



This document is the 2024 Legislative Agenda for the Town of Erie and is intended to guide staff and the Board in lobbying for or against legislative items.

# Table of Contents

03	Legislative Vision
04	Local Autonomy & Control
04	Built Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Affordable Housing</li><li>Transportation</li></ul>
07	Energy & Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sustainability &amp; Climate Resilience</li><li>Oil &amp; Gas</li><li>Landfills &amp; Solid Waste</li></ul>
11	Community Wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Economic Health &amp; Vitality</li><li>Human Services &amp; Mental Health</li><li>Equity &amp; Inclusion</li></ul>
13	Municipal Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial Management &amp; Taxation</li><li>Administration</li><li>Community Policing</li><li>Emergency Response</li></ul>
15	Leadership & Contact Info



## 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's Board of Trustees regularly surveys residents to check in on changing values and goals for our future. Based on that information, the Town follows a set of priorities to guide policy work and operations. These priorities include Managing Growth, Fiscal Responsibility, Protecting Natural Resources, Environmental Quality/Safety, Maintaining a Small-Town Feel, Prosperous Economy, Attractive Community Design, Infrastructure Maintenance, Increased Public Transit, Plentiful Recreation Amenities, Prioritizing Public Safety, Supporting a Diverse Community, Providing Arts, Culture, & Entertainment, and Ensuring Effective Governance. The Town of Erie will be advocating for or against proposed legislation that relates to the above topics. Descriptions of this advocacy is included in the following pages.



## 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. This includes local land use and planning decisions, which are long-standing local powers that support Colorado communities' ability to develop with self-determination in accordance with local leaders' priorities and the local landscape and resources. In some cases, Erie may support state preemption of certain authorities, if co-developed in conjunction with municipal partners and consistent with 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 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 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 tax residents more than the actual cost of the infrastructure provided and their ability to refinance when a bond is close to sunseting.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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 through specific distributions for local transportation systems that maintain the infrastructure within the highest density population 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.



### **Ensure Transit Investments Incorporate the Needs of Communities Partially Within the RTD Boundary**

Support transit investments that incorporate the needs of communities such as the Town of Erie, which lie partially within the RTD regional transit boundaries. Ensure transit related funding considers travel-sheds and commuter patterns that fall outside jurisdictional boundaries.



### **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 & Rail Investments that would Improve Access & Infrastructure for Erie Residents**

Support ongoing planning for the Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) plan in Colorado. Identify long-term funding for rail infrastructure, including station area planning. The Town supports RTD's completion of both the Northwest Rail line as well as the Front Range Passenger Rail Line to ensure RTD fulfills its obligation to our region. Support the expansion of existing and new rail systems to incorporate Erie, such as the N Line extension.



## **Support Investments in Automated Vehicles that are Clean-Fueled & Safe for all Modes of Travel**

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



## **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, and other alternative transportation options. Ensure transportation access and connectivity to key services is available to vulnerable and underserved populations, including youth, older adults, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and those with lower income and people with disabilities.

# Energy & Environment

## **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.



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

The Town supports a shift from fossil fuels toward clean and renewable energies and recognizes the importance of investments to strengthen the electrical grid, and supports efforts to transition to electric vehicles and equipment and building electrification which, on balance, reduces emissions of greenhouse gases. Support community involvement in energy production transitions to ensure a just and equitable economic transition.



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

Transition electric cooperatives such as United Power to independent purchasing of local renewable electricity and toward the implementation of other measures that reduce greenhouse gas pollution.



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

Ensure affordability of 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**

Ensure adequate resources are provided for the 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.



### **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 that 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 Consistency of Utility Pipeline Regulations & Oversight Among Managing Agencies**

Support consistency of utility pipeline regulations between agencies involved in their oversight and require cooperation among agencies that manage lands bisected by pipelines. Ensure the involvement of local governments in the development of pipeline regulations and require transparency for locating pipelines.

## Landfill & Solid Waste

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

The Town supports waste reduction and diversion policies that reduce the need for expanding landfills. The Town of Erie currently has one landfill permitted by the State of Colorado to operate as municipal solid waste landfill. Colorado's waste diversion rate is only 15.9% percent, which is far behind the national average of 34%. The lack of state leadership around better management of solid waste results in a direct impact on the Erie community, including 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 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 for meeting 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 incentivizing composting for diversion.



### 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, such as requirements between oil and gas and landfills.



### Address the Disproportionate Impacts of Environmentally Intensive Activities

The Town supports policies and regulatory actions that advance environmental justice and protect disproportionately impacted communities from landfills, oil and gas activities, and other environmentally and resource intensive activities.

## 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. Protect small businesses and Erie jobs from the impact of burdensome and costly regulations.



### 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. The Town opposes 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 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and other minority 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 (MDEDC).

## **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.

## **Equity & Inclusion**

### **Ensure State & Federal Policies are Developed with a Lens toward Diversity, Racial Equity, & Inclusion**

The Town of Erie supports equitable, inclusive, anti-racist, and multicultural statewide policies. As government institutions, it is the moral responsibility of the Town and State alike to interrupt institutional racism which manifests through racist policy, practices, and behaviors.



### **Dismantle State & Federal Policies that Further Systemic Racism & Discrimination**

Erie supports the implementation of State policy that reverses systemic discrimination by race, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, mental health status, sexual orientation, gender expression, class, country of origin, income, and other protected classes. The Town supports equitable approaches for programs and policies that advance historically underserved and underrepresented populations to foster well-being and belonging.

## 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. The Town opposes 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

The Town supports 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.

## Community Policing

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

The Town supports 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**

The Town supports preserving the option for its police officers to enforce federal laws, including federal immigration laws. However, it will vigorously oppose any state or federal legislation that mandates that its police enforce federal immigration laws, especially if they are unfunded mandates or are likely to result in enforcement officers engaging in racial profiling or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.



### **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**

The Town supports state and federal financial support and resources to assist local governments with disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery in their communities.



# Leadership & Contact Info

p.15



Justin Brooks  
Town of Erie Mayor



Sara Loflin  
Mayor Pro-Tem



Emily Baer  
Trustee



Brandon Bell  
Trustee



Ari Harrison  
Trustee



Dan Hoback  
Trustee



Andrew Sawusch  
Trustee



Malcolm Fleming  
Town Administrator



Melissa Wiley  
Deputy Town Administrator

For questions about the Legislative Agenda,  
please email [contactus@erieco.gov](mailto:contactus@erieco.gov).

[www.erieco.gov](http://www.erieco.gov)

