Xfinity. A few municipalities, such as Eagle, Palisade, and Timnath, currently provide or are in the process of developing city-wide fiber broadband networks.

A few responding municipalities, such as Rangely and Fort Collins, operate their own gas and/or electric utilities. But most residents of responding municipalities access gas through a private company and electricity through a private company or non-profit cooperative.

PLACE-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships between local governments are place-based in nature. Such collaborations are developed in response to local challenges and customized to meet local circumstances, allowing governments to better serve their communities. And though the impacts of intergovernmental partnerships are varied, most municipalities participating in the 2024 State of Our Cities & Towns survey reported collaboration improving quality of services across topical areas.

As state-mandated expenditures, lack of affordable housing, and unfunded street maintenance continue to challenge Colorado’s municipalities throughout 2025, partnerships with other local governments will serve as an important tool in overcoming such barriers.

CML in the courts

By **Robert Sheesley**, CML general counsel

When a court case could broadly affect Colorado’s municipalities, the Colorado Municipal League may appear in the case as an amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) to explain a broader significance of the issues or to highlight certain municipal themes.

A committee of experienced municipal attorneys advise the CML Executive Board regarding requests for participation, and legal briefs are drafted by CML’s legal team. More information the CML’s amicus program and a library of briefs dating back to 1950 can be found at tinyurl.com/CML-amicus.

In 2024, CML filed seven briefs in state and federal courts on matters including the Open Meetings Law (OML), the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR), the Law Enforcement Integrity Act (LEIA), penalties for municipal ordinance violations, and pedestrian malls.

Rodriguez v. The Sentinel Colorado

Colorado Supreme Court, Case No. 2024SC51

The Court of Appeals held that the City of Aurora violated the OML by improperly taking action in an executive session when it directed its lawyers to stop an investigation and negotiate a stipulation for the council’s later approval. The court also held that the city waived the attorney-client privilege because a letter describing the executive session was included in a later meeting agenda. CML filed a brief supporting the city’s request for the Colorado Supreme Court to review the case

and another brief addressing the question about waiver of the attorney-client privilege.

MetroPCS California, LLC v. City of Lakewood

Colorado Supreme Court, Case No. 2024SA178

A Colorado trial court ruled that the City of Lakewood’s business and occupation tax on telecommunications services violated TABOR because it was changed in 1996 and 2015 without an election. The city amended its original tax from 1969 to track the deregulation of the telecommunications industry and shift in technology to wireless communications. CML filed a brief in support of the city and advocated that TABOR permits cities and towns to modify existing taxes to respond to external influences without requiring an election, in the absence of a meaningful revenue increase.

In re City of Westminster v. Camp

Colorado Supreme Court, Case No. 2024SA276

The Colorado Supreme Court is reviewing whether penalties for municipal ordinance violations that are different from state penalties for similar state offenses violate the Equal Protection clause of the Colorado Constitution or are preempted by state law. The City of Westminster’s



range of potential penalties for theft of items valued at less than \$300 includes a fine of up to \$2,650 and up to 364 days of jail time, but a 2021 state law changed the potential state penalties for the same theft to a fine of up to \$300 and up to 10 days in jail. At the Court’s invitation, CML filed a brief discussing the beneficial role of municipal courts in the state court system and constitutional authority of municipalities to address localized crime.

Colorado Motor Carriers Association v. Town of Vail

Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, Case No. 24-1017

A federal district court issued an injunction to stop enforcement of the Town of Vail’s pedestrian mall ordinance because it was preempted by federal laws preventing interference with the “price, route, or service” of motor carriers. The town’s ordinance stopped delivery vehicles from directly accessing a portion of the town’s mall and required vehicles to offload at designated areas and then deliver items by handcart or through a town-selected vendor. CML supported the town by filing a brief that discussed the authority of municipalities to regulate local roadways and the importance of main streets, particularly in smaller towns.

Hudnall v. Fremont County; Palmas v. Fremont County

Colorado Court of Appeals, Case Nos. 2024CA1482 & 2024CA1483

A Colorado trial court held that Fremont County was required to pay a judgment against a former sheriff’s deputy under the LEIA, despite the deputy’s criminal conviction for the underlying acts. The deputy sexually assaulted two inmates and was fired and convicted for his action. The court held that the provisions of the LEIA requiring the satisfaction of a judgment for an insolvent peace officer overrode the exception for criminal conduct. CML, joined by the Colorado Insurance Risk Sharing Association and Colorado Counties, Inc., filed a brief to assist the Colorado Court of Appeals in understanding the legislative history of the LEIA and explaining the harmful impact of the trial court’s incorrect interpretation.

SPOTLIGHT

Making tourism pay

Lodging taxes are a powerful tool for generating revenue

By **Rachel Woolworth**, Community Builders project associate, and **Elizabeth Haskell**, CML legislative & policy advocate

Local lodging taxes are a vital revenue source for municipalities across Colorado. Initially, these taxes were enacted to promote tourism in cities and towns by funding marketing efforts, beautification projects, and community events. But as tourism continues to grow across the state, Colorado municipalities are now using lodging tax revenue to respond to tourism's impacts on public infrastructure, housing availability, and government services.

According to Colorado Municipal League tracking, at least 105 municipalities across the state levy a lodging tax (this figure does not include taxes specific to short-term rentals (STRs)). About 70% of home rule municipalities and 15% of statutory municipalities administer a lodging tax.

Approved by local voters and collected by municipalities, whether home rule or statutory, the tax is especially valuable to tourism-heavy communities as the fiscal burden of lodging tax is placed upon visitors staying in overnight accommodations instead of on municipal residents.

In most cases, cities and towns apply municipal sales taxes to lodging rentals of less than 30 days. Many also levy an additional lodging tax on lodging vendors, using municipalities' long-standing authority to license, regulate, and tax occupations and businesses to do so. State statute authorizes counties and local marketing districts across Colorado to assess a lodging tax of up to 2% of the total nightly cost with revenue dedicated to promotion of tourism, housing, and childcare.

Lodging taxes go by various names, including lodger's tax, accommodations tax, short-term rental tax (exclusive to STRs), vacation rental tax, and more. Some municipalities levy one lodging-related tax, others levy multiple. Some municipalities administer the tax as a percentage of the cost of a nightly stay, some on a per person basis, and others as a nightly fee.

Since 2020, about 70% of lodging tax ballot measures have passed in Colorado. Such measures include approving and increasing municipal lodging tax,

as well as expanding allowed revenue uses and retaining revenues.

This passage rate is about 8% higher than the passage rate for all municipal tax measures in Colorado since the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) was passed. The relatively high approval rating for lodging tax suggests an openness among municipal residents to tax visitors.

About 86 home rule municipalities administer a lodging tax.

Nineteen statutory municipalities have established a lodging occupation tax. These taxes are typically assessed as a specific dollar amount per room, per night but can also be levied as a percentage of the nightly rate.

Lodging taxes in statutory municipalities range from \$2 (Lyons) to \$6.50 (Elizabeth) per night and between 3% (Red Cliff) to 6% (Cripple Creek) of the room rate. About 86 home rule municipalities administer a lodging tax, ranging from 1% (Steamboat Springs) to 10.75% (Denver) of the nightly rate.

Of the municipalities that levy lodging tax, about half administer a tax rate below 4% and about half a tax rate above 4%. Authorized revenue uses include general purposes, tourism promotion, roads, capital projects, affordable housing, economic development, and more.

Telluride, a home rule town, levies three separate taxes related to lodging: a 2% lodging tax, a 2% excise tax on food and lodging, and a 2.5% STR tax. Since lodging tax collection began in

2022, the town has collected about \$1.2 million annually in revenue. Telluride uses lodging tax revenues to address effects of tourism, to promote tourism, and to fund other town purposes.

The town's excise tax on food and lodging (including hotels, management companies, and individual rentals) funds Telluride's airline guarantee program. In 2023, almost \$2.5 million in excise tax revenues were allocated to the program.

Revenues from Telluride's STR tax, which funds affordable housing efforts, have been on the rise since 2020. Annual STR tax revenue increased by over \$1 million in the past four years, capping out at nearly \$1.16 million in 2023.

Firestone, a statutory town, utilizes revenue from its \$2 per night lodging fee to fund preservation and maintenance of open space, trails, wildlife habitat, and wetlands. The fee has raised more than \$500,000 since 2020.

Golden, a home rule city with a lodging tax rate of 6%, uses tax revenues to address visitor impacts and fund capital improvements and community projects. In 2023, Golden collected about \$2.7 million in lodging tax revenue, a number that includes nearly \$600,000 in excess lodging tax collected in 2022.

As a flexible tax with relatively high voter approval ratings, lodging tax is an effective tool to raise and maintain municipal revenues across Colorado. By funding initiatives to respond to the impacts of tourism, such as construction of workforce housing and development of public transit, lodging taxes play a key role in helping municipalities meet today's challenges.

RURAL VOICES

Why transit-oriented housing doesn't work in rural communities

By **Dave Frank**, City of Montrose mayor pro tem and CML Executive Board member

In the last couple of years, we have seen a significant number of bills introduced to the Colorado General Assembly that make “transit-oriented housing” not only a priority, but a mandate. I believe the Office of the Governor has pushed some of these bills without taking into account a more rural perspective.

Let's take a look at some of the differences between urban and rural transit for a start. The City of Boulder, Gov. Jared Polis' hometown, has a population of around 106,000 and a geographic size of 27.8 square miles.

This equates to 4,112 people per square mile, most of whom have access to multiple transit options, including light rail, bus, ride share, and cabs. The average public bus holds 30 to 45 passengers, and Boulder has approximately 1,030 of them. Additionally, the light rail system offers routes connecting Boulder to most of the neighboring municipalities multiple times a day.

To put things in perspective, Montrose has 21,000 residents in 18.5 square miles. The population density is 1,102

people per square mile with very limited transit opportunities.

For example, Montrose does not have light rail. Our transit system, All Points Transit, utilizes buses that hold 13 passengers. We only have 30 of them. All Points also serves the neighboring communities of Delta, Ridgway, and Telluride with that limited number of buses. Something else to keep in mind is that All Points Transit started as a senior and medical ride service and has only operated public routes since 2010. We have four Uber drivers and three taxi cabs.

Now to be fair, we absolutely understand the desirability of a walkable and multimodal community. In fact, this is listed as a priority in nearly all of Montrose's planning documents. The simple fact is, if the legislature pushes an unfunded mandate requiring high density zoning to be located in proximity to a transit hub, where exactly would that be for us?

All Points' bus stops are placed as strategically as possible, but they struggle to employ drivers for the routes that they have. The other point that the urban legislators fail to con-

sider is that Montrose is far more advanced regarding transit than many of our nearby communities.

Imagine the pressure that these bills would place on Norwood or Olathe, or Kremmling. Can you imagine Wray being required by law to only approve new building permits next to a transit center? I believe the nearest transit center could well be Aurora.

The bills that were introduced last year, and ones likely to be introduced in the upcoming legislative session, would remove the ability of small towns to best respond to their own pressures and demands in a way that is realistic and manageable.

The Colorado Municipal League is a staunch advocate for smaller communities' rights to self-determination. Let's support CML's efforts to ensure local control.

If smaller communities do not currently have a representative on the CML Policy Committee, please contact a staff member to get involved. The best way to fight these unfunded mandates is to use the power of our League to let our legislators know the other side of these important issues.

SPOTLIGHT

Grassroots advocacy

Summit County municipalities collaborate with state and federal delegations

By **Beverly Stables**, CML legislative & policy advocate

“How can we help?” This is the question municipalities across Summit County ask each other when one of their own is facing a problem.

This type of regional cooperation is not new to Blue River, Breckenridge, Silverthorne, Frisco, Dillon, Keystone, and Montezuma — municipalities in Summit County.

When Blue River found itself in a prolonged disagreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) over the proposed location of a new chain-up, chain-down station within town limits, the town called upon their state delegation: House Speaker Julie McCluskie and Sen. Dylan Roberts. Both McCluskie and Roberts visited the proposed site and met with town officials from Blue River to better understand the issue at hand.

Blue River is no stranger to working with their elected representatives; the municipality regularly invites state and federal officials to town hall meetings. Specifically, Blue River and other Summit County municipalities often invite McCluskie, Roberts, and staff from the offices of U.S. Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper, as well as U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse, to public meetings and monthly gatherings of mayors, municipal managers, and county commissioners.

Michelle Eddy, Blue River town manager and Colorado Municipal League Executive Board member, credits McCluskie and Roberts’ consistent involvement in local government in helping to provide the local government perspective necessary to understand a problem as it arises.

As Eddy puts it, a “boots on the ground” approach fosters personal connections and strengthens the relationship between the state and local governments, which in turn allows state officials to effect change on their behalf.

In the case of Blue River’s conflict with CDOT, McCluskie and Roberts have provided a bridge between the local government and state agency. They are facilitating dialogue and helping explore legislative solutions at the state level.

Beyond their commitment to involving state and federal delegations in local matters, the municipalities of Summit County strive to support each other in presenting a unified front. Though not all are affected by the same issues, Blue River, Breckenridge,

The more involved state lawmakers are in their municipalities, the better their understanding of local needs when advocating at the Capitol.



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Dillon Reservoir is seen from the Town of Frisco.

Silverthorne, Frisco, Dillon, Keystone, and Montezuma are there for each other regardless.

With a background in community organizing, Eddy firmly believes that nothing gets done without partnership. This perspective proves itself to be true at every level of government. The more involved state

lawmakers are in their municipalities, the better their understanding of local needs when advocating at the Capitol.

As municipal members are well aware, disconnects often occur between statewide policy and local implementation. Testifying before the legislature (either in person or re-

motely) and calling on your representatives to discuss the merits or drawbacks of a legislative proposal can have a significant impact. Encouraging involvement from your state delegation and promoting regional cooperation helps ensure your community’s needs are being met by state and federal lawmakers.

Advocate for your community!

By **Elizabeth Haskell**, CML legislative & policy advocate

Testifying remotely is a powerful advocacy tool. To testify remotely before a legislative committee, follow these simple steps.

STEP 1

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Identify bill and committee meeting time via CML Statehouse Report, CML advocacy staff directly, or the General Assembly website.

Sign up before the bill hearing begins. Go to the General Assembly website, click on the **Committees** icon near the top of the page, select **Public Testimony Options**, choose **Remotely via Zoom**, and respond to prompts, such as bill number (hearing item), name, and position on bill.

Watch for email with a Zoom link and contact information for technical assistance.

Notify CML staff when you know you plan to testify.

STEP 3

JOIN MEETING & TESTIFY

Log in. Join at the designated time. Wait for your name to be called. The chair decides the order of testimony, often alternating between opponents and proponents.

Promoted to panelist. Accept prompt to be promoted to panelist. Turn on your camera. When it's your turn to speak, turn on your microphone. State your name and representation. Present testimony.

Questions happen. Be prepared.

STEP 2

PREPARE

Plan testimony ahead of time. Clearly state how the bill will impact, benefit, or hinder your municipality. Testimony is usually limited to three minutes and is sometimes reduced to two minutes if there are many witnesses.

Additional advocacy tools

Email legislators. Send your thoughts directly to your legislators and committee members.

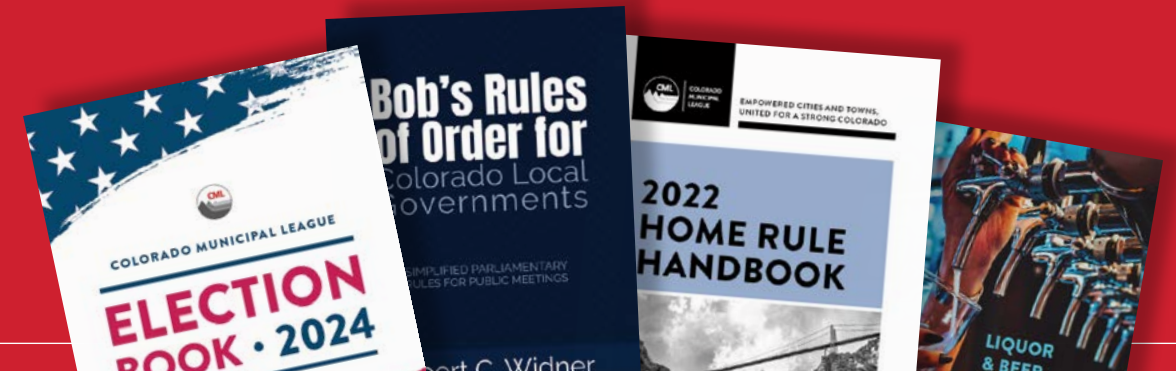
Written testimony. Submit your testimony in writing via the General Assembly website to be included in the official meeting record.



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The Colorado Municipal League publishes a variety of books and materials covering all facets of municipal governance.

members.cml.org/store



NEWSLETTER

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Keep up to date with the Colorado Municipal League. The CML Newsletter is a great place to find grants, informative webinars, and updates on municipal law.

A free subscription to the newsletter is a benefit of CML membership. The newsletter is available by email three days before it arrives in the mail. Subscribe to the electronic version by visiting tinyurl.com/CML-subscriptions.



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Rachel Woolworth, assistant editor
Alex Miller, graphic design
Mark Vanderbrook, circulation

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