

RESOLUTION 2020-112  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
ADOPTING THE CITY'S 2021 LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA

WHEREAS, state and federal legislation may impact the citizens of Fort Collins, affecting their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, such state and federal legislation may also influence or impact the operations of municipal governments, including the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in providing input on proposed legislation; and

WHEREAS, Councilmembers and City staff are asked to state the City's policy position on legislation; and

WHEREAS, in addition, on occasion the City has an interest in providing input on proposed county, state and federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, establishing the City's policy position assists the members of the Legislative Review Committee in their review of, and response to, these matters, and assists City staff in communicating and advocating the City's policy position on the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

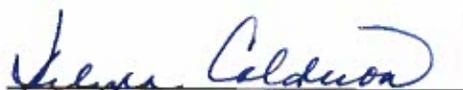
Section 2. That the policy statements contained in the attached 2021 Legislative Policy Agenda accurately reflect the City's policies on these issues.

Section 3. That the City Council hereby adopts the 2021 Legislative Policy Agenda attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by this reference.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 1st day of December, A.D. 2020.

  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk





**2021**  
**City of Fort Collins**  
**Legislative Policy Agenda**

**ADOPTED DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents .....	2
Home Rule and Local Control .....	6
Affordable Housing .....	7
Air Quality .....	7
Beer and Liquor .....	8
Broadband and Cable .....	8
Childcare .....	9
Climate .....	10
Development Review and Land Use Planning .....	10
Elections.....	11
Energy .....	11
Finance .....	12
Hazardous Materials Management .....	13
Health Care .....	13
Human Resources .....	14
Immigration and National Border Conditions .....	14
Marijuana .....	15
Municipal Court .....	16
Oil and Gas .....	16
Open Records and Data Management.....	17
Parks and Natural Areas, And Public Amenities .....	17
Public Health.....	18
Public Safety .....	19
Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction.....	20
Risk Management and Liability .....	21
Transportation.....	22
Urban Renewal and Downtown Development .....	23
Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater .....	23
City of Fort Collins Legislative Contacts .....	25

## INTRODUCTION

Fort Collins is a community of approximately 175,000 residents. Incorporated in 1873, the City has grown to become the commercial, educational and cultural hub of Northern Colorado. The City adopted a home rule charter in 1954 and operates under a Council-Manager form of government.

The City is a data-driven municipal organization that strives to fulfill its mission, “Exceptional service for an exceptional community”, through a vision of providing world-class municipal services through operational excellence and a culture of innovation. City leaders seek innovative solutions to issues facing the community and are often willing to leverage emerging technologies.

The Fort Collins City Council annually adopts a Policy Agenda ahead of the upcoming Colorado general Assembly session for the purpose of guiding legislators and staff in supporting community goals.

The Policy Agenda is broad set of policy statements meant to convey positions on issues that affect the quality of life and the governance of our community. It is structured to address areas of local concern and to also reflect the strategic planning that guides City of Fort Collins organizational resource allocation and decision making.

Fort Collins welcomes opportunities to work in partnership to leverage additional resources and participate in regional dialogue to achieve shared outcomes.

The City has identified seven outcome areas to ensure appropriate and effective resource allocation supporting the community’s priorities. Outcome areas include Culture and Recreation; Economic Health; Environmental Health; High Performing Government; Neighborhood Livability and Social Health; Safe Community; and Transportation and Mobility. The Policy Agenda identifies this alignment as it is important for City staff to ensure that advocacy supports specific desired outcomes.

## **CITY OF FORT COLLINS LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Legislative Review Committee (LRC) is a representative group of Council members that reviews and reacts to proposed legislation on behalf of City Council and the City. In taking a position on bills, the LRC interprets and applies the various policies that are included in the Legislative Policy Agenda.

Council Members presently serving on the Legislative Review Committee are:

- Councilmember Ross Cunniff, Chair
- Councilmember Ken Summers
- Councilmember Susan Gutowsky

### **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW PROCESS**

In 2021, the City of Fort Collins will rely heavily on the Legislative Policy Agenda, the Colorado Municipal League, and the Colorado Communities for Climate Action organizations for the majority of bill tracking and identification.

The City currently maintains memberships with the Colorado Municipal League and Colorado Communities for Climate Action - both groups maintain a fulltime presence at the capitol and engage in bill identification and advocacy consistent with their own adopted policy agendas. The City influences both groups' policy agendas, and while not perfectly consistent with our own, both generally advance and protect the City's interests.

Bills introduced in the Colorado General Assembly, United States Congress and federal, state or county regulations or rulemakings are reviewed by City staff. Bills, regulations and rules that are identified as having a potential impact on the City will be brought to the LRC for discussion. If LRC adopts a position, staff will convey that information to the appropriate state or federal representative and advocate for the adopted position.

Due to the time-sensitive nature of the General Assembly, if a bill's subject matter is addressed in this Policy Agenda, staff will proactively work with state and federal representatives to advance the City's position as expressed in this legislative policy agenda and other Council-adopted plans and policies. Staff will provide regular updates to the LRC and the full City Council regarding bills of consequence to the City and will consult with the LRC regarding bills for which direction under the adopted policy is unclear.

Staff liaisons support the LRC by contributing expertise in various areas of municipal service. The City Attorney's Office also reviews selected bills and may provide confidential legal analysis. Fort Collins also works with community partners to support local projects and staff collaborates with representatives of other municipalities on mutually-held priorities. Fort Collins actively seeks innovative partnerships to leverage positive outcomes for residents.

The City works closely with the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and the National League of Cities (NLC) on many legislative items facing cities. Fort Collins maintains membership with Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU) which represents 29 municipal utilities throughout the state on utility issues, Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) which represents municipalities on climate issues. In addition, Fort Collins actively participates in various trade organizations which represent specific areas of interest to City operations.

# 2021 LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

## HOME RULE AND LOCAL CONTROL

In order to consider and manage local conditions and desires, community issues and needs should be addressed locally. For this reason, home rule authority is of utmost importance to the City of Fort Collins. The City must be free to regulate local activities that primarily impact the area within the City's boundaries, such as the speed of local traffic or the effects of particular land use developments. The City also understands the accumulative effect of these and other activities have statewide ramifications that may call for statewide regulation, to effectively manage such things as overall growth and development in the state, traffic congestion in major transportation corridors and environmental quality.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports strengthening and preserving home rule authority of municipal governments.
2. Opposes State or Federal intervention in matters of local concern or matters that unnecessarily or adversely affect the City's ability to manage and operate pursuant to its home rule authority.
3. Opposes changes that increase (and supports changes that lessen) the burdens and limits on municipalities associated with public or other government records, public meetings and establishment of ethics standards and procedures, operation of municipal courts, and other matters of municipal operations or authority.
4. Supports enabling cities to choose the provision of services through private enterprise in a manner that fosters cost effective, sustainable, quality services.
5. Supports local control of the awarding of contracts and the accountability of local officials for those actions.
6. Opposes mandates that increase the complexity and cost of services without improving those services.
7. Supports collaborative regional efforts for the benefit of participating communities.
8. Supports potential legislation to clarify when an email exchange among elected officials constitutes a "meeting" subject to the requirements of the Colorado Open Meetings Law, including possible identification of a safe harbor within which elected officials can communicate by electronic mail without constituting a meeting in order to preserve and enable the use of this effective and now common-place technology within appropriate transparency requirements and other reasonable limitations.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

### *NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY AND SOCIAL HEALTH*

The City recognizes that the affordability and availability of quality housing is critical to a vibrant and diverse community.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports maintaining or enhancing funding for affordable housing throughout Colorado, including expanding the State Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, but not increases to unrelated fees.
2. Supports increasing local government's ability to regulate, manage or generate alternative sources of funding for affordable housing, including public-private partnerships.
3. Supports stronger amendments to construction defect laws to promote the construction of owner occupied-attached housing.
4. Supports creating an adequate supply of housing for all income levels and continued public and private sector support for these efforts.
5. Supports exploring expansion of Mobile Home Act to address rent pad stabilization, transparency in utility billing, and other livability issues..
6. Supports consideration of allowing inclusionary zoning ordinances to regulate the construction of new rental housing.
7. Supports funding and regional support for homelessness prevention, housing coordination and placement, and supportive services to assist with housing retention.
8. Supports the development of a statewide disparity study, in consultation with local governments, to assess the state and local impacts of systemic racism on multiple indicators, e.g., housing affordability, social inclusion and economic opportunity, educational attainment, mental and physical health, and more.

## **AIR QUALITY**

### *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

The City's Air Quality Plan reiterates the adopted City Plan strong overall goal "to protect human health and the environment through continuous improvements in air quality."

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports programs and policies that improve public health and air quality, including attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.
2. Supports local government authority to improve air quality beyond minimum State or Federal requirements.
3. Supports implementation of expanded air quality monitoring programs.
4. Supports adequate authority and resource at all levels of government to enforce air quality regulations.
5. Supports economic incentives, disincentives and other market approaches that promote low emission and zero emission alternatives to carbon-based fuels.
6. Supports strengthening vehicle and fuel efficiency standards, including programs and policies that promote the use of zero and low emission vehicles (e.g., electric) and the development of infrastructure needed to support the use of those vehicles.

## **BEER AND LIQUOR**

### *SAFE COMMUNITY*

The City issues and renews liquor licenses, enforces license rules, and holds hearings for liquor license violations.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports clarifying the qualifications for what types and purposes a business may obtain and use a state liquor license.

## **BROADBAND AND CABLE**

### *ECONOMIC HEALTH*

Reliable, high-speed, and affordable access to broadband and cable programming throughout the community remains a priority and a long-term goal for the City to ensure our economic vitality and allow for equal access for all residents and businesses.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports maintaining local franchising authority to preserve local governments' ability to negotiate in the public interest for cable channel space, institutional networks and public education and government (PEG) programming, and to charge franchise and PEG fees to support local programming and compensate for the use of rights-of-way.

2. Supports allowing communities to offer and/or partner to offer high speed internet, Wi-Fi and other enhanced telecommunication services to residents, schools, academic institutions and businesses.
3. Opposes restrictions on providing telecommunication services within City-owned facilities and on City property, and related restrictions on the manner in which such services may be financed, funded or structured.
4. Opposes infringement on municipalities' ability to compete in the broadband marketplace.
5. Opposes right of way use contrary to existing aesthetic policies and practices, including the addition of any above ground cabling.
6. Supports revisions to the Colorado Open Meetings Law to allow local jurisdictions that provide or arrange for telecommunications services or facilities to authorize executive sessions for discussion of matters pertaining to competition in the provision of telecommunication services and facilities (such as matters subject to negotiation, strategic planning, pricing, sales and marketing, and development planning), along with any other conforming statutory changes.

## **CHILDCARE**

### *ECONOMIC HEALTH, NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY AND SOCIAL HEALTH*

The City of Fort Collins recognizes the criticality of quality, affordable and accessible childcare for families and businesses in the community. The City's role is to help reduce barriers, increase capacity, leverage assets, identify and respond to childcare needs, and lead by example as an employer.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports programs and policies that improve the severe shortage of childcare openings with licensed providers.
2. Opposes regulations that increase the complexity and cost of childcare services, when those mandates are not clearly benefiting the health and safety of children and the community.
3. Supports increased funding for early childhood education.
4. Supports workforce development in the early care and education field, including scholarships, training programs and simplified credentialing processes.
5. Supports increased and sustainable public subsidization of childcare costs, including proposals to support living wages for providers and those that reduce the cost burden on families.

## CLIMATE

### *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

Making communities more resilient to disaster and the effects of a changing climate has become more important to Colorado communities over the last several years as natural disasters have caused significant human and property loss. Fort Collins has adopted aggressive emission reduction goals and supports policies and legislation helping communities and the state to achieve these goals and enhance the environment as detailed in the Climate Action Plan.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets, planning, mechanisms that support the gathering of data to inform greenhouse gas inventories, and implementation at all levels of government.
2. Supports market-based and regulatory mechanisms to reduce emissions, including incentives, enabling legislation, regulations and other mechanisms to achieve emissions reductions and increase resiliency in energy, waste reduction, transportation, and water sectors.
3. Supports protection of the Colorado self-audit law.
4. Supports policies that put people at the center of decision-making, minimizing disparities in growing the clean economy, especially for historically marginalized communities, and enhancing equitable outcomes for all.

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND LAND USE PLANNING

### *ECONOMIC HEALTH, NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY AND SOCIAL HEALTH*

Fort Collins has a well-established development review process, land use and building code; all of which align with local priorities.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports local governments' ability to obtain financial compensation for additional work of inspectors through fees or other means.
2. Supports funding for any state mandated inspection requirements.
3. Supports local governments' authority to determine development review and inspection standards, procedures, and timelines.
4. Encourages regional cooperation in land use, transportation planning, utility and water resource planning, and fostering sustainable development.
5. Supports prohibition to the annexation of land that is located within the boundaries of a Growth Management Area that was legally established by an

intergovernmental agreement between a municipality and a county by any municipality not a party to the agreement.

6. Supports municipal discretion concerning the imposition of development fees and requirements.
7. Supports retaining and/or increasing local authority related to the siting, design and regulation of wireless telecommunication facilities, including both small cell and macro sites.

## **ELECTIONS**

### *HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT*

The City of Fort Collins conducts municipal elections in April of odd years and special elections as required by the citizen (or Council) initiative process. The City is committed to conducting a clear, legal, and trustworthy elections process.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports all efforts that assist the City in conducting fair and transparent election processes according to the City's adopted procedures.
2. Supports process improvements that encourage voter participation.
3. Supports additional mechanisms to prevent election tampering, through increased cyber security around election data and the election processes.

## **ENERGY**

### *ECONOMIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

As a municipally-owned electric utility, the City is committed to providing affordable, reliable, and clean energy services to residents and businesses, as detailed in the Energy Policy.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports efforts that promote energy affordability, safety, and reductions in fossil-fuel generated consumption for residents, businesses and institutions.
2. Supports opportunities for energy efficiency, production, and operation in local economies.
3. Supports initiatives to facilitate transition from natural gas and petroleum use to beneficial electrification for thermal and transportation needs.

4. Opposes barriers to coordinating integrated planning for energy supply and demands.
5. Supports state and federal funding for resilience efforts to mitigate potential energy and climate related disruptions.
6. Supports federal and state incentives for renewable energy production, including wind power, and provide for “State Implementation Plan” credits for renewable energy (excluding residential wood burning and corn-based ethanol) and energy efficiency.
7. Opposes attempts to prevent or inhibit provision of municipal electric service in newly annexed areas.
8. Supports smart grid technology adoption and grid modernization.
9. Supports minimizing the environmental impacts of energy production.

## **FINANCE**

### ***HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT***

Strong fiscal planning, prudent debt management and investment policies, and preservation of the City’s revenue base are vital in maintaining and improving the City’s financial health. Considering the known impacts of legislation on the City’s business community can help foster a stronger tax base and retain a strong quality of life.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports expanding municipal authority to establish alternative funding mechanisms, including financing tools such as public improvement fees (PIF) and certificates of participation (COP).
2. Supports increased funding for K-12 and higher education, specifically Colorado State University and Front Range Community College.
3. Encourages the equitable treatment of sales and use taxes to residents and corporations residing or doing business in Colorado by limiting exemptions.
4. Supports the equitable distribution sales tax collections on e-commerce transactions.
5. Opposes efforts that inhibit the City’s ability and authority to increase its revenue base (sales, use and property taxes).

6. Supports protections that do not unnecessarily restrict the investments of government entities.

### **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

*SAFE COMMUNITY; ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

It is an important concern of the City to safeguard Fort Collins' health and environmental safety by reducing risks from the unauthorized release of hazardous materials or hazardous waste.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports strengthening the enforcement of hazardous materials regulations.
2. Supports increasing diversion of hazardous waste from landfills.
3. Support City's ability and authority to review and approve locations of facilities that use or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste.

### **HEALTH CARE**

*NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY & SOCIAL HEALTH; ECONOMIC HEALTH; HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT*

The City recognizes that the rapidly increasing cost of health care and health insurance is a barrier to real wage growth, equitable health outcomes, and economic gains among many residents of Fort Collins. The City further recognizes that employer-sponsored health care and varying state regulations that are not consistent across the United States have resulted in the system we have today.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports health care policy that provides single-payer, not-for-profit health care to all residents.
2. Supports the portability of health care plans across employers and state-lines.
3. Supports health care policies that end the practice in the United States of employers being the primary source of health insurance for residents.
4. Supports policies that allocate costs to individuals and their families proportional to their ability to pay.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### ***HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT***

The City of Fort Collins is committed to the health, safety and well-being of its employees. The City works diligently to be efficient and responsible stewards of tax dollars ensuring that employee compensation and benefits are meaningful, equitable, market-based, and competitive. The City believes that its residents, through their elected representatives on City Council, are in the best position to determine appropriate City employee compensation, benefits, appeal rights related to disciplinary action and policies.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports the City's ability and authority to make decisions on employment issues, including collective bargaining, arbitration, compensation, appeal rights related to disciplinary action and benefits to further an equitable work environment.
2. Supports the development and expansion to the City's ability to determine how best to manage employee health and benefit programs.
3. Supports current state funding levels for police officers' and dispatchers' death and disability benefits made available by Fire & Police Pension Association of Colorado.
4. Opposes proposals that would allow employees and/or retirees with defined contribution or deferred plans to move into defined benefit plans if there is a cost to local government.
5. Opposes proposals that would limit the City's ability to test job applicants for presence of alcohol or controlled substances or employees at work for impairment due to consumption of alcohol, marijuana, or other controlled substances or to set limits related to such testing.

## **IMMIGRATION AND NATIONAL BORDER CONDITIONS**

### ***NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY & SOCIAL HEALTH; SAFE COMMUNITY; HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT***

The City recognizes that federal issues pertaining to civil rights at the United States' borders and immigration law more broadly have wide impacts that can directly impact the day to day life of Fort Collins residents. It can also impact those residents' willingness and comfort with engaging with local public safety agencies and other key service providers.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports the humane treatment of persons who are detained by Immigration Officials and the rapid resolution of legal proceedings to determine their status.

2. Supports pathways to legal immigration into the United States that is sustainable in the long term.
3. Supports regulations and laws that support the use of employment eligibility verification by employers
4. Supports the 2011 ICE memorandum on “sensitive locations” limiting its immigration enforcement actions and arrests at the following locations so as to preserve the health, safety and education of all residents:
  - Hospitals;
  - Schools and scholastic bus stops (pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools, post-secondary schools, colleges and universities, and other learning institutions such as vocational or trade schools);
  - Churches, synagogues, mosques, or other institutions of worship, such as buildings rented for the purpose of religious services;
  - The site of a funeral, wedding, or other public religious ceremony; and
  - Public demonstrations, such as a march, rally, or parade.
5. Supports regulations and laws that add wage and labor protection requirements for workers currently excluded from minimum wages and overtime protections, breaks, and mandatory rest days.
6. Support de minimus exemptions to Verification of lawful presence CO ST § 24-76.5-103 by adding a new section (3)(f) to the State law that exempts the City from following the verification process “For any local public benefit that is valued at less than \$500.00.”
7. Supports local control over how state funding for healthcare, affordable housing and food security is allocated to meet the needs of all residents and their families regardless of immigration status.

## **MARIJUANA**

### ***SAFE COMMUNITY***

After the State’s legalization of medical and recreational marijuana, the City of Fort Collins created local marijuana business licensing programs and adopted ordinances to balance the needs and desires of the community related to legal marijuana. The City’s licensing program supports the state dual-licensing system for medical and recreational marijuana businesses.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports communities’ ability to raise necessary funds to maintain public safety and enforce marijuana possession laws.
2. Supports additional state marijuana enforcement resources, especially for field enforcement.
3. Opposes under-21 access to marijuana.

4. Supports local opt-in provisions regarding new permits and/or licenses or other marijuana-related activities allowed under state law.
5. Supports further development of laws and regulations to stop the proliferation of gray and black-market marijuana while coordinating with the federal level to help address safety through research and legal banking, and to reduce conflict between Colorado and federal laws.

## **MUNICIPAL COURT**

### *SAFE COMMUNITY; HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT*

The Fort Collins Municipal Court is responsible for administering the operations of the judicial branch of City government according to the City Charter and ordinances adopted by City Council. Cases adjudicated in Municipal Court include traffic violations, misdemeanors, civil infractions, and civil cases. Generally, cases are brought to Municipal Court by Fort Collins Police Services, Colorado State University Police Department, Animal Control, other City departments, and private residents.

Therefore, the City:

1. Opposes limitations on the authority of municipalities to enforce their own ordinances in municipal courts and increased procedural requirements or limitations on municipal court proceedings, such as limitations on bonding requirements related to municipal court warrants and sentencing options.
2. Opposes the imposition of state surcharges on municipal court fines for the purpose of funding state programs.
3. Opposes any unfunded mandates imposed on municipal courts by the state.

## **OIL AND GAS**

### *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

Fort Collins residents have expressed continuing concern about the human and environmental impacts from local oil and gas development. Additionally, community members have expressed concern over transported emissions from oil and gas operations outside of City limits that contribute to local ozone formation.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports local authority to regulate oil and gas operations as granted in 2019 through Senate Bill 19-181, which includes the ability to regulate the siting of new development and surface impacts.
2. Supports scientific studies that evaluate impacts of oil and gas operations on human health, the environment and property values.

3. Supports air pollution monitoring, emission characterization and modeling studies to better understand the contributions of the oil and gas industry to air pollution.
4. Supports the current formula allocation of State Severance Tax and Federal Mineral Lease (FML) revenue to impacted jurisdictions so that they might address impacts from resource extraction.
5. Supports collaboration with operators, state agencies and local governments on oil and gas development within and adjacent to the City's Growth Management Area, and on City-owned properties outside of City limits.
6. Supports legislation that protects public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources in consideration of surface owners and mineral owner rights.

## **OPEN RECORDS AND DATA MANAGEMENT**

### *HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT*

The City is the collector and keeper of hundreds of datasets and recorded information and is legally bound and responsible for responding to Open Record requests. The City supports transparency and open data initiatives.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports clear requirements that allow for reasonable requests and timeframes to provide information that is legally available.
2. Opposes mandates that include unrealistic timeframes and requests that require additional staff time with no means to recover costs.
3. Supports cybersecurity efforts that protect the City, consumers, and infrastructure.
4. Supports data privacy regulations, prohibiting the sharing of residents' data with federal agencies without a court-authorized subpoena, warrant or other valid order.

## **PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS, AND PUBLIC AMENITIES**

### *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH; CULTURE AND RECREATION*

The City is committed to providing the community with excellent natural areas, parks, recreation facilities, trails, cultural centers, and engaging programs. Our residents and visitors enjoy improved health, less crime a higher quality of life, and a greater sense of community because of the quality of quality natural areas, parks and recreation programs, and other public spaces.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports maintaining or enhancing funding for parks, trails, forestry, horticulture, natural areas, cultural centers, and recreation services and facilities.
2. Supports local discretion to use Great Outdoors Colorado and other sources for funding municipal government projects addressing local needs and priorities.
3. Supports equal or greater funding levels of Great Outdoors Colorado grants awarded to municipalities
4. Supports maintaining or enhancing tax incentives to private landowners for voluntary land conservation.
5. Supports protection of the Cache la Poudre River and local urban streams.
6. Supports programs and funding for equitable access to public space and services.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### *SAFE COMMUNITY; NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY AND SOCIAL HEALTH*

The City of Fort Collins strives to be a healthy, livable City that is a welcoming and inclusive community for all, including residents who may be experiencing the challenges of homelessness, mental health issues, addiction, depression, and other challenging life situations. The City also supports primary prevention strategies to reduce the injuries and deaths associated with gun violence.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports maintaining or increasing the funds available through the state and federal government for community-focused non-profits to provide human services and housing support.
2. Supports providing communities with resources to address chronic homelessness, supportive housing, mental health, and substance abuse, including tobacco prevention programs.
3. Supports a standardized statewide approach to addressing homelessness.
4. Supports statewide efforts to enforce retail tobacco sales compliance.
5. Supports legislation or regulatory efforts that restrict and better ensure the prevention of firearm purchases of those individuals convicted of a violent criminal offense and those who have been involuntarily committed to a mental institution or are otherwise suffering from a severe mental condition.
6. Supports public health research and necessary funding related to the root causes and effects of gun violence to better inform prevention strategies.

7. Supports legislation that greatly reduces or eliminates the incidence of smoking and vaping. Specific measures may include the elimination of flavored vaping cartridges, an increase in the legal smoking age, state-wide retail licensing for tobacco and vaping products, and identical treatment of vaping and e-cigarette products to traditional forms of tobacco.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### *SAFE COMMUNITY*

The Fort Collins City Council recognizes the critical importance of maintaining public safety, providing a safe environment, and protecting the lives and property of the residents of Fort Collins on a daily basis as well as through preparedness and resiliency planning efforts.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports greater protections to victims of crime, regardless of immigration status.
2. Supports the City's right to use camera enforcement of traffic laws, reduce operational restrictions on the use of camera enforcement, and increases the fines associated with violations.
3. Supports protocols and funding for shared, statewide emergency response communications, including supporting Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA) and other efforts to resolve 911 diversity issues, such as through the addition of a bilingual 911 provider.
4. Opposes increased 911 provider tariffs without clear documentation of cost needs.
5. Opposes initiatives that have the potential to compromise officer safety.
6. Supports minimum training criteria and professional mediator certification that formally legitimizes the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).
7. Opposes municipal liability for prisoners' self-inflicted wounds while in police custody or detention facilities.
8. Opposes efforts to undermine local control or enforcement of activities on public property.
9. Supports a state fire code, the code of choice being the International Building and Fire Code, and allowing municipalities to adopt their own amendments.
10. Opposes limits to local enforcement of the International Fire Code as adopted with local amendments, imposing inspection requirements or preventing collection of permit or inspection fees as required by the local jurisdiction.

11. Opposes restricting any local jurisdiction from requiring the installation of fire sprinklers.
12. Supports the City's ability to prohibit the use and sale of fireworks and allow counties and fire districts to prohibit and otherwise control fireworks within City boundaries.
13. Supports efforts to reduce abuse and improper disposal of over-the-counter and prescription drugs.
14. Supports exclusive digital communication networks for public safety personnel during emergencies.
15. Opposes the reduction and loss of qualified immunity for government officials.
16. Supports practical standards related to use of force which appropriately balance the rights and safety of Fort Collins residents with the safety of first responders.
17. Supports increased reporting of crimes by refraining from inquiries about legal immigration status unless such inquiry is pertinent to a crime; supports continuation of non-restrictive U-Visa certification policies that allow victims of crime to access important legal protections.
18. Supports continued use of body-worn cameras, protections for public recordings of police, and the maintenance and reporting of such data that does not compromise police operations or public safety.

## **RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE REDUCTION**

### *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

The City of Fort Collins endorses a multi-pronged approach to waste minimization that includes recycling, re-use, composting, and source reduction, and which also applies Sustainable Materials Management principles such as redesigning systems to reduce pollution and waste. Additionally, the City has adopted a goal of diverting 75 percent of community waste by 2020; 90 percent by 2025, and 100 percent by 2030.

Therefore, the City:

1. Encourages integrated, sustainable waste management planning and implementation policy, including but not limited to centralized data collection requirements, local hauler licensing and initiatives to reach statewide diversion targets.
2. Supports a regulatory authority role for local government to ensure the efficient management of recyclable material and solid waste, including application of laws that prescribe the use of county-funded disposal facilities for certain types of wastes, and other local bans on landfill disposal for certain types of debris.

3. Encourages “buy recycled” or “environmentally preferable purchasing” policies for government agency procurement.
4. Supports incentives and funding for programs that promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling, and development of related infrastructure.
5. Supports continued or increased funding for programs to collect and monitor data on trash volumes, rates of diversion from landfill disposal and economic impacts of recycling.
6. Supports greater producer responsibility initiatives, such as “take back” regulations that assist consumers to appropriately recycle packaging materials or certain products (e.g., cardboard and expanded polystyrene packaging, single-use plastic shopping bags, or mattresses).
7. Opposes CRS Section 25-17-104, which currently limits local authority to regulate packaging materials (e.g., single-use plastic bags).
8. Supports establishing a refundable deposit fee on beverage containers to increase recovery rates and pay for recycling programs.
9. Supports state and regional economic tools for existing and new businesses that provide end markets for recycled materials in support of a domestic, circular economy.
10. Supports incentives and programs to encourage the use of compost, developing end markets to help divert organic material from landfills (food and yard waste).

## **RISK MANAGEMENT AND LIABILITY**

### *HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT*

The City of Fort Collins recognizes the dual purpose of the workers’ compensation system - providing benefits promptly to injured employees in a cost-effective manner and minimizing costly litigation. Council also recognizes that the City’s self-insurance program is a cost-efficient method to insure workers’ compensation and that government intervention or taxation can negatively impact the City.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports improving administrative efficiency of the Division of Workers’ Compensation.
2. Opposes increased insurance premium costs to employers.
3. Opposes administrative burdens or taxes to self-insurance programs.
4. Supports limits to insurance claim litigation.

5. Opposes limiting the City's options and ability to manage workers' compensation claims; including actions like removing existing offsets to workers' compensation benefits or limiting the City's ability to designate treating physicians.
6. Opposes efforts to presumptively expand workers' compensation coverage to illnesses or injuries that are not work related.
7. Opposes efforts to reduce or weaken protections against liability through governmental immunity or other statutory provisions.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### *TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY*

The City actively promotes the safety and ease of traveling to, from and throughout the community using a variety of modes of transportation. Additionally, the City's policy is to encourage the use of bicycling, transit and walking whenever appropriate.

Therefore, the City:

1. 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.
2. Supports alternative methods of funding transportation infrastructure needs.
3. Support funding the analysis and implementation of inter- and intra-regional transit linkages, including future commuter rail connectivity.
4. Encourages flexibility in federal funding and regulations in order to better meet the needs of small to medium-size communities.
5. Supports guaranteed levels of federal funding for transportation and allocation of all federal motor fuel taxes and other federal transportation trust funds for their intended transportation purposes.
6. Supports broadening the definition of the gasoline tax to a "fuel tax" that encompasses other fuel options as they become more prevalent.
7. Supports enhanced ability to implement railroad quiet zones in municipalities and a reduction in train horn decibel and duration requirements.
8. Opposes divesting highway roads in urban areas from the state and making them the sole responsibility of local jurisdictions without adequate compensation for ongoing maintenance.
9. Supports safe operation of railroads through timely track inspections, joint training and communication between railroad and emergency personnel, and the use of safe equipment.

10. Supports funding for the build out of Interstate 25 improvements.
11. Opposes reductions in federal dollars for bicycling, transit and walking.
12. Supports local control of public roads, pedestrian paths, and bike lanes to address all modes of transportation.

## **URBAN RENEWAL AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT**

### *ECONOMIC HEALTH*

The state of Colorado has empowered local authorities to use Urban Renewal Authorities (URA) and Downtown Development Authorities (DDA) to encourage downtown revitalization and the elimination of blight. The main funding tool for URAs and DDAs is Tax Increment Financing (TIF) generated through property taxes. In its best intention, urban renewal and downtown revitalization restores economic vitality and improves the safety of a designated area, with limited financial impact to other government jurisdictions.

Therefore, the City:

1. Opposes limitations on municipalities' ability to utilize financing mechanisms such as TIF.
2. Opposes efforts to increase influence of non-City jurisdictions over the use of TIF within City limits.
3. Supports maintaining the ability of downtown development authorities to utilize the full offering of tools and powers provided in the DDA Act.
4. Supports maintaining the ability of Urban Renewal Authorities to utilize the full offering of tools and powers provided for in state statute.

## **WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER**

### *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH; SAFE COMMUNITY*

The City operates a water utility, a wastewater utility, and a stormwater utility in a financially sound, reliable, safe, and environmentally responsible manner. The availability of adequate water supplies is critical to the City and is managed by the Water Supply and Demand Management Policy, the Water Efficiency Plan, and other water-related codes, rules, regulations, plans, and policies.

Therefore, the City:

1. Supports expanding the authority delegated to the state to administer federally mandated water, stormwater, and wastewater environmental regulatory programs.
2. Supports reasonable water quality regulations that are cost effective and can show identifiable benefits.

3. Supports municipal flexibility to manage instream flows to preserve or improve the natural environment, while protecting the integrity of Colorado's appropriation doctrine, protecting the City's water supplies, and preventing injury to other water users.
4. Opposes unfunded mandates.
5. Opposes barriers to financing for water conservation projects.
6. Supports funding for the recovery and treatment of the Fort Collins water supply, its watershed, and other waterways impacted by natural disasters and human-caused events, including fires.
7. Supports enhanced municipal authority to protect and increase the flexibility and resiliency of the City's water supplies under Colorado's appropriation doctrine, without causing injury to other water users and without adversely affecting instream flows or the natural environment. This includes potential bills related to treated water providers being able to more easily share treated water supplies between their distribution systems.
8. Supports reducing legal barriers and clarifying legal ambiguities related to water reuse and greywater projects, while protecting the integrity of Colorado's appropriation doctrine, protecting the City's water supplies, and preventing injury to other water users.
9. Supports streamlining federal and state permitting requirements for water development projects that increase coordination between permitting agencies, reduces administrative and financial burdens on permit applicants, and ensures robust and enforceable environmental protections.
10. Supports the enlargement of Halligan Reservoir as a common-sense, cost-effective, and environmentally-beneficial approach to meet Fort Collins Utilities' future water supply needs.

**CITY OF FORT COLLINS LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS**

<b>Legislative Review Committee</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>District/Title</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Councilmember Ross Cunniff, Chair	District 5	rcunniff@fcgov.com	(970) 420-7398
Councilmember Ken Summers	District 3	ksummers@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6878
Councilmember Susan Gutowsky	District 1	sgutowski@fcgov.com	(970) 215-6308
Darin Atteberry	City Manager	datteberry@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6505
Kelly DiMartino	Deputy City Manager	kdimartino@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2028
Carrie Daggett	City Attorney	cdaggett@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2463
Tyler Marr Honore Depew	Legislative Staff	tmarr@fcgov.com hdepew@fcgov.com	(970) 416-4205 (970) 224-6094

<b>Legislative Staff Liaison Members</b>				
<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Affordable Housing and Social Sustainability	Beth Sowder	Social Sustainability Director	bsowder@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6752
Air Quality	Cassie Archuleta	Air Quality Program Manager	carchuleta@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2648
Broadband	Colman Keane	Broadband Director	ckeane@fcgov.com	(610) 224-6001
Cable Television Franchise	Carson Hamlin	Cable Television Manager	chamlin@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6510
Childcare	Adam Molzer	City Grants and Community Partnerships Coordinator	amolzer@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6757
Climate	Michelle Finchum Lindsay Ex	Interim Climate Program Manager Interim Housing Manager	Mfinchum@fcgov.com lex@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2327 (970) 224-6143
Environmental Protection	Lucinda Smith	Environmental Services Director	lsmith@fcgov.com	(970) 224-6085
Elections, Liquor and Marijuana Licensing	Delynn Coldiron	City Clerk	decoldiron@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2995
Energy	Tim McCollough, John Phelan	Light and Power, Deputy Utilities Director Energy Services, Senior Manager	tmccollough@fcgov.com m_jphelan@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2622 (970) 416-2539

Finance	Travis Storin	Interim Chief Financial Officer	tstorin@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6795
Economic Health	Josh Birks	Economic Health Director	jbirks@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6324
Fire Protection and HAZMAT Mgmt	Tom DeMint	Division Chief, Poudre Fire Authority	tdemint@poudre-fire.org	(970) 566-7274
Human Resources	Teresa Roche	Chief Human Resources Officer	troche@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6826
Natural Areas, Open Lands and Cache la Poudre River Issues	John Stokes	Interim Community Services Director	jstokes@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6263
Building Services	Rich Anderson	Chief Building Official	randerson@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2748
Parks and Recreation	Mike Calhoon, Bob Adams	Director of Parks, Director of Recreation	mcalhoon@fcgov.com badams@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2079 (970) 221-6354
Planning and Land Use	Paul Sizemore	Interim Community Development and Neighborhood Services Director	psizemore@fcgov.com	(970) 224-6140
Public Safety	Greg Yeager	Deputy Chief of Police	gyeager@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2185
Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction	Caroline Mitchell	Environmental Program Manager	cmitchell@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6288
Risk Management	Claire Goodwin	Safety, Security, and Risk Management Director	cgoodwin@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6774
Stormwater	Theresa Connor, Andrew Gingerich	Interim Utilities Director, Water Field Operations Director	tconnor@fcgov.com agingerich@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6671 (970) 221-6232
Transportation	Dean Klingner	Planning, Development and Transportation Deputy Director	dklingner@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2029
Utilities Customer Connections and Water Conservation	Lisa Rosintoski	Customer Connections, Deputy Utilities Director	lrosintoski@fcgov.com	(970) 416-2432
Water Supply and Quality	Theresa Connor	Interim Utilities Director	tconnor@fcgov.com	(970) 221-6671