



## 2026 Legislative Agenda



This document is the 2026 Legislative Agenda for the Town of Erie and is intended to guide staff and the Council in lobbying for or against legislative items.



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## Legislative Vision

The Town of Erie is a growing community with high expectations for being the best place to raise a family, start a business, thrive through aging, enjoy the outdoors, and so much more. The Town Council regularly engages residents through various methods to check in on changing values and goals for our future. Residents shared in a survey in Summer 2025 that their top priorities for action in the next 2-3 years include Traffic & Infrastructure, Growth & Development, Water Cost & Availability, Affordable & Diverse Housing, Increasing Commercial Development, Public Safety, Oil & Gas Development, Preservation of Open Space, Recreation & Community Amenities, and a Multi-Modal Focus. The Town will advocate for or against proposed legislation that relates to the above topics. More details related to this advocacy follow.



## Support Local Government Autonomy & Home Rule Authority

The Town generally opposes the preemption of local authorities, and bills that seek to limit the authority and powers of municipal government, unless they are co-developed in conjunction with municipal partners and further a policy otherwise identified in the Town's policy agenda.



## Advocate for Increased Local Government Participation in the Development of Policies & Legislation that Impact Municipalities & Counties

The Town supports policies that recognize the unique and diverse history, culture, and environment of communities across Colorado, while working to ensure equity for all throughout the entire State.

# Built Environment

## Affordable Housing

### Ensure Funding for Affordable Housing Reflects the Regional & Local Costs of Development

Ensure that State and Federal grants and subsidies for affordable housing development reflect regional housing development and land costs and keep pace with construction/materials cost increases.



### Support Policies & Funding to Preserve Affordable Housing (Designated & Naturally Occurring)

Expand housing funding, including by referring to the voters of Colorado a measure to amend the State Constitution to allow voters in towns and cities to approve real estate transfer taxes, the proceeds of which must be used to fund affordable housing and programming that preserves existing affordable housing units and keeps people in their homes, such as programs for rental and mortgage assistance, housing rehab, housing modifications for aging in place and accessibility, and other innovative approaches to utilize existing housing stock.



### Improve the Rights of Residents Within Manufactured Home Communities

Enhance and preserve the rights of residents within manufactured home communities and provide funding to support residential ownership or non-profit ownership of manufactured home communities.

## **Increase Funding, Tax Credits, & Financial Incentives that Support Local Governments in Increasing Affordable Housing Stock**

Increase the availability of tax credits and other financial incentives for the development and retention of affordable housing. Support increased downpayment assistance for affordable ownership opportunities. Work with State legislators to ensure affordable housing funding and programs are designed for clarity and ease of access to both for- and non-profit developers. Increase access to multimodal transit, and investments in safety improvements for Vulnerable Road Users.

## Support Increased Local Control Over Special Districts & Taxing Authority

Provide increased municipal controls over the formation of and taxation of special districts, including metro districts' ability to implement mill caps, bond limitations and increased ability for bond to be refinanced to ensure mills to residents do not become overly burdensome.

## Support Programs & Services that Assist Families & Individuals in Housing Crisis or Experiencing Homelessness

Support efforts to create, expand and preserve state, county, and local government options to address Colorado's housing affordability crisis, including housing and supportive services for those facing eviction, at-risk of homelessness, and expanded housing opportunities for Erie's workforce. Erie does not support unfunded mandates and advocates for necessary funding to accompany any legislation. Erie does not support unfunded mandates and advocates for necessary funding to accompany any legislation.

## Support Efforts to Increase the Availability of For-Sale Condominiums through Construction Defects or Other Policy Reforms

Condo construction in Colorado, unlike many other states, has diminished significantly over the past 15 years, leaving a gap in the housing continuum, and reducing affordable and attainable housing options. To effectively address this issue the Colorado General Assembly must balance the costs, risks, and impacts to both developers and homeowners. The Town supports a comprehensive solution that addresses construction liability, condo development insurance, and homeowner protections and rights.

## Support balancing tenant rights with landlord rights when creating new laws.

The Town of Erie supports small, local landlord ability to lease properties without undo burden from regulation. The Town opposes laws which may force local landlords to leave the market, which may reduce the number of rental properties.

## Transportation

### **Support Comprehensive Funding Solutions that Meet the Increasing Transportation & Mobility Needs in Colorado**

Erie supports a comprehensive statewide transportation funding solution to meet the growing transportation and mobility needs of Colorado. Colorado must consider all opportunities including the expansion and modernization of the transportation revenue structure, reevaluation of Colorado's spending priorities, and a more equitable approach to allocating available revenues to address the growing mobility needs at the local government level through specific distributions for local transportation systems that maintain the infrastructure in the highest population density areas.



### **Support Policies & Funding that Increase Multimodal Options & Improve Transportation Safety to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Traffic Fatalities**

The Town supports legislation that prioritizes and funds innovative and collaborative approaches to maintain and improve existing transportation systems, address safety, and support multimodal transportation investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



### **Expedite Funding to Support the NAMS (Northwest Area Mobility Study) Transportation Corridor Improvements**

Erie supports resources and funding to complete the multimodal and roadway improvement planned for the key North Area Mobility Study (NAMS) corridors, including multimodal improvements and transit service along CO-7, CO-52, CO-287 and the I-25 corridor. Expedite resources to complete these projects within a faster timeframe. Ensure funding is available for local infrastructure that supports these state and federal highway systems.



### **Support Ongoing Planning for Front Range Passenger Rail & Other Rail Investments that would Improve Access & Infrastructure for Erie Residents**

Support the planning and funding opportunities for the rail Joint Service Plan which includes both the Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) and Northwest Rail including station area planning. Support the expansion of existing RTD rail services including the N Line to State Highway 7 and to Erie to ensure RTD fulfills its obligation to our region.

## Support Investments in Advanced & Smart Technologies That Support All Modes of Travel

Support policies and investments in autonomous vehicle infrastructure that are clean-fueled and safe for all modes of travel. Ensure local governments have regulatory authority for the implementation and management of these vehicles and systems.



## Support Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction in the Transportation Sector

Ensure effective implementation of Colorado's vehicle emissions standards, GHG related regulations, adoption of electric vehicles and installation of charging infrastructure, and other regulatory and programmatic activities designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources.



## Increase Transportation Access for Vulnerable Populations, Including Youth, Older Adults, Lower Income Residents, & People with Disabilities

Increase transportation access for Erie residents who depend on transit, multi-modal connections, micro-transit, and other alternative transportation options. Ensure transportation access and connectivity to key services is available to vulnerable and underserved populations, including youth, older adults, and those with lower income and people with disabilities.



## Sustainability & Climate Resilience

### Support Investments in Air-Quality Improvements to Address Environmental & Public Health Impacts

Increase efforts that prioritize and promote effective and cost-efficient initiatives to improve air quality and bring nonattainment areas of the State into compliance with the federal Clean Air Act.



### Support Local Clean Energy & Climate Resilience Investments

Increase opportunities for municipalities to implement local clean energy and climate-related strategies, including access to Federal and State funding for renewable energy, electrification, nature-based climate solutions, and other innovative and effective approaches.



### Assist with the Transition to Modern Building Energy Codes

Support efforts to transition local governments to modern building energy codes through cohorts and other technical assistance programs that lead to new code adoption. Ensure funding is available for code adoption and implementation, including staffing to support code review and inspections.



### Support State & Local Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals to Shift from Fossil Fuels toward Renewable Energy

Support continued availability and affordability of clean and renewable energies and recognize the importance of investments to strengthen the electrical grid to support increasing demand of electric vehicles and electrification. Support increased demand in locally sourced renewable energy production.



### Support Municipal Electric & Electrical Cooperatives in Transitioning toward Renewable Electricity

The Town supports policies to aid in the transition of electric cooperatives such as United Power to independently purchase local renewable electricity and implement other measures that reduce greenhouse gas pollution.



### Support the Availability of Affordable Clean Energy for all Coloradans

Ensure affordable energy costs, including green-energy programs, for all residents and low-income households. Work to address disparities in access to affordable and clean, renewable energy.

## **Oil & Gas**

## Provide Adequate Resources & Oversight for the Complete Implementation of SB19-181

Provide adequate resources for full implementation and oversight associated with SB19-181, including public health oversight of air, soil, and water quality impacts, timely and thorough complaint response, and residential protections for adjacent homeowners. Where State resources are not available, provide aid and support to local government in delivering these services. Strengthen regulation, permitting and enforcement of oil and gas exploration and production in and around populated areas.

## Ensure the Oil & Gas Sector Meet the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals

Support measures (such as measurements, tracking, confirmation, etc.) that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas sector by 60% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels, as prescribed by the State's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Roadmap.

## Ensure State Departments & Oversight Boards Involve Local Governments in Administrative Rule-Making & Decision-Making Regarding Energy Extraction

Ensure the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) substantively involve local governments affected by energy extraction (oil, natural gas, and geothermal energy) and carbon sequestration, including recognition of local health, safety, and environmental impacts in legislative and administrative decision-making.

## Require Consistent Utility Pipeline Regulations & Oversight Among Managing Agencies

Support consistent utility pipeline regulations focused on accurate mapping, inspection, and safety between agencies involved in their oversight and require cooperation among agencies that manage lands bisected by pipelines. Ensure local governments are involved in developing pipeline regulations and require transparency for locating pipelines and detailing their use, function, and materials transported.

## Landfill & Solid Waste

### Support Waste Reduction & Diversion Policies that Reduce the Need for Expanding Landfills

Support waste reduction and diversion policies that reduce the need to expand landfills and reduce the amount of compostable materials, e-waste, and other recyclables that are landfilled and generate methane. The Town of Erie currently has one landfill permitted by the State of Colorado. Colorado's waste diversion rate is 15.9%, which is far behind the national average of 34%. The lack of waste management regulations leads to a growth in demand for landfill space, increased traffic, air, soil and water quality concerns, and other public health impacts.



### Support Adequate Authority & Resources for the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment to Meet Solid Waste Diversion Goals

Ensure that CDPHE has adequate authority and resources to implement plans and policies to meet Colorado's statewide and regional solid waste diversion goals.



### Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Solid Waste Sites

Support State investments in greenhouse gas emissions reductions from solid waste sites like local landfills, while incentivize diversion of compostable materials including carbon-capture requirements.



### Increase Monitoring & Compliance of Local Landfills

Ensure locally owned or operated landfills are compliant with state mandates and regulations through rigorous monitoring, inspections, measurements, and reporting. Support State resources for performing inspections, reviewing the quarterly reports, maintaining quality staff, and regulating landfills.



### Support Common Standards for Gas Release & Flaring Emissions

Establish common standards across industries for methane gas release and flaring. The Town would support similar requirements as exist for oil and gas.

## Economic Health & Vitality

### Support Local Economies by Providing Incentives & Regulatory Relief to Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs

Support enhancing the ability of entrepreneurs and small businesses to establish and develop their businesses while providing incentives for investors. Increase the availability of tax credits and other financial incentives for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Protect small businesses and Erie jobs from the impact of burdensome and costly regulations, taxes, and fees.



### Support Economic Development Incentives to Attract New Businesses to Colorado Towns like Erie

Support economic development incentives as critical tools for attracting new business, encouraging expansion of existing business, creating jobs, and stimulating private investment. Oppose any effort to remove, or restrict, the use of these programs to support local economic development activities in Erie.



### Protect Powers of Annexation for Colorado Towns like Erie

Oppose any legislation that limits municipalities' power of annexation. Some properties in the Erie Planning Area do not have access to utilities and other services without annexation. Annexation allows the Town to grow in a way that offers financial stability, which helps maintain public services. The Town opposes any legislation that undermines this essential function of standard, effective planning.



### Increase Programs & Policies that Support Diverse Businesses & Minority Business Owners

Support programs, policies, and funding that address systemic wealth disparities. Provide opportunities for diverse and minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs to receive support and services to equitably participate in the economy.



### Continue to Support Tax Increment Financing as a Tool to Facilitate New Development and Redevelopment

Protect the ongoing ability to effectively use tax increment financing programs provided by the Colorado Urban Renewal Law and Downtown Development Authority Act to facilitate ongoing development and redevelopment activities in Erie.

## Provide Funding Assistance to Economic Development Partners at the State & Local Level

Support State and Federal funding for local economic development partners, including the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation (MDED).

## Human Services & Mental Health

### Ensure County Human Services, Housing, Health, & Mental Health Providers are Adequately Funded to Address the Growing Need in all Communities

Erie residents along with Coloradans across the State face a significant need for increased access to housing assistance, mental/behavioral health services, health care, food assistance, energy assistance, and other human services. The Town relies on its regional partners, including Boulder and Weld counties, local non-profits, community health and mental health providers to collaborate and implement programs needed by our residents. The Town supports policy changes that would expand access to health, housing, and all human services and reduce barriers to services and care.

## Municipal Services

## Financial Management & Taxation

### Support Measures that Address Property Tax Increases in an Equitable & Fair Manner

As property values increase and residents' property taxes continue to rise, the Town supports property tax reduction measures applied in an equitable manner and in consideration of the ongoing needs of local government services and operations.



### Support Efforts that Preserve & Enhance Local Sales and Use Tax Revenues

As the primary source of revenue for municipalities, sales and use tax stability is critical to sustaining operations to serve the residents of Erie. Efforts to broaden the sales and use tax base (such as remote taxation), maintain the autonomy in setting and maintaining sales and use taxes, support the efficient collection of sales and use tax, and other measures help increase sales tax stability for local governments.

## Administration

## Ensure New Programs & Policies do not Shift the Administrative Burden & Create Unfunded Mandates for Local Governments

Colorado municipalities are the implementation arm of numerous State programs. Program and policy changes that require local implementation or shift the administrative burden to local governments should only be made with collaborative discussion and planning with and adequate funding to support policy implementation.



## Protect the Autonomy of Municipal Courts

Protect the autonomy of municipal courts while ensuring necessary State oversight for the consistent protection of the constitutional rights of defendants. Oppose limitations on the authority of municipalities to enforce their own ordinances in municipal courts.



## Protect Municipalities' Ability to Determine & Charge Local Fees & Requirements to Offset the Costs of Services

Support municipal discretion concerning the imposition of fees and requirements, including the authority to charge development fees, research and retrieval fees for open records requests, and other fees for services that impact the organization and community.



## Dismantle State & Federal Policies that Further Systemic Discrimination

Erie supports the implementation of State and Federal policy that provides equal opportunity to all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, mental health status, sexual orientation, gender expression, class, country of origin, income, or other protected classes. The Town supports approaches for programs and policies that all residents have equal access, to foster well-being and belonging.

## Community Policing

### Provide State & Federal Funding to Support the Availability of Behavioral Health Services in Law Enforcement Response for Perpetrators, Victims & Officers

Support State funding and technical assistance for regional and local public safety programs that partner mental and behavioral health professionals and law enforcement for contacts with individuals with mental and behavioral health issues.



### Continue to Allow Local Law Enforcement the Option for Police to Enforce Federal Laws, Including Immigration Laws, without Mandate

Support preserving the option for Town police officers to enforce federal laws, including federal immigration laws, while vigorously opposing any State or federal legislation that mandates that its police enforce federal immigration laws, especially if they are unfunded mandates.



### Ensure State and Federal Programs in Support of Community Policing do not Increase or Duplicate Reporting Requirements

Prevent the imposition of onerous information gathering and reporting requirements on public safety, especially when those requirements come with substantial costs that are not supported by adequate funding.



## Support Policies that Prevent Gun Violence & Death in Colorado

The Town supports policies that prevent gun violence and death by firearms in Colorado, including the illegal possession of and unlawful use of firearms. Erie supports legislation that requires the responsible storage and use of, and access to, firearms. The Town supports continued efforts to ensure individuals experiencing mental health crises are identified before obtaining or possessing a firearm.

## Emergency Response

### Support Increased State & Federal Funding for Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Mitigation, Response, & Recovery

Support State and federal financial support and resources to assist local governments with disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery in their communities.

# Leadership & Contact Info

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Town of Erie Mayor



Brandon Bell  
Mayor Pro-Tem



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Council Member



Brian O'Connor  
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Anil Pesaramelli  
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For questions about the Legislative Agenda,  
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