

Legislative Process and Advocacy 101

Town Council Meeting
Town of Erie
Sept. 16, 2025



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Overview

- Legislative Institution and Process
- CML Initiated Legislation
- Developing Relationships
- Best Practices for Advocacy



75th Colorado General Assembly

- 2026 Second Regular Session
- Two Chambers -100 members
- Convene no later than the second Wednesday in January
- Sine Die – 120 days later



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Senate

- 35 members – representing 165,000 residents
- 18 votes to win
- 23 Democrats/12 Republicans
- Senate District 17 - Senator Katie Wallace



House of Representatives

- 65 members – representing 88,956 residents
- 33 votes to win
- 43 Democrats/22 Republicans
- House District 19 – Rep. Dan Woog

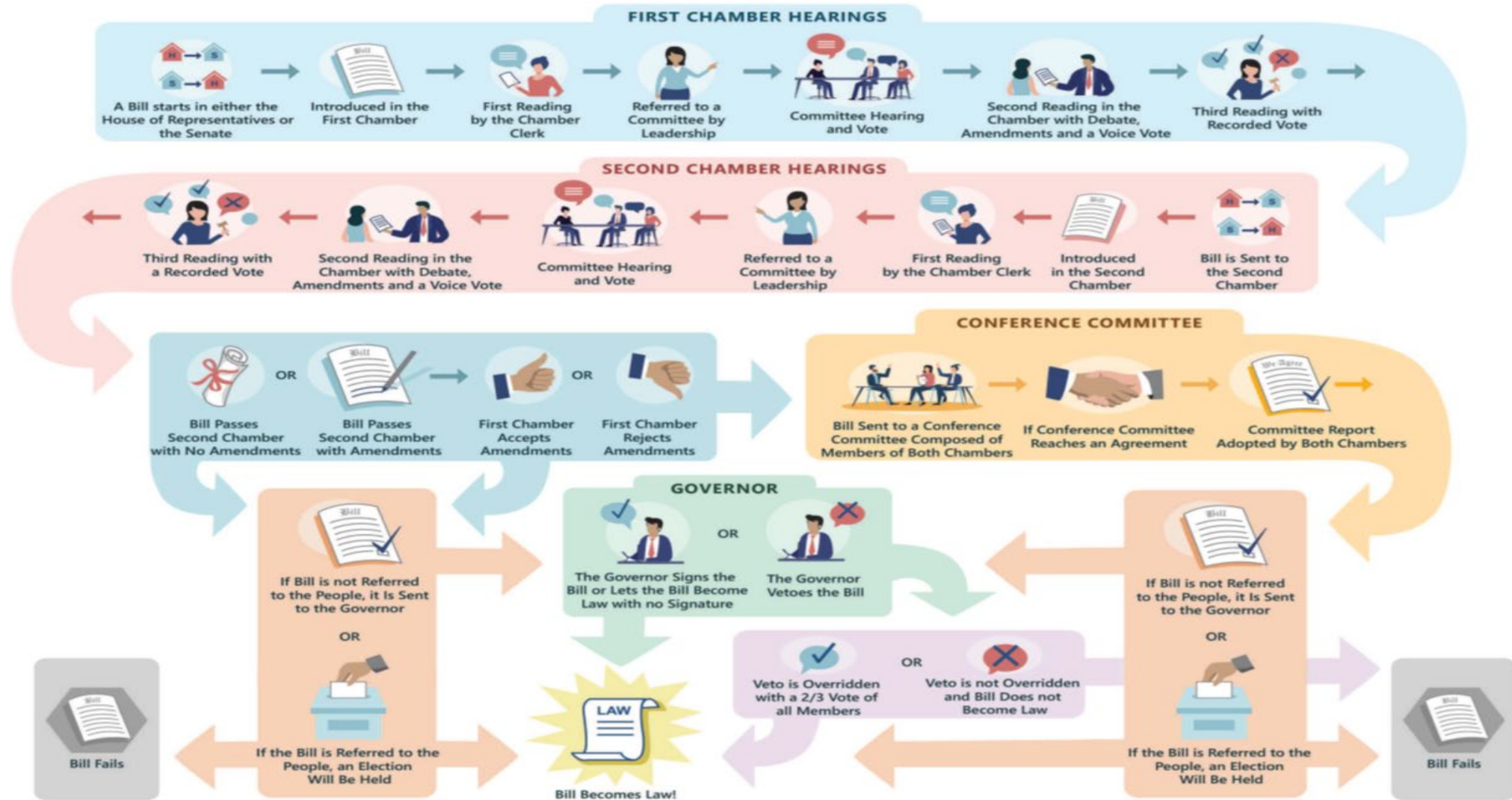


Committees

- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Business & Labor*
- Education
- Energy (House)
- Finance*
- Health
- Judiciary
- Local Government* (Senate)
- State Affairs
- Transportation*
 - Housing combined with Trans and Loc. Gov.



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN COLORADO



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

General Assembly Website

2025 Special Session Bills Authorized by Sponsors for Pre-release [Details](#)



First Extraordinary Session | 75th General Assembly

Colorado General Assembly

Visit & Learn

Find My Legislator

Watch & Listen

Q Apply

SESSION SCHEDULE

BILLS

LAWS

LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEES

INITIATIVES

BUDGET

AUDITS

PUBLICATIONS

AGENCIES



President James Coleman



The 75th General Assembly

The First Extraordinary Session of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly will convene on August 21st, 2025. The Second Regular Session will convene on January 14, 2026.



Speaker Julie McCluskie



Find My Legislator



Watch & Listen



Find a Bill



Explore the Budget



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Initiated Legislation

CML Initiated Sept. 8

- Approval by Policy Committee (Oct 17) and Executive Board (Oct 24)
- CML staff manages bill drafting/passage

Town Initiated

- Council decision
- In-house government affairs/contract lobbyist
- Sponsors = Local Representative and Senator



Stay Informed - CML Website



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

[About CML](#) [Job Board](#) [Store](#) [CML Member Directory](#)

[Search](#)

[Login](#)

[Advocacy & Legal](#)

[Networking & Events](#)

[Education & Training](#)

[Publications & News](#)

[Topics & Key Issues](#)

Advocacy & Legal

[Home](#) > [Advocacy & Legal](#)

Advocacy

CML Advocacy Team

Beverly Stables, Interim Legislative Advocacy Manager

Beverly covers issues regulated to substances, hemp, criminal justice, special districts, immigration, public safety, municipal courts, telecom/broadband/IT, Utilities, and State Department/Offices (DOLA, DOR, CDPS, Dept. of Law, Judiciary, Office of Resiliency and Recovery, OIT, SIPA, and PUC).

Elizabeth Haskell, legislative and policy advocate

Elizabeth's issues include beer and liquor; employment and labor; economic development; retirement/pensions; taxation and fiscal policy; lottery and gaming; historic preservation, municipal debt and finance; purchasing; and State Department/Offices (PERA/FPPA, EDDC/OEDIT, CDLE, DOLA, DOR, and GOCO).

Owen Brigner legislative and policy advocate

Owen's issues include criminal justice, public safety, governmental immunity, and immigration. He also assists in training and answering inquiries for municipal officials on various topics.

Legal

Legal Services

CML's legal team provides a broad variety of legal support to its members including trainings, an *amicus curiae* program, publications, an attorney listserv, model ordinances and policies, and general inquiry support. Read more about CML's legal services [here](#).

Amicus Library



CML advocates in support of municipal interests in state and federal courts. The CML legal team maintains an *amicus curiae* program. You can also visit our *amicus* brief library dating back to 1950.

Amicus Update

In This Section

[Policy Development](#)

[Colorado Laws Enacted](#)

[Position Papers](#)

[Contact Your Legislators](#)

[Legal Services](#)

[Amicus Briefs](#)

[Amicus Library](#)



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Relationships & Advocacy

Developing relationships outside the Capitol building ensures better results when you're in the Capitol building.



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Overview

“If you’re not at the table, you’re probably on the menu.”

- Local elected officials play critical role
- Direct impacts to local governments
- Lofty policy goals vs. reality of implementation
- Re-educate incoming legislators
- Mandates at local level



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Building Strategic Relationships

Local elected officials play a critical role by establishing relationship before making an ask

- Invite legislators to a council meeting, land use hearing, city project, a celebration, a ribbon cutting, festival, etc.
- Attend district events, community meetings, or listening sessions sponsored by your legislators



Follow-up Strategies

- Ongoing Communication
 - Update legislators on issues important to the community
 - Make sure they receive newsletters, meeting notices, etc.
- Post-Meeting Actions
 - Maintain relationships by sending thank you notes that recap discussion
 - Continue the relationship year round



Legislative Agendas for Municipalities

- Get involved in CML's Policy Committee
 - Updates from PC member
 - CML Box Score
- Policy implementation is key
- Prioritize
 - Be mindful of capacity/political capital



Crafting Your Advocacy Message

- Remember the ABC's
 - Accuracy
 - Brevity
 - Courtesy
- Be prepared
- Quantify impact



When and How to Get Involved

- CML Statehouse Reports & Action Alerts
- Meet with legislators during session
 - email/text/call
- Testify (local elected officials + staff)
- Utilize social media when possible
- Unsure? Ask us!



Ethical Considerations

- Understand Colorado Lobbying Rules
 - Review state laws on the Secretary of State's website
 - Check your municipality's specific lobbying and engagement policies
- When do you need a registered lobbyist?
<https://leg.colorado.gov/agencies/house-representatives/guidelines-lobbyists>



How CML Can Help

CML Advocacy Resources

- **Legislative Support**
 - Meeting facilitation & testimony guidance
 - Answers to legislative questions
- **Stay Informed**
 - *Weekly Statehouse Report*
 - *Bi-weekly CML Newsletter*
 - *Quarterly Colorado Municipalities* magazine
- **Online Tools**
 - CML Advocacy Hub - www.cml.org/advocacy-legal
 - Position papers, Box Score, legislative webinars
 - Annual Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipalities
- **Follow Us**
 - Facebook & X: @co_municipal



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Thank you!

Questions?

Contact our team anytime

Bev Stables – bstables@cml.org

Elizabeth Haskell – ehaskell@cml.org

Emma Donahue – edonahue@cml.org

Owen Brigner – obrigner@cml.org



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE