



2024 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, recycling, electricity, water, sewer, stormwater, fire, police, parks, recreation, street maintenance, airport, transit, library, museum, theater, public art, tourism and other 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. Citizens retain the right to vote on all new taxes and in November 2011, they voted to allow the City to keep revenues in excess of the TABOR limits through 2024. Any excess revenues are restricted for 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
Erin Black
Troy Krenning
Laura Light-Kovacs
Dana Foley
John Mallo
Patrick McFall
Steve Olson
Andrea Samson

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mayor Jacki Marsh
Councilor Erin Black
Councilor Laura Light-Kovacs
Councilor Andrea Samson

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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 by being granted local flexibility when implementing state guidelines and through the preservation of home rule authority.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- The use of Federal, State, and local Financing tools to develop a robust and diverse housing stock.
- Supporting our local school district's efforts to preserve fiscal and operational autonomy.
- Prioritizing collaboration with regional and state governmental agencies before resorting to broad mandates with cross-jurisdictional impacts.
- The City of Loveland supports policies that place diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging at the center of decision-making.

TAX POLICY

Loveland advocates for a complete reevaluation of all the components of Colorado's tax structure to arrive at a comprehensive solution to 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, and support measures that improve the sustainability of our small business community.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS

Loveland supports the equitable application of sales tax requirements to web-based and brick and mortar retailers alike. Loveland endorses the provision of additional state resources to assist with sales tax audits for online retailers, helping provide 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. Loveland additionally supports the state of Colorado in balancing the tax burden of electric and gas vehicles, such as the evolution of the Vehicle Gas Tax to include electric and alternate fuel components.

HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

LOVELAND SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR ALL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

Loveland prioritizes maintaining and improving existing transportation infrastructure to ensure robust regional commerce and the safety of motorists. We advocate for the development of regional transportation funding sources to assist with the solutions to interstate and state highway infrastructure deficiencies. We also encourage support of transit and active funding modes for infrastructure and operations. 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 align with true airport activity levels.

WATER, POWER, & FIBER OPTIC RESOURCES

Loveland operates municipal water, wastewater, electric power, and fiber broadband utilities. Loveland aims to provide best-in-class utility services at reasonable prices while protecting and conserving natural resources.

WATER RIGHTS

Loveland depends on decreed water rights from the Big Thompson and Colorado River basins to provide affordable, clean and safe drinking water. Loveland is opposed to any state or federal bill or program that would restrict or impair the ability of Northern Water Colorado Water Conservancy District from diverting and using their full decreed allocation from the Colorado River basin.

WATER CONSERVATION

Loveland is engaged in a detailed review of its water conservation programs, and is opposed to statewide mandates aimed at restricting or limiting the landscaping choices and options of local governments and developers. Loveland's current priorities and concerns include: wildfire impacts to source water quality, Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) monitoring and remediation, revisions to the EPA Lead and Copper Rule, continued decreases in nutrient discharge limits, and stream temperature monitoring and treatment. Finally, Loveland supports Colorado's proposed "gap" dredge and fill permit program for state regulation of those waters and wetlands historically protected by the US EPA under the Clean Water Act.

BROADBAND

Loveland offers high-quality municipal fiber known as Pulse that provides affordable, accessible, and reliable fiber broadband services to Loveland and surrounding communities. We urge the renewal and continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which is expected to end in April 2024 without action by Congress

POWER

Loveland is one of the four municipal owners of Platte River Power Authority (PRPA), which provides 100% of Loveland's electric generation and transmission requirements for its municipal customers. Loveland supports PRPA's Integrated Resource Plan and its commitment to reduce reliance on fossil fuel generation consistent with all existing state and federal requirements. Like PRPA, Loveland views affordability, reliability, and lower-carbon generation as important steps to enable Colorado to achieve its greenhouse gas reduction targets. Loveland supports federal efforts to streamline the environmental review process for new transmission corridors necessary for embracing renewable dispatchable energy resources.