

City Council Meeting with Boulder County State Legislators

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Library Meeting Room

951 Spruce Street

8:00 AM

(Entry on northwest corner of Library)

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Discussion - 2020 Louisville Legislative Agenda
- 3) Legislative delegation member legislative priorities, proposed bills and updates

2020 City of Louisville Legislative Agenda

Home Rule/Local Control

The City supports local control and maintaining home rule authority. In general, the City believes 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. Local and state problems may be best addressed through collaboration.

Positions:

- The City urges state officials to respect Colorado's tradition of local control and allow municipal officials to address local problems without state interference.
- 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 and Finance Policy

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

Positions:

- 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) and the Gallagher Amendment.
- The City opposes legislation that preempts local authority to set sales tax policy and administer the collection of sales and use taxes.
- The City supports the distribution of sales tax collected through local governments from e-commerce or internet sales tax proportional to where it is generated.
- The City supports equitable sharing with municipalities of existing and future state revenues derived from state-collected, locally shared revenues, such as the Cigarette Tax, Highway Users Tax Fund, Lottery funds, and Marijuana tax funds.

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.

Positions:

- The City supports maintaining our ability to make decisions on employment issues, including compensation and benefits.
- The City seeks to ensure that any state-imposed family leave programs work in conjunction with federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and do not cause undue financial burden to local governments.

Public Health and 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.

Positions:

- The City supports ongoing opportunities 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.

Positions:

- The City supports the development of a long-term statewide energy plan with the overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption, increasing the use of clean energy, and transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- The City supports policies that reduce overall energy demand and consumption, while respecting local authority in implementing such policies.
- The City supports solid waste policies that reduce the use of disposable/single use products and that foster infrastructure, incentives, and programs for recycling and composting.
- The City supports legislation that incentivizes green building and sustainable design for residential, commercial, and industrial properties without imposing unfunded mandates.
- The City supports the preservation of air quality and emission reductions through legislative, administrative, and regulatory actions.

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 Coloradoans.

Positions:

- The City supports one or more new, designated state funding sources for transportation that are not reliant on the State General Fund and that provide a local share to support local and regional transportation investments.
- The City supports accelerating the electrification of the transportation sector and other innovative transportation technologies that reduce emissions and congestion. In conjunction with these efforts, the City supports a sustainable funding structure for the maintenance of roads, bridges and multimodal transportation infrastructure, and the operation of transit.
- The City supports investments in multi-modal strategies that increase transportation options, improve mobility, and reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

- The City supports completion of the Northwest Rail line, or alternative fixed guiderail solutions, including phased implementation strategies such as Peak Rail operations and the pursuit of creative financing mechanisms to launch service sooner than is currently planned.
- 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 increased reporting requirements and data transparency for the Regional Transportation District (RTD).
- The City opposes reductions to the present allocation formula of 60 percent state, 22 percent counties, and 18 percent municipalities for Highway User Tax Fund (HUTF) or any appropriations from the state using the same formula, and the use of these funds for non-transportation purposes.
- The City opposes legislation to divest state-owned roads to municipalities without adequate short and long-term funding to meet these additional responsibilities.
- The City supports state bonding or other borrowing for transportation projects only if there are new or existing designated sources of funding identified to pay off those obligations.

Utilities and Telecommunications

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 protection of interests in all matters related to local telecommunications, including telecommunications law and policy, cable franchising, wireless communication facilities, broadband deployment, public safety communications, rights-of-way management and government access channels.

Positions:

- 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 appropriate coordination of municipal water use with other uses, including agriculture, mineral resource development, energy 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 opposes federal efforts that complicate existing efforts to deploy small cell infrastructure and create unfunded mandates on local governments.
- The City opposes federal efforts to eliminate or reduce local funds for government access channels.

Land Use, Development and 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.

Positions:

- The City supports policies 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 opposes any efforts to limit local government authority to regulate land development.

- The City supports legislation that facilitates the creation of locally approved Transit-Oriented Developments (TOD).
- The City supports maintaining or enhancing funding for statewide affordable housing mechanisms, such as the State Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and affordable housing grant funding.
- The City supports enhancements to 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.