



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

ANNUAL REPORT

COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

2023-2024



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Colorado
Cities & Towns



A MESSAGE FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Greetings,

Every day, the Colorado Municipal League works to implement our vision of “empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado” by focusing on our foundational core functions of advocacy, information, and training. The purpose of this Annual Report is to share information and data showing the progress CML has made for our 271 member cities and towns.

Thanks to the hard work of the CML Executive Board that establishes the broad vision and goals of the organization, as well as the CML staff that diligently works to implement them, the CML Strategic Plan provides a roadmap to deliver the highest quality service to CML members. The Annual Report is a “report card” on those efforts, and while I am proud to say that CML is delivering results to you, we know there is always more that we can do.

On behalf of the CML Executive Board and myself, I wish to thank the CML staff for their hard work, as well as all municipal elected officials and staff who work tirelessly in service to their cities and towns.

Kevin Bommer, CML Executive Director

ABOUT CML

Founded in 1923, CML is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization representing and serving Colorado’s cities and towns. A total of 271 municipalities, representing more than 99% of the municipal population in the state, are currently members of CML. The League is an influential advocate of municipal interests at the state and federal levels. CML is also a reliable source of training and information for municipal staff and elected officials across Colorado. A 17-member staff carries out daily operations of the League. The CML Executive Board approves CML’s policy focus areas, developed with input from membership.

CML is guided by a comprehensive strategic plan that informs key priorities and goals that support the League’s mission, vision, and values.



MISSION

Advocacy, information, and training supporting exceptional municipal governance.



VISION

Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado.



VALUES

Commitment, service, collaboration.

**Municipal
Interests**

Key Priorities

Protect and promote municipal interests and priorities.

Engagement

Ensure municipal leaders have information they need and the opportunity to inform others.

Leadership

Demonstrate leadership and provide opportunities for leadership from members.

Goals

- 1.** Defend and advance municipal interests in the courts, in the legislature, and at the ballot box.
 - 2.** Empower members to be leaders on municipal issues and advocate for CML policies and positions.
 - 3.** Be the leading statewide information resource on municipal issues.
-
- 1.** Provide quality opportunities for meaningful member interactions with CML and each other.
 - 2.** Provide innovative and personalized training and outreach opportunities.
 - 3.** Implement a robust communications and training plan focused on increased engagement and improved content delivery.
 - 4.** Increase the resources available for municipal staff and elected officials.
 - 5.** Collaborate with organization partners to maximize resources and increase efficiency.
 - 6.** Provide effective and timely delivery of information and outreach opportunities.
 - 7.** Envision the future needs of CML and member municipalities.
-
- 1.** Support the development of leaders within municipalities.
 - 2.** Inspire participation in CML by elected officials and staff.
 - 3.** Promote principles of good governance and civic dialogue to advance individual and collective municipal interests.

CML PUBLICATIONS

CML publications provide municipalities with information and guidance around common issues. CML produces a bi-weekly newsletter, quarterly magazine, books, Knowledge Now white papers, a weekly Statehouse Report during the legislative session, and other publications as needed to ensure municipalities have critical information at their fingertips. The most popular publications purchased in CML bookstore in 2023 were the ***Liquor & Beer Handbook***, ***Home Rule Handbook***, and ***Open Meetings, Open Records***.

3 Books published

- ▶ Election Book
- ▶ Bob's Rules of Order
- ▶ Laws Enacted Affecting Local Governments

4 Editions of Colorado Municipalities Magazine

26 Editions of CML Newsletter

17 Editions of Statehouse Report

11 Editions of Municipal Law Update



MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT

Social Media



Facebook followers
1,500



LinkedIn followers
2,000



X (formerly Twitter)
followers
2,677

Engagement

159 Engagement emails sent
(including CML Newsletter, Statehouse Report, legislative action alerts, municipal law updates, Lessons on Local Government outreach, outreach about conference, district meetings, and trainings, associate member news, and other miscellaneous promotions)

7 CML listservs
(attorneys, clerks, finance, managers/ administrators, human resources, public information officers, public works)

2 Sam Mamet Good Governance Award recipients





CML
**TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES**



1,257

Individuals participated
in CML trainings
(not including conference)

20

Webinars

5

In-person training opportunities
(including conference)

18

Spring outreach meetings

250

Individuals participated
in spring meetings

13

Fall district meetings

463

Individuals participated
in fall meetings

269

Stops on CML 100th Anniversary
Member Appreciation Tour

MUNiversity

MUNiversity is CML's program to recognize municipal elected officials for increasing their knowledge of municipal government.

MUNiversity diploma recipients

Graduate-level

11

Leadership-level

21

Fundamental-level

49

CML ADVOCACY

CML's legislative advocacy team works directly with members of the Colorado General Assembly and other organizations to advocate on behalf of Colorado municipalities. The following numbers are from the 2024 legislative session.

778 Pieces of legislation introduced in the 2024 Legislative Session

46 CML-supported bills passed (82%)

264 Bills tracked by CML

45 Bills opposed (or opposed unless amended) by CML

56 Bills supported by CML

34 CML-opposed bills died or were amended to remove opposition (75%)



CML ADVOCACY

CML successfully killed **13** bills that the League opposed. CML secured amendments to another **19** bills which allowed the League to remove opposition. Below are some priority bills CML was able to defeat or amend.

HB24-1168

Equal Access to Public Meetings
— **died**

HB24-1026

Local Government TABOR Prior
Voter Approval Requirement
— **died**

HB24-1460

Law Enforcement Misconduct
— **died**

HB24-1372

Regulating Law Enforcement
Use of Prone Restraint —
amended to remove opposition

HB24-1173

Electric Vehicle Charging System
Permits — **amended to remove
opposition**

HB24-1172

County Revitalization Authorities
— **amended to remove opposition**

HB24-1050

Simplify Processes Regarding Certain
Local Government Taxes — **amended to
remove opposition**

HB24-1041

Streamline Filing Sales & Use Tax
Returns — **amended to remove opposition**

SB24-023

Hold Harmless for Error in GIS Database
Data — **amended to remove opposition**

SB24-024

Local Lodging Tax Reporting on Sales
Return — **amended to remove opposition**

SB24-025

Update Local Government Sales & Use Tax
Collection — **amended to remove opposition**

CML ADVOCACY

CML supported **46** bills throughout the 2024 legislative session. Below are some of the priority bills CML supported that passed the Colorado General Assembly.

SB24-174

CML successfully initiated **State Support for Sustainable Affordable Housing**. The bill uses state support to focus local government planning efforts on housing with an emphasis on improving affordability and avoiding displacement while providing flexibility to develop community-based growth strategies. The bill passed both chambers with very little opposition and was ceremonially signed by the governor on May 30.

HB24-1001

Reauthorization of Rural Jump-Start Program — **passed**

HB24-1295

Creative Industry Community Revitalization Incentives — **passed**

SB24-002

Local Government Property Tax Credits Rebates — **passed**

HB24-1090

Privacy Protections Criminal Justice Records — **passed**

HB24-1043

State Contribution to Fire & Police Pension Association Death & Disability Fund — **passed**

HB24-1341

State Vehicle Idling Standard — **passed**

SB24-032

Methods to Increase the Use of Transit — **passed**

SB24-190

Rail & Coal Transition Community Economic Measures — **passed**

HB24-1454

Grace Period Noncompliance Digital Accessibility — **passed**

HB24-1074

Aggravated Cruelty to Law Enforcement Animals — **passed**

HB24-1334

Broadband Service for Multiunit Buildings — **passed**

HB24-1030

Railroad Safety Requirements — **passed**

HB24-1107

Judicial Review of Local Land Use Decision — **passed**

HB24-1283

Secretary of State Review of Municipal Campaign Finance Complaints — **passed**



CML
LEGAL

CML provides legal services including providing legal and operational education programs and conferences throughout the year, consulting with CML members on various legal questions, and preparing amicus or “friend of the court” briefs in court cases with significant municipal impact.

3 Amicus curiae briefs

22 Continuing Legal Education sessions

160 Annual Seminar on Municipal Law attendees

25 Legal Corner newsletter articles



CML
CONFERENCES

**CML 2023
Annual Conference**

1,294

CML 2023 Annual
Conference attendees
(sponsors and guests)

51

Sessions at the
Annual Conference

**Attendees at the
National League of Cities
(NLC) Congressional
Cities Conference**

82

Municipal officials

18

Colorado
municipalities
represented

16

Youth
commissioners

**Attendees at the
NLC City Summit**

48

Municipal officials

23

Colorado
municipalities
represented



LESSONS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CML partners with the Special District Association of Colorado (SDA) to present Lessons on Local Government. This resource provides teachers with free local government resources and curriculum materials that meet state social studies standards, preparing students to be informed residents. More information is available at lessonsonlocalgovernment.org.

3

Lessons on Local
Government newsletters

20

New lessons
created

150

Teacher Librarian
Day attendees

220

State social studies
conference attendance

23

Lessons
revised



PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE



Each year, the CML Executive Board president selects a president's initiative. Jessica Sandgren, Thornton councilmember and 2023-2024 CML Executive Board president, selected civility. The goal of CML's **Civility Starts Here** campaign is to equip elected and appointed municipal leaders with the tools to engage in respectful, productive dialogue across differences at all levels — council/board, community constituents, municipal staff, and those doing business with or addressing affairs that impact the city. The campaign offers a Civility Pledge, training opportunities, and an online Civility Toolkit for individuals, boards, and councils.



Visit **Civility Starts Here** online



Civility is the steadfast practice of respect, even in disagreement, that fosters constructive dialogue and connection, recognizing the inherent dignity of every person.

ASSETS & REVENUE

\$6,197,765
ASSETS

\$3,321,476
REVENUE

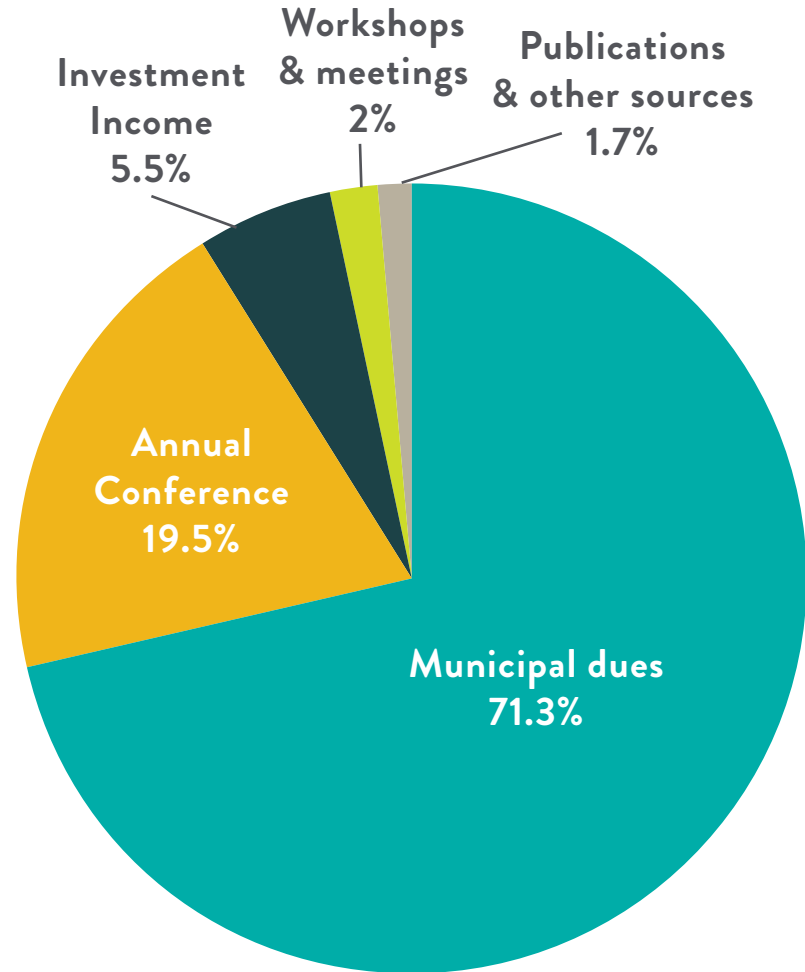
71%

Percentage of revenue received through dues

3.7%

Percentage increase in municipal dues this year

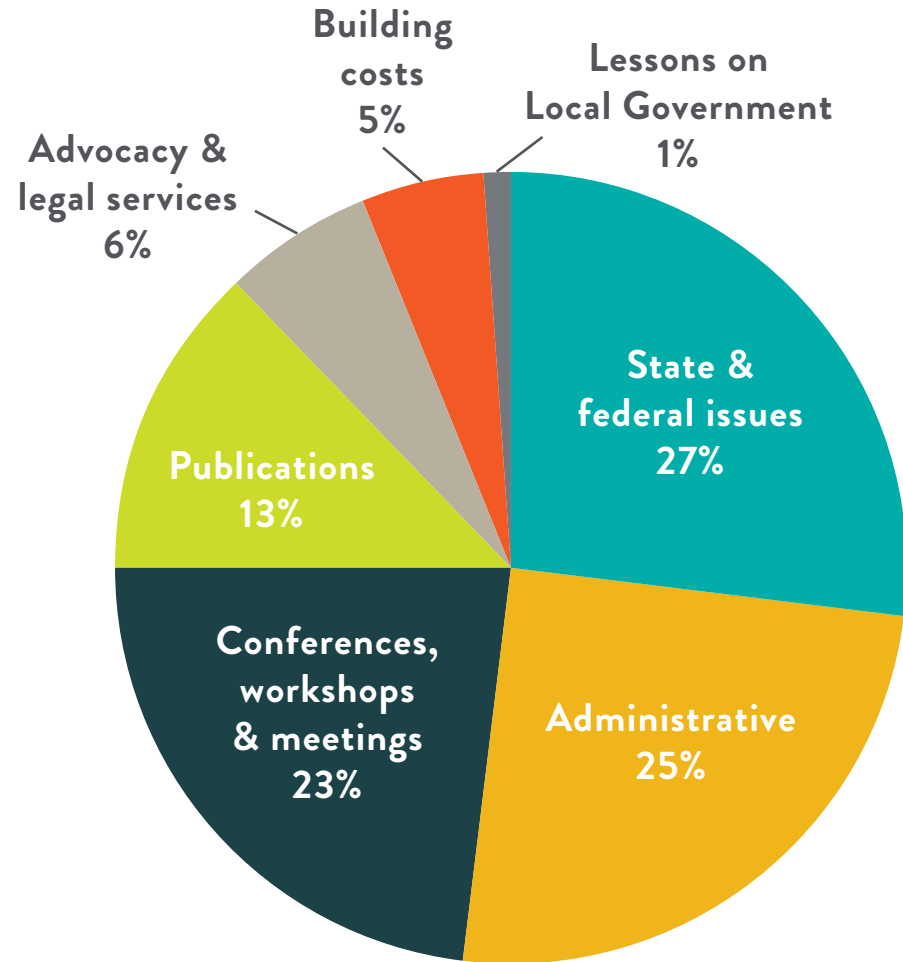
SOURCES OF CML REVENUE



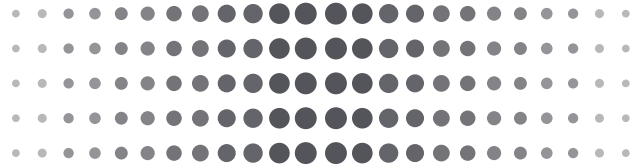
CML FINANCES EXPENSES

CML EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

\$3,180,198
EXPENSES



COLORADO CITIES & TOWNS BY THE NUMBERS



Colorado population
5,838,736

Residents who live
in cities/towns
4,353,099
about 75% of
Colorado's population



Home rule municipalities
107
4,097,430 residents live
in these municipalities



Statutory municipalities
165
254,374 residents live
in these municipalities



Territorial charter town
1
1,295 residents live
in Georgetown



CML member
municipalities
271



Largest member city
Denver
population 712,637



Smallest member town
Lakeside
population 16



Municipalities with
city/town manager or
administrator
190



Municipal mayors,
councilmembers,
and trustees
1,600

Sources: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado State Demography Office, and CML



COLORADO CITIES & TOWNS

MUNICIPAL TAXATION

Source: Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies

228

Municipalities
with a local sales tax

1%

Lowest sales tax rate, not
including municipalities
without a sales tax

68

Municipalities
self-collect sales tax

7%

Highest sales tax rate
(Winter Park)

\$99 billion

Total assessed valuation of
property in municipalities.
This is 66% of the state's total
property tax assessment

6

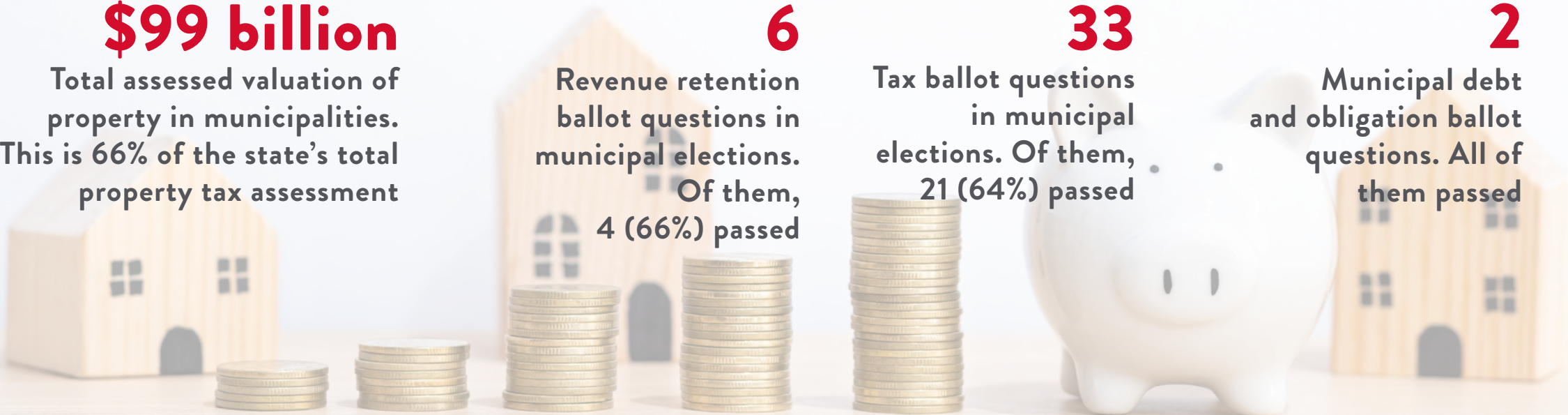
Revenue retention
ballot questions in
municipal elections.
Of them,
4 (66%) passed

33

Tax ballot questions
in municipal
elections. Of them,
21 (64%) passed

2

Municipal debt
and obligation ballot
questions. All of
them passed





COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO

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