



2020 LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE LOVELAND CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA

CITY OF LOVELAND, COLORADO

Loveland is a community of approximately 80,000 residents, located at the foot of the Rocky Mountains along Colorado's Front Range. It is central to the Northern Colorado region at the intersection of Interstate 25 and US Highway 34. Our community is rich with natural beauty, accentuated by the Big Thompson River and Lake Loveland at its heart. Our trails and parks systems showcase the natural beauty of the City, with Loveland receiving national recognition for art and sculpture.

Loveland operates under the Council-Manager form of government and the citizens passed their Home Rule Charter in May 1996. The City of Loveland provides a full range of services including: fiber, solid waste, electricity, water, sewer, storm water, fire, police, parks, recreation, street maintenance, airport, transit, library, museum, theater, public art, tourism and other traditional municipal services.

Sales tax, property tax and fees for services are the primary sources of revenue for the General Fund. Loveland collects its own sales tax. While citizens retain the right to vote on all new taxes, they voted in November 2011 to allow the City to keep revenues in excess of the TABOR revenue limit through 2024. Any excess revenues are restricted to specific purposes (i.e. parks, fire, and police).

POLICY AGENDA

This Executive Summary of the Loveland City Council Legislative Policy Agenda contains highlights of policy statements for use by Council Members and staff in approaching legislative issues. The City of Loveland is an active member of the Colorado Municipal League and National League of Cities.

LOVELAND CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Jacki Marsh
Richard Ball
Dave Clark
John Fogle
Rob Molloy
Steve Olson
Don Overcash
Andrea Samson
Kathi Wright

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Councilor Don Overcash
Councilor John Fogle
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BUDGET

THE CITY OPPOSES STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES NOT FUNDED BY THOSE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Managing scarce resources is difficult at every level of government. The City of Loveland supports intergovernmental partnerships and collaborative problem solving. We are not in a position to be able to absorb the costs of programs mandated by federal and state governments.

LOCAL CONTROL

LOVELAND STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PRESERVATION OF LOCAL CONTROL

We strongly support local control and home rule. The citizens of home rule municipal governments are entitled through the State Constitution to maximum flexibility and discretion in levying taxes and fees, determining community goals,

implementing local policy, and delivering public services. The City of Loveland can be most responsive to its citizens through the preservation of home rule authority, particularly as it pertains to labor/management relations, local police powers, the provision of municipal utility services and the administration of land use policy.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- The use of Federal and State Financing tools to develop a robust and diverse housing stock
- Supporting our local school districts efforts to preserve fiscal and operational autonomy
- Utilizing existing easement authority to support the development of broadband internet
- Preserving local control during the implementation of small cell wireless to enable 5G service

TAX POLICY

Loveland advocates for a complete reevaluation of all of the components of Colorado's tax structure to arrive at a comprehensive solution to more appropriately address the impact of economic fluctuations equitably across all functional areas within the State budget. The burden of state-imposed tax relief should not be borne by local government. Additionally, we support policies which expand the capabilities of value-creating local finance mechanisms such as development authorities.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS

Sales tax dollars fund critical public services in Loveland and in communities across the nation. Loveland supports the equitable application of sales tax requirements to web-based and brick and mortar retailers alike, helping provide the support for necessary public services in our community.

MOTOR VEHICLE USE TAX

Loveland supports the current distribution of the Motor Vehicle use tax as allocated to the jurisdiction in which the vehicle is registered so that the tax can support the street maintenance effort where the vehicle is domiciled. Loveland supports continued utilization of FASTER fees to support local transit and transportation priorities.



HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

LOVELAND SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR ALL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

Transportation is a priority. Loveland advocates for the development of regional transportation funding sources to assist with the solutions to the interstate and state highway infrastructure deficiencies. Loveland also supports expanding the authority of local taxing bodies to generate local matching funds for transportation improvements.

Congressional action on Federal transportation funding, particularly regional aviation is essential to the economic health of Loveland and Northern Colorado. The funding strategy within the FAA Programs are currently a one size fits all approach that could be changed to aligned with true airport activity levels.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- Evolution of Vehicle Gas Tax to include electric and alternate fuel components

WATER & POWER RESOURCES

Loveland depends on water supplied from the Big Thompson River, the Colorado-Big Thompson Project and the Windy Gap Project. Our ability to fully develop and utilize these resources is crucial to our community's sustainability and success.

BASIN OF ORIGIN

Any transfer of native flows from Northern Colorado to other basins must compensate the native basin. Any basin of origin bill must not unduly inhibit Loveland's ability to acquire unappropriated agricultural water rights and change the use of any such rights for inclusion in Loveland's water supply system.

WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT

Water quality proposals must not infringe on Loveland's ability to seek water court protection of its water rights. Loveland supports policies designed to encourage water supply development within the existing framework of Colorado water law.

WELL REGULATION

Well regulation proposals must ensure that junior well depletions are fully replaced so that senior water rights are fully protected.

PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

Loveland opposes any efforts to revise the administration of water rights that would change the stream flow regime for rivers and could damage Loveland's critical water supply planning efforts.

Items of Special Interest Include:

- Buy & Dry vs. Alternative Transfer Method
- Regional Supply Coalition Options

FEDERAL CARBON REGULATIONS

The federal carbon regulation process is currently in flux. Nonetheless, the City supports and demonstrates a strong commitment to sound environmental stewardship. We continue to invest in clean energy production through the Platte River Power Authority whose supply portfolio includes increased solar and wind generation. Loveland opposes any environmental regulations approved through Executive Action that circumvent the legislative process.