Attachment A

2020

Legislative Priorities of Colorado Cities and Towns

Key municipal issues

Affordable housing
CML is initiating legislation to clarify that inclusionary zoning for new rental housing developments is not a form of rent control otherwise prohibited by state law and restore local land use authority over development decisions to local leaders.

Broadband
Voters in 108 municipalities and 40 counties have overwhelmingly voted to exempt themselves from the requirements of SB 05-152. CML supports legislation freeing up revenue to bring fast, reliable broadband to underserved and unserved areas of the state.

Criminal justice
CML supports collaborative relationships with the state on criminal justice issues, but opposes unduly prescriptive mandates on police and court operations and procedures.

Elections
CML is initiating legislation to clean up portions of Title 31 municipal mail ballot procedures, and procedures for Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act ballots. If passed, municipal clerks will have clear direction on municipal election timelines and ballot language standardization. Additionally, CML supports clarification of certain recall election provisions in Title 31, via the inclusion of language in the omnibus elections bill initiated by the County Clerks Association.

Fire and police pensions
CML opposes proposed legislation that increases the employer contribution rate to the Statewide Defined Benefit Plan by 5% over 10 years and allows the Fire and Police Pension Association Board to require future increases without legislative approval. Furthermore, CML believes the 1% increase for a new early retirement benefits allowing members to retire at 50 years of age with 30 years of service should be funded by employees. If amended to exclude unfunded contribution mandates, CML can support the portion of the bill that would increase funding of the Statewide Death and Disability Plan.

Hemp
CML supports maximum local control in the authority to regulate business related to the processing, extraction, manufacturing, and sales of consumable and industrial hemp.

Marijuana
CML supports maximum local control of medical and recreational marijuana issues. CML supports legislation and initiatives that ensure marijuana revenue is used to mitigate impacts, regardless of whether a municipality allows retail activity, delivery, or on-site consumption.

Public safety
CML opposes legislation that purports to remove local control on the use of radio encryption as it is an important tool for law enforcement and firefighting agencies to protect municipal citizens.

Severance tax and federal mineral lease
CML opposes reductions of severance tax and federal mineral lease revenue to municipalities and the appropriation of local governments' energy impact or direct distribution revenue to finance state programs, state government administrative costs, and to backfill state TABOR refunds. CML supports referring a severance tax debrucing question to voters to protect revenues vital to impacted municipalities as well as water, wildlife, and conservation programs in the Department of Natural Resources.

Sustainability
CML supports sustainability and sustainable solutions to meet the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. CML supports express local control to prohibit or restrict the use of certain plastic materials, as well the establishment of local standards for the use of certain containers or products.

Tax authority
On average, over 70% of municipal tax revenues are derived from sales and use taxes. CML and self-collecting municipalities support efforts to simplify collection efforts without impairing local control, including collection of remote sales taxes in a manner that complies with *South Dakota vs. Wayfair*. CML supports the state as a partner with the business community and municipalities that self-collect their sales and use taxes, but opposes any efforts to undermine constitutionally-granted municipal home rule authority to set tax policy, administration, and audit in home rule municipalities. CML discourages state sales tax exemptions that negatively impact statutory municipalities.

Property taxes are also important to municipalities. CML supports efforts to solve the impacts of continued reductions of the property tax residential assessment rate. CML opposes changes to the business personal property tax that do not "backfill" reductions to local government tax revenues.

Transportation
Colorado's transportation system of roadways and transit is a state and local network vital to Colorado's future. Municipal officials support increased state transportation and transit funding that includes the return of an equitable portion of new revenue to cities, towns, and counties. A statewide solution includes planning and funding for all public roads, not just state highways.

Meet the CML advocacy team

CML employs four full-time advocates to assist in development and communication of policies. The team closely watches proposed legislation and works with legislators to understand municipal impacts.

Meghan Dollar
CML legislative and policy advocate
mdollar@cml.org

Advocacy issues: Affordable housing, criminal justice and courts, employment and labor, immigration, retirement/pensions, and taxation and fiscal policy.

Morgan Cullen
CML legislative and policy advocate
mcullen@cml.org

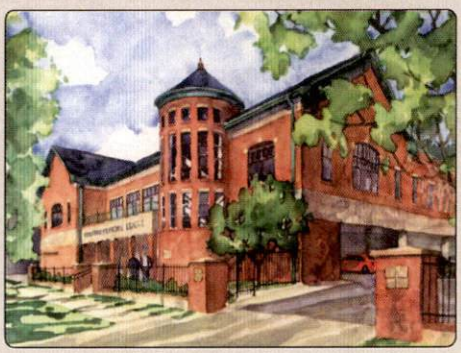
Advocacy issues: Transportation and transit, sustainability, economic development and TIF, municipal debt and finance, purchasing, and utilities.

Brandy DeLange
CML legislative and policy advocate
bdelange@cml.org

Advocacy issues: Beer and liquor/marijuana, building codes, health care, hemp, land use and annexation, oil and gas, public safety (incl. communications and disasters), severance tax/FML/energy impact, state budget/JBC, and telecom/broadband.

Heather Stauffer
CML legislative and policy advocate
hstauffer@cml.org

Advocacy issues: Natural resources and environment, elections, governmental immunity, historic preservation, lottery and gaming, open meetings/open records, special districts, and water and wastewater/water quality.



Colorado Municipal League

The Colorado Municipal League (CML) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has served and represented Colorado's cities and towns since 1923. As such, CML is a reliable source of information about legislative issues and their impact on Colorado's cities and towns and their residents.

270 cities and towns are members of the League, and policies are determined by members though the CML Policy Committee and the CML Executive Board.

Local control and home rule

The Colorado Municipal League is a strong advocate for the state's tradition of local control and constitutional principle of home rule, both of which allow cities and towns maximum flexibility and discretion in municipal finance, implementation of local policy, and delivery of public services. Local control should remain local and home rule should stay at home. Neither should be centralized at the Statehouse.

Municipal government is the cornerstone of good government in Colorado, and the League values the partnership that exists with state and federal officials. The citizens who municipal officials represent are the same as those represented by legislators. The policies legislators enact affecting municipalities must be implemented by municipal leaders and local taxpayers. To maintain the strength of this partnership, CML urges legislators to consider the impacts of decisions on the municipalities in their respective districts.