



Legislative Agenda 2022



(In no particular order)

Home Rule/Local Control

The City supports local control and municipal government home rule authority. In most cases, local problems are best addressed at the local level and the current authority and powers of municipal governments such as land use, zoning, personnel matters, sales tax, etc. should not be diminished. However, certain issues require statewide and multi-jurisdictional response, which are best addressed through early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with local municipalities.

Position:

- The City urges state officials to respect Colorado's tradition of local control and allow municipal officials to address local problems at the local level. While the City urges state officials to maintain local control, the City also supports the establishment of minimum standards that municipalities have authority to exceed.
- The City generally opposes state legislation that creates unfunded mandates on local municipalities without state funding or other sources of revenue. Unfunded mandates shift the cost burden of state mandates onto local governments, limiting a municipality's ability to provide locally identified government services.

- The City supports liquor and marijuana licensing that allows for cooperation and collaboration between local and state licensing entities.
- The City supports maintaining local government authority to regulate oil and gas development at the local level, and the establishment of state rules and regulations that reflect such authority.

Tax & Finance Policy

The City supports a fair and consistent state tax policy that preserves and expands the authority of local governments and opposes state exemptions that erode municipal sales taxes, use taxes, property taxes, and other revenue sources.

Position:

- The City supports fiscally responsible government spending, but believes it is important to address the layers of constraints on state and local government budgets resulting from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).
- The City supports equitable sharing with municipalities of existing and future state revenues derived from state-collected, locally shared revenues, such as the Cigarette/Tobacco/Vaping Tax, Highway Users Tax Fund, Lottery funds, and Marijuana tax funds.
- With the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment and new tax cuts and exemptions, it is critical to maintain ongoing residential and commercial property taxes to preserve public service revenues to the state, local governments, fire districts, schools, health providers, and others dependent on property taxes to deliver essential services.
- The City supports a statewide sales and use tax system that simplifies complying with such requirements, including funding to support the costs associated with implementation.

Municipal Administrative Services

The City's administrative services help ensure a high-performing government, including the effective and efficient use of taxpayer funds in providing City services. This includes information technology, human resources, records management, elections, and general government administration. The City supports efforts to ensure that these services can be delivered in a transparent and cost-effective manner.

Position:

- The City supports maintaining our ability to make decisions on employment issues, including compensation and benefits.
- The City supports increased efforts to address the security of the state unemployment system to protect employees and employers from fraudulent claims, while ensuring unemployed Coloradans are able to receive their benefits.

Public Health & Safety

The City supports law enforcement and municipal court policies that ensure public health and safety, thereby improving the quality of life in partnership with the community. The City supports the health and safety of all residents regardless of race, age, ethnicity, gender/gender identity or national origin.

Position:

- The City supports continued state and federal aid in the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic and fiscal impacts, including assistance for local and small businesses, community needs including food, rental/housing, utility, and other assistance, and financial aid to local governments.
- The City supports access to quality and affordable healthcare for residents and businesses across Colorado.
- The City supports statewide efforts to expand mental/behavioral health services, reduce barriers to care and provide funding to support such initiatives.
- The City supports continued efforts to improve municipal court and law enforcement practices and further refinement of such changes to ensure that victims are adequately protected.
- The City supports efforts to assist law enforcement with community-wide mental health impacts, and to mitigate municipal costs for healthcare and mental health services for persons in custody.
- The City supports state funding for municipalities to provide counsel at an initial appearance in municipal court.
- The City opposes legislation that would prohibit the use of red light cameras and speed radar.
- The City supports legislation that upholds local government authority related to marijuana consumption, and allows for local opt-in provisions for any new permitting or licensing provisions.

Energy/Environment

The City supports legislation to address climate change by improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of cost-effective renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels while maintaining the reliability and resilience of energy delivery and local control.

Position:

- The City supports the state's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reduced energy consumption, increased use of clean energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels.

- The City supports statewide policies that reduce overall energy demand and consumption, while preserving and expanding local governments' ability to reach their sustainability and climate action goals.
- The City supports a mandatory statewide minimum building code that would increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions statewide. The City supports amendments to the statewide plastic bag fee and ban that recognize local bag taxes and streamline the administration of the bag fee and ban alongside local requirements.
- The City supports the preservation of air quality and emission reductions through legislative, administrative, and regulatory actions.
- The City supports state efforts to reduce noise impacts and air pollution associated with local metropolitan airport activities.

Transportation

Colorado's transportation infrastructure, which connects our communities and facilitates the movement of people and goods, is essential to the economic vitality of our state and necessary to maintain the high quality of life enjoyed by Coloradans. Appropriate investments in transportation, as one of the largest sectors of greenhouse gas emissions, also further the City's energy and environment goals.

Position:

- The City supports ongoing state and federal funding sources for transportation that provide a local share to support maintenance of existing infrastructure, multimodal improvements and other investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The City supports regulation and investments that accelerate the electrification of the transportation sector and other innovative transportation technologies that reduce emissions and congestion.
- The City supports investments that support safe and convenient multimodal transportation, including Complete Streets, which increase transportation options, improve mobility, and reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, and Vision Zero strategies which improve safety.
- The City supports funding, construction and operation of the Northwest Rail line and the Front Range Passenger Rail Line to expand multi-modal transportation in the northwest metro region. The City also supports ensuring rail services along this line include stops in Louisville, supporting the much-delayed obligation of RTD for transit investment in our community.
- The City supports local government implementation of railroad crossing improvements, including quiet zones, and the necessary PUC authorities to ensure that these improvements can be installed consistent with federal law.
- The City supports continued improvements to the financial stability, effectiveness, transparency and overall functionality of the Regional Transportation District (RTD) in delivering equitable transit services to transit-dependent residents, in an equitable manner across the district.
- The City opposes efforts to divest state-owned roads to municipalities without adequate short and long-term funding to meet additional maintenance and operational responsibilities.
- The City supports the safe application of rolling stops for bicyclists at low speeds (below 20 mph) so that bicyclists can pull out ahead of motor vehicles at stop signs.

Utilities, Telecommunications & Broadband

The City supports policies that protect Colorado's natural resources and allow the City to maintain facilities efficiently, allowing for reasonable and equitable rates while maintaining optimal quality. The City also supports the local authority to manage all matters related to local telecommunications policy, cable franchising, wireless communication facilities, broadband deployment, public safety communications, rights-of-way management and government access channels.

Position:

- The City supports the inventorying and protection of water rights.
- The City supports appropriate water conservation efforts and sustainable water resource management practices by all users.
- The City supports efforts to improve water quality through compliance with state and federal regulations.
- The City supports protection of municipal water, and appropriate coordination of municipal water use with other uses such as agriculture, mineral resources, energy and other development, recreation and open space.
- The City supports stakeholder input and involvement in developing laws and regulations related to water and wastewater issues.
- The City supports state policy for consumer protections of utility customers.
- The City supports continued assistance for utility payments to help people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The City opposes state and federal efforts that complicate deployment of small cell and other wireless infrastructure and create unfunded mandates on local governments.
- The City supports state policy and funding to improve public safety telecommunication.

- The City supports federal legislative and regulatory efforts to restore funding for government access channels and for other compensation previously paid by cable operators that has been recently eliminated by the Federal Communications Commission.

Land Use/Development/Revitalization

The City has a long-standing commitment to managed growth. The City believes strongly that local control and land use planning enhance our ability to meet the goals/mission of the City Comprehensive Plan and improve the overall quality of life. In addition, the City is working to redevelop and revitalize certain areas within the community, and appropriate urban renewal tools must be preserved to support these efforts.

Position:

- The City supports continued state and federal assistance for business and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The City supports statutory changes that enhance business viability in the City of Louisville, including a change in the definition of second hand dealers to address barriers to online sporting goods resale.
- The City supports policies and investments that improve the coordination of land use and transportation, and regional cooperation in land use planning and economic development activities.
- The City supports increased local government and community engagement and impact analysis around the expansion and development of airports.
- The City supports increased local government funding for the statewide expansion of affordable housing.
- The City supports enhancements to Colorado Urban Renewal law that do not unreasonably restrict the use of tax increment financing or eminent domain for redevelopment projects.
- The City supports legislation that encourages and facilitates historic preservation and rehabilitation.

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