



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

## 2024 Fall District Meeting

- ❖ Welcome letter from Kevin Bommer, CML executive director
- ❖ 2024 Statewide Ballot Initiatives
- ❖ CML Advocacy Update
  - [CML Statehouse report – 9/6](#)
- ❖ Upcoming Events/Trainings
  - Annual Seminar on Municipal Law – 9/20 - 9/21
  - Policy Committee Hybrid Meeting– 10/11
  - Effective Governance Workshop – 10/24 at CML
  - Mayors Summit – 1/23/25 at CML
- ❖ Civility 101
- ❖ Grassroots Advocacy
- ❖ CML Resources & Publications
- ❖ CML [executive board](#) and [staff](#)



---

To: CML District Meeting attendees  
From: Kevin Bommer, Executive Director  
Date: September 4, 2024  
Subject: 2024 Fall District Meetings

---

It's hard to believe it is already September and CML Fall District Meetings are upon us! After reintroducing district meetings in the spring for the first time in at least three decades, my team and I are confident that the evening meetings work best, especially when they include a lot of time for members to interact with each other and CML staff. A minor realignment of some of the districts and adding a whole new district also proved successful. We are hopeful this format for both spring and fall will continue to allow more members to participate in a way that fosters connection through networking and social interaction.

While we are fortunate to have many members participate in our Annual Conference each June, we recognize that many elected officials and staff have challenges and conflicts that prevent them from taking time away from their municipalities to attend. CML has always placed a high priority on our outreach efforts to provide accessible opportunities to network and learn from CML and each other. The entire staff at CML appreciates that *your time is valuable*. We appreciate the opportunity to come to you, and we know that is what you expect of your League.

### **What to expect**

As always, CML exists *for* our members and *because* of our members. The League is your partner in municipal leadership, helping you serve the needs of your communities and excel at what you do.

You also have a role in making sure CML represents and protects the interests of all Colorado's municipalities. Your feedback and suggestions help us better serve your needs. These meetings give **YOU** a chance to provide direct input into CML's advocacy, information, and training, ensuring we deliver what you and your colleagues want.

You can continue to expect more time to connect with your friends and colleagues from other municipalities, as well as associate members and honored guests. A favorite quote of ours is "the answers are in the room." That could not be truer, and there will be ample time to ask questions and answer those of others.

As always, you may feel free to contact me directly with any questions, concerns, or requests for assistance at [kbommer@cml.org](mailto:kbommer@cml.org) or call me at (866) 578-0936 or (303) 831-6411.

Again – thank you for your service to your communities and your participation in CML!



## 2024 Statewide Ballot Questions of Interest to Municipalities

Colorado voters will see several statewide measures on their November ballot in addition to any local questions. For each statewide question, a detailed analysis by the General Assembly's Legislative Council Staff is available at <https://leg.colorado.gov/BallotAnalysis>. The Colorado Municipal League has not taken a position on any of these measures (as of September 12, 2024).

### Tax

#### **Proposition JJ, Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue**

This question would allow the state to retain and spend all sports betting tax revenues instead of returning collections over a \$29 million cap to casinos and sports betting operators. In 2019, voters legalized sports betting and a tax dedicated to water conservation and protection projects and water-related obligations, gambling addiction services, and funding to cover losses to casino cities and others that relied on funding from traditional gambling. The proposition would restrict the additional retained revenue to water conservation and protection projects.

#### **Amendment G, Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities**

This question would amend the state constitution to extend the homestead exemption of 50 percent of the first \$200,00 of the home's valuation to addition disabled veterans. Currently, the exemption is available to veterans with a disability rated 100 percent permanent and total. The amendment would include veterans qualified for Total Disability Individual Unemployability (an estimated 3,700 veterans in Colorado). Due to state reimbursement, local revenues will not be affected.

### Law Enforcement

#### **Proposition 130 (Initiative #157), Funding for Law Enforcement**

This question would require the General Assembly to set aside \$350 million in state general funds to provide grants to law enforcement agencies to provide grants for recruiting, training, and supporting peace officers and their families. Uses include increased salaries, bonuses, training, and new positions to focus on specific regions or criminal activities. The initiative would provide a one-time \$1 million death benefit for peace officers killed in the line of duty, in addition to other available benefits.



---

To: CML Membership  
From: CML Advocacy Staff  
Date: September 5, 2024  
Subject: CML Fall Advocacy Update

---

### **Meet the CML Advocacy Team**

The four members of CML's Advocacy Team are responsible for advocating municipal interests before the state legislature and assist in training and answering inquiries from municipal officials on various topics.

- **Legislative Advocacy Manager: Heather Stauffer**  
Heather's issues include building codes, natural resources and the environment, elections, governmental immunity, oil and gas, open meetings/open records, special districts, severance tax/FML/energy impact, water and wastewater/water quality, and wildfire.
- **Legislative and Policy Advocate: Beverly Stables**  
Bev's issues include affordable housing, land use, transportation and transit, sustainability, public health, substance use disorders, and air quality.
- **Legislative and Policy Advocate: Jeremy Schupbach**  
Jeremy's issues include regulated substances, hemp, criminal justice, municipal courts, public safety, special districts, immigration, telecom/ broadband/ IT, and utilities.
- **Legislative and Policy Advocate: Elizabeth Haskell**  
Elizabeth's issues include beer and liquor, employment and labor, economic development, retirement/pensions, taxation and fiscal policy, lottery and gaming, historic preservation, municipal debt and finance, and purchasing.

### **Overview of 2024 Special Session**

The 2024 special legislative session ended on Aug. 29 with the passage of House Bill 24B-1001, which establishes additional cuts in property taxes beyond those provided by Senate Bill 24-233. CML's position was "amend" and staff testified that the decoupling of school property taxes from all other local governments should be reversed, as well as to amendments that would make the required text of the question for a local government to exceed the cap more transparent. The bill was signed by the Governor on Sept. 4, following the withdrawal of Initiatives 50 and 108 earlier in the day. The proponents of Initiatives 50 and 108 have promised that so long as the terms of the bill remain in place, neither they nor their donors will pursue any ballot measures to reduce assessment rates or further cap revenue growth for six years. However, there is no such restriction on other groups.

HB24B-1001 establishes a new local government revenue limit, as well as new assessment rates and value reductions for both residential and non-residential property. Like SB24-233, schools are decoupled from all other local governments. This results in two separate assessment rates being used to calculate residential property taxes — one rate applies to

school district mill levies which is higher than the second rate that applies to all other local government mill levies. Unlike SB24-233, schools will be subject to a new property tax revenue limit, however, it is more generous than the revenue limit for other local governments. Details on local government revenue limits, residential and nonresidential assessment rates required in the bill, and limited local government backfill can be found in the CML Statehouse Report attached to this update.

### **2024 Interim Committees**

Each year the legislature holds interim committees which meet in between legislative sessions to discuss various agreed upon issues. Some interim committees are narrowly focused on a particular issue of interest while others are more broadly focused and meet every year. After hearing presentations and discussing topics more in-depth, the committee will often request legislation be drafted for consideration during the next legislative session. Unlike other legislation, interim committee bills must pass by a two-thirds majority of the committee to be considered during the regular session. Interim committees are currently working on drafting legislation for consideration during September and October interim committee meetings. Advocacy staff have been tracking and participating in a number of interim committees this year and will report on the evolving legislation during CML district meetings. If you have questions about interim committee topics or legislation, please reach out to CML's advocacy team.

### **Looking ahead to 2025**

The 2025 session will take its final shape after the November elections when new leadership and members have announced their priorities. However, as in years past the legislature is expected to prioritize legislation bolstering infrastructure and transportation, tackling housing affordability, and advancing environmental sustainability. Legislators are likely to focus on improving and expanding transportation networks to alleviate congestion and support economic growth. Housing affordability will continue to be a critical issue, with efforts aimed at increasing the availability of affordable housing and implementing measures to prevent displacement. Following the 2024 session's focus on housing affordability, expect to see greater attention turn to improving public transit across the state to better support transit-oriented communities. Environmental sustainability will be a key area of concern, with anticipated discussions on enhancing renewable energy initiatives, reducing carbon emissions, and addressing climate resilience.

Advocacy staff expects to see several issues and bills from the 2024 session resurface including bills to address law enforcement misconduct, and Colorado Open Record Act (CORA) reform, among others.

The Task Force Related to the Rights of Coloradoans with Disabilities created via HB23-1296 will report out on suggestions for legislation in 2025. Staff expects to see legislation in this space as well.

The CML Advocacy Team is indebted to our members for their expertise, witness testimony, grassroots efforts, and general legislative assistance – all of which are key to CML's success. Please also take the opportunity at this year's District Meetings to provide your input on what CML's legislative priorities should be for the upcoming session, and make sure you take a copy of CML's Annual Policy Statement or download it from the home page at [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org).

For questions on legislation please contact Heather Stauffer, CML advocacy manager at [hstauffer@cml.org](mailto:hstauffer@cml.org).

### **CML Policy Committee**

The CML Policy Committee is an essential part of the policy development process at CML, and all municipalities are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to have their voices heard as part of the discussion on legislation and policies that directly impact municipalities.

Policy Committee representatives are appointed by their respective municipalities. Each municipality may assign one member and designate an alternate should that member be unable to attend. Cities with a population over 100,000 may appoint two members plus an alternate to serve on the policy committee. Policy Committee representatives are responsible for:

1. Attending and participating in all Policy Committee meetings, in-person or virtually, and voting on policy positions to recommend to the CML Executive Board.
2. Evaluating requests from member municipalities for CML-initiated legislation and making a recommendation to the Executive Board.
3. Reviewing the League's 2024-2025 Policy Statement that guides League positions on policy issues affecting municipalities and proposing revisions, if necessary. (Any recommended changes to the policy statement are voted on by CML members at the Annual Business Meeting that takes place as part of CML's Annual Conference.)

### **2024-2025 CML Policy Committee Meeting Dates**

*All meetings are scheduled from 9:00a.m. - Noon*

- Friday, Oct. 11 (Hybrid in-person and virtual)
- Friday, Dec. 6 (Hybrid in-person and virtual)
- Friday, Jan. 17 (Virtual)
- Friday, Feb. 21 (Hybrid in-person and virtual)
- Friday, March 14 (Virtual)

For questions on the Policy Committee, please contact CML Advocacy Manager Heather Stauffer at [hstauffer@cml.org](mailto:hstauffer@cml.org).



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

## CML 2024 PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE

# CIVILITY STARTS HERE

### WHAT IS CIVILITY?

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

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

While a definition provides a clear understanding, the true essence of civility lies in its application. The following guiding principles illustrate how civility translates into practical actions to foster respectful and productive interactions within local government. These principles serve as a roadmap, guiding municipal officials, staff, and the public in navigating complex issues and achieving positive outcomes for Colorado communities.

#### 1. Listen as intently as you speak

Practice active listening and consider briefly summarizing what you heard to ensure understanding.

#### 2. Focus on issues, not individuals

Dig into the substance of the problem, and if you disagree, disagree with the idea, not the person. Acknowledging differing perspectives can help everyone to reach a more well-rounded decision.

#### 3. Distinguish between fact and opinion

Seek clarity on both while being considerate of others' opinions. It's okay to agree to disagree; just make sure you understand the fundamental points of differences.

#### 4. Get curious instead of furious

Strive to manage your emotions in the moment. If you notice yourself getting upset, pause, and take a breath

before speaking. Ask questions with the intent to learn and answer questions with respect.

#### 5. Acknowledge knowledge

When someone makes a logical or interesting point, acknowledge it. Embrace a continuous learning mindset by staying open to new ideas and facts to expand your understanding.

#### 6. Own your intentions and your impact

Our words and behaviors may not reflect our intent to those receiving them. Value and prioritize honesty and goodwill while striving to solve problems.

#### 7. Seek common ground

Build bridges by prioritizing shared values and goals. Strive to find commonalities and shared understanding as a basis for productive, resolution-oriented discourse and problem-solving.

#### 8. Be a role model

We're in this together. We can't control others' behaviors, just our own. Encourage each other to practice these behaviors and courteously challenge disrespectful behavior.

### TAKE THE CIVILITY PLEDGE

Visit the *CML Civility Starts Here* resource website, where you will find a civility pledge and other resources to help foster civility in your community.







COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

# GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

## AMPLIFY YOUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS: 10 Tips to Make Your Voice Heard at the Statehouse

### MAKE CONTACT

Determine who your legislator is, and contact them via phone, email, or in person. Consider inviting them to a council or board meeting, a special session, or a community event.

### BUILD THE RELATIONSHIP

Talk to them about legislative and policy issues that affect your municipality. Refer to CML positions on bills by referencing our bill log or position papers on the website. Let them know you would like their support for your issue and appreciate their vote.

### BECOME AWARE OF LEGISLATION

The CML Statehouse Report, which comes out regularly during the legislative session, is an effective tool to keep you informed on current state legislative activity. Assign someone the specific task of watching legislation and reviewing League materials. The League also provides legislative updates that are emailed to interested municipal officials.

### BE WELL INFORMED ON THE ISSUES

Approach legislators with sufficient information to articulate your arguments, respond to questions, and counter the opposition. Wherever possible, quantify the impact of a proposed bill and explain how it will affect specific projects in your city or town. CML is always available as a resource in this effort.

### ACT QUICKLY

If you delay action, a bill may pass or fail before your city or town provides its input. It's important to be involved before a decision is already made.

### COMMUNICATE OFTEN AND BE PERSISTENT

Constant communication is vital. Communicate with your legislators on a regular, year-round basis — not just when an emergency arises. A personal visit is the best type of contact, followed by a telephone call, or e-mail, and then a letter. Resolutions are somewhat useful, just don't overuse them.

### WORK WITH OUTSIDE GROUPS

The media, service clubs, community-wide organizations, and your local Chamber of Commerce all appreciate it when you involve them in your legislative activity. Keep them informed of your positions and concerns and ask for their endorsement.

### ALWAYS SAY THANKS

Don't forget to say "thank you" to your legislators. When your legislators do support your efforts, a thank-you note or other special recognition is really appreciated and goes a long way to solidifying relations.

### REMEMBER THE ABCS

Accuracy, brevity, and courtesy are three of the most important things you can remember when dealing with legislators. Give accurate and concise information. If you don't know the answer to a question, say so. Be brief and to the point.

### WORK COLLECTIVELY

Cities and towns do not operate in a vacuum. Our collective advocacy success is improved when legislators hear personal stories from elected officials in their districts. The Colorado Municipal League appreciates your support!





# RESOURCES

## ADVOCACY

Colorado Municipal League (CML) is your voice before the state and federal government, with full-time lobbyists to ensure municipalities are well-represented at the state capitol.

## CML LISTSERVS

Listsers allow subscribers to exchange information and ideas through email. Members can post questions or share information, which is then distributed automatically to all group members. Responses from other members are also shared with the entire subscriber list. Listserv groups include attorneys, clerks, finance officers, human resources, managers, public information officers, public works, and utilities directors.

## ENGAGING YOUTH

CML proudly supports the popular Lessons on Local Government (LOLG) program in partnership with the Special District Association of Colorado. This free resource, available at [lessonsonlocalgovernment.org](http://lessonsonlocalgovernment.org), offers materials for Colorado's K-12 teachers that meet the state's social studies and civics standards. Beyond education, LOLG acts as a bridge, connecting our future leaders to the inner workings of local government and fostering their civic engagement.

## INFORMATION

CML provides comprehensive, in-depth information through the publication of several books annually, along with current issue overviews available on [cml.org](http://cml.org), white papers, biweekly newsletters, and a quarterly magazine. Visit CML's online bookstore to view and order available publications.

## LEGAL RESOURCES

CML's dedicated legal staff is available as a municipal resource for questions ranging from the impact of recent court decisions to guidelines on implementing statutory changes. Additionally, the League participates as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in state and federal appellate court cases that involve issues important to municipalities.

## MUNICIPAL CLERK ADVISOR PROGRAM

Developed by CML, Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA), and Colorado Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA), this program is a valuable free resource designed to assist municipal clerks in navigating specific job-related questions or challenges. For information, contact Karen Goldman at [charna48@comcast.net](mailto:charna48@comcast.net) or 303-981-8022.

## MUNIVERSITY

CML created the MUNiversity program to recognize municipal elected officials who invest time and resources to enhance their knowledge of municipal government and their capacity to lead. This program extends automatic enrollment to all elected officials from member municipalities, allowing them to amass credits for each training session they participate in. Officials are recognized during CML's annual conference at varying tiers achievement: Fundamental (30 credits), Leadership (60 credits), and Graduate (100 credits).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Whether you are active on Facebook, LinkedIn, or X, you are invited to join the vibrant community (collectively over 5,800 followers) already connected with CML. Get updates on upcoming CML activities, training and events, breaking news about state legislation, and information on what is going on in cities and towns across the state.

## TRAINING

CML offers its members training opportunities covering various innovative and current topics through diverse formats. You can access the training calendar at [cml.org](http://cml.org) > *Education & Training*. CML training options encompass:

- **Webinars**—Hour-long courses on a specific issue area or topic. These usually occur over the lunch hour and are free to members. CML provides webinars on diverse topics, including accessibility and ADA compliance, housing, parking management, retail and economic development trends, waste diversion, and more. Previous webinar materials and recordings are accessible on CML's website.
- **Workshops and seminars**—Typically one to two days long, CML holds training opportunities for elected officials, municipal staff, and municipal attorneys. These sessions feature speakers on several topics throughout the day and in-person networking opportunities.
- **Annual Conference**—CML's annual conference brings together Colorado's municipalities from across the state for training with subject matter experts and collaborative opportunities with staff and elected officials from member cities and towns. This is the League's largest training each year, typically held in June.



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

# PUBLICATIONS

## YOUR GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE

### Stay Informed, Stay Ahead with These Essential Reads

At the Colorado Municipal League (CML), knowledge is empowerment. We are dedicated to providing our municipal members with a wealth of up-to-date information to support their growth and success.

Each year, we diligently update our materials, ensuring they remain current and relevant to the evolving needs of our communities. Additionally, we actively explore new subject areas to address emerging challenges and opportunities facing municipalities.

Our publications are available in both print and PDF formats, offering flexibility and accessibility to our members. Most importantly, PDF versions are complimentary to members and can be downloaded instantly, enabling swift access to essential resources.

Join us in harnessing the power of knowledge to drive community progress. Together, let's build stronger, more resilient municipalities equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Explore our most sought-after publications and periodicals:

#### PERIODICALS

- *Colorado Municipalities* quarterly magazine
- Biweekly print and electronic newsletter
- *Lessons on Local Government* electronic newsletter

#### WHITE PAPERS & GUIDES

- *Knowledge Now* on various topics
- Colorado *State of Our Cities and Towns* report
- Annual *Colorado Laws Enacted* affecting municipalities
- Annual *CML Compensation Survey*

#### BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

- *Annexation in Colorado*
- *Bob's Rule of Order for Colorado Local Governments*
- *Code Enforcement in Colorado*
- *Colorado Municipal Clerk's Reference Guide*
- *Colorado Municipal Government: An Introduction*
- *Community Policing: An Overview and Guide*
- *Election Book*
- *Ethics, Liability, and Best Practices Handbook*  
A CIRSA and CML publication
- *Governance 101*
- *Handbook for Appointed Municipal Boards and Commissions*
- *Historic Preservation: Basics for Municipalities*
- *Home Rule Handbook*
- *How to Hire a Local Government Manager or Administrator*
- *Liquor and Beer Handbook*
- *Municipal Candidates Guide*
- *Municipal Courts*
- *Municipal Procurement*
- *Municipal Prosecutor Handbook*
- *Municipal Taxes and Fees*
- *Open Meetings, Open Records*
- *TABOR: A Guide to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights*
- *Tips for Enhancing Professionalism During Virtual Meetings*
- *Understanding Local Expenditures*
- *Urban Renewal*

Visit the CML bookstore online at [members.cml.org/store](https://members.cml.org/store).