



City Council

December 17, 2024
Packet Addendum #1

2024⁵ City of Louisville Legislative Agenda

Purpose and Use

The legislative agenda serves as a guiding document for the City's engagement in legislative affairs and is a resource for staff and council.

Members of the City Council may represent the City in regional efforts such as the Colorado Municipal League policy committee, Denver Regional Council of Governments, Northwest Mayors and Commissioners Coalition, and more, and may be asked to guide or express positions on legislation.

If this legislative agenda clearly states the City's position, council members may express support, opposition, or recommend amendments. When this occurs, council members should share with all of council during council reports at the next regular council meeting. If the issue is not clearly addressed in this legislative agenda, council members should seek City Council approval before taking any formal action (such as signing a letter) to support or oppose legislation.

Home Rule/Local Control

The City supports local control and municipal government home rule authority. In most cases, local problems are best addressed at the local level and the current authority and powers of municipal governments such as land use, zoning, personnel matters, sales tax, etc. should not be diminished. However, certain issues require statewide and multi-jurisdictional response, which are best addressed through early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with local municipalities.

Positions:

- The City urges state officials to respect Colorado's tradition of local control and allow municipal officials to address local problems at the local level.
- The City generally opposes state legislation that creates unfunded mandates on local municipalities without state funding or other sources of revenue. Unfunded mandates shift the cost burden of state mandates onto local governments, limiting a municipality's ability to provide locally identified government services.
- The City supports liquor and marijuana licensing that allows for local decision-making and collaboration between local and state licensing entities, including but not limited to local opt-in provisions for any new permitting or licensing requirements.
- The City supports maintaining local government authority to regulate oil and gas development at the local level, and the establishment of state rules and regulations that reflect such authority.
- The City supports legislation that provides local governments with additional flexibility, resources, and/or guidance in meeting the challenges of ensuring technology and digital resources are fully accessible.

Community Recovery and Resiliency

The Marshall Fire served as a sobering reminder that all communities in Colorado, regardless of socioeconomic status, must be prepared for climate disasters at all times. While the City continues to recover from the Marshall Fire, the community is working together to increase resilience and preparedness for the next disaster. Ongoing state action and investment is needed in order to mitigate future disasters and ensure our communities are

prepared when disaster strikes. The front-end investment in community resiliency will reduce the state, local, and federal costs of the severe climate disasters we are experiencing today.

Positions:

- The City supports the taskforce to explore a statewide minimum building code for wildfire risk reduction that addresses the expansion of the wildland urban interface into the plains areas, consider suburban community building patterns, and establish a minimum standard that can be applied across various environments and exceeded based on specific geographic needs.
- The City supports increased wildfire mitigation funding for local communities in the plains areas to establish and maintain risk reduction measures on public lands.
- The City of Louisville supports insurance reform that helps residents be better prepared and able to recover from climate disasters, while promoting the homeowners', renter's, and landlord's roles and responsibility in securing insurance coverage. Examples of desired insurance reform include legislation that:
 - Reduces system-wide underinsurance
 - Improves the transparency of the coverage gap that a private property owner or renter has with their existing policy
 - Eliminates the practice of insurance companies requiring contents itemization in total losses to receive the contents' coverage stated in a policy
 - Supports regulating the loss ratio for property and casualty insurance so that premiums paid go to cover losses and do not become excessive
 - Supports exploration of reinsurance for disaster impacts
 - Addresses insurance availability to ensure community members have access to insurance
 - Supports the exploration of public insurance to address availability
- [The City recommends](#) CDPHE ~~should~~ establish standards for acceptable levels of contaminants in water systems, soils, homes, businesses and schools. Without these standards there is no FEMA reimbursement opportunity or insurance standards for coverage.

Tax and Finance Policy

The City supports a fair and consistent state tax policy that preserves and expands the authority of local governments and opposes state exemptions that erode municipal sales taxes, use taxes, property taxes, and other revenue sources.

Positions:

- The City supports fiscally responsible government spending, but believes it is important to address the layers of constraints on state and local government budgets resulting from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).
- The City supports equitable sharing with municipalities of existing and future state revenues derived from state-collected, locally shared revenues, such as the Cigarette/Tobacco/Vaping Tax, Highway Users Tax Fund, Lottery funds, and Marijuana tax funds.
- With the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment and new tax cuts and exemptions, the City believes it is critical to maintain ongoing residential and commercial property taxes to preserve public service revenues to the state, local governments, fire districts, schools, health providers, and others dependent on property taxes to deliver essential services.

Municipal Administrative Services

The City's administrative services help ensure a high-performing government, including the effective and efficient use of taxpayer funds in providing City services. This includes information technology, human resources, records management, elections, and general government administration. The City supports efforts to ensure that these services can be delivered in a transparent and cost-effective manner.

Positions:

- The City supports increased funding and resources to elevate cyber-security prevention, response, and recovery/rebuilding when attacks occur.
- The City has implemented accessibility measures that assist persons with disabilities in accessing City information and services, as required by HB21-1110. The City supports accessible digital communications but opposes unfunded mandates on local governments without reasonable opportunity to remediate complaints. Given the expense involved with remediation, the City supports dedicated funding and amendments to HB21-1110 to allow reasonable time for municipalities to come into compliance.
- The City supports the exploration of an accessible database to facilitate information and data sharing between the state and municipal courts.

Public Health and Safety

The City supports law enforcement and municipal court policies that ensure public health and safety, thereby improving the quality of life in partnership with the community.

Positions:

- The City supports state-level actions to address gun violence. While regional and local legislation can be effective in reducing gun violence, state action is needed to improve safety and regulatory consistency across jurisdictions.
- The City supports access to quality and affordable healthcare for residents and businesses across Colorado.
- The City supports continued efforts to improve municipal court and law enforcement practices and further refinement of such changes to ensure that victims are adequately protected.
- The City supports statewide efforts to expand mental/behavioral health services, reduce barriers to care, and provide funding to support such initiatives. This includes additional assistance for law enforcement to address community-wide mental health impacts, and mitigate the costs for healthcare and mental health services for persons in custody.
- The City opposes legislation that would prohibit the use of red light cameras and speed radar.

Energy/Environment

The City supports legislation to address climate change by improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of cost-effective renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels while maintaining the reliability and resilience of energy delivery and local control.

Positions:

- The City supports the state's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reduced energy consumption, increased use of clean energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- The City supports statewide policies that reduce overall energy demand and consumption, while preserving and expanding local governments' ability to reach their sustainability and climate action goals.
- The City supports the preservation of air quality, renewable energy production and emission reductions through legislative, administrative, and regulatory actions.
- The City supports state efforts to reduce noise impacts and air pollution, and lead pollution associated with local metropolitan airport activities.
- The City supports opportunities and funding for municipalities to implement local clean energy strategies and solutions.
- The City supports a regional approach to energy efficient building code implementation to have a greater effect on greenhouse gas emissions but also to increase consistency throughout the region, creating to have less confusion across municipalities for builders.

Transportation

Colorado's transportation infrastructure, which connects our communities and facilitates the movement of people and goods, is essential to the economic vitality of our state and necessary to maintain the high quality of life enjoyed by Coloradans. Appropriate investments in transportation, as one of the largest sectors of greenhouse gas emissions, also further the City's energy and ~~environment~~environmental goals.

Positions:

- The City supports ongoing state and federal funding sources for transportation projects, such as the CO 42 corridor and South Boulder Road, that provide funding for the maintenance of existing infrastructure, multimodal improvements, and other investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The City supports regulation and investments that accelerate transportation electrification and other innovative transportation technologies that reduce emissions and congestion.
- The City supports investments that enhance safe and convenient multimodal transportation, including Complete Streets which increase transportation options, improve mobility, and reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, and Vision Zero strategies which improve safety. The City also supports funding for the design and construction of pedestrian underpasses, which achieve many of the goals of Complete Streets and Vision Zero programs.
- The City supports funding for the construction and operation of the Northwest Rail line and the Front Range Passenger Rail to expand multi-modal transportation in the northwest metro region. The City also supports ensuring rail services along this line includes s a-stops in Louisville, supporting the much-delayed obligation of RTD for transit investment in our community.
- The City supports full restoration of transit services that were reduced or cut by the Regional Transportation District (RTD) during the COVID pandemic.
- The City opposes efforts to divest state-owned roads to municipalities without adequate short and long-term funding to meet additional maintenance and operational responsibilities.

Utilities, Telecommunications, and Broadband

The City supports policies that protect Colorado's natural resources and allow the City to maintain facilities efficiently, allowing for reasonable and equitable rates while maintaining optimal quality. The City also supports the local authority to manage all matters related to local telecommunications policy, cable franchising, wireless communication facilities, broadband deployment, public safety communications, rights-of-way management and government access channels.

Positions:

- The City supports the inventorying and protection of water rights, including the protection of municipal water.
- The City supports appropriate water conservation efforts and sustainable water resource management practices by all users.
- The City supports efforts to improve water quality through compliance with state and federal regulations.
- The City supports state policy for consumer protections of utility customers, including broadband customers.
- The City opposes state and federal efforts that complicate deployment of small cell and other wireless infrastructure and create unfunded mandates on local governments and supports federal and state actions removing these preemptions of local control.

- The City supports state efforts to determine the most effective ways to distribute federal funding to promote broadband deployment and equity in the availability and accessibility of broadband services to all Coloradans.
- The City supports state policy and funding to improve public safety telecommunications.
- The City supports the clarification that franchise fees do not include in-kind franchise obligations and supports the repeal of FCC action that creates these limitations on local franchising authority.

Land Use, Development and Revitalization, Housing

The City has a long-standing commitment to managed growth. The City believes strongly that local control and land use planning enhance our ability to meet the goals/mission of the City Comprehensive Plan and improve the overall quality of life. In addition, the City is working to redevelop and revitalize certain areas within the community, and appropriate urban renewal tools must be preserved to support these efforts.

Positions:

- The City supports policies and investments that improve the coordination of land use and transportation, and regional cooperation in land use planning and economic development activities.
- The City supports increased local government funding for the statewide expansion of affordable housing.
- The City supports increased local government and community engagement and impact analysis around the expansion and development of airports.
- The City supports enhancements to Colorado Urban Renewal law that do not unreasonably restrict the use of tax increment financing or eminent domain for redevelopment projects.
- The City supports legislation that encourages and facilitates historic preservation and rehabilitation.
- The City supports transit-oriented development principles, but believes that House Bill 24-1313 – Housing in Transit Oriented Communities may not provide a feasible path for local implementation without bill amendments or clarifications. The City encourages collaborative amendment development with local governments.

From: [Ann](#)
To: [Christopher Leh](#); [City Council](#)
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 8:41:21 PM

Dear Mayor Leh and Council Members,

In your consideration of candidates for the Sustainability Advisory Board Tuesday night, I ask you to give strong consideration to expertise related to climate resilience, preparedness, and adaptation. From my reading of the questionnaires, only one candidate has that experience.

The Vision Statement and Core Values affirmed by Council on 9/3/24 as part of the Comp Plan update have a strong emphasis on resilience, adaptation, and preparedness, which are foundational for sustainability, economic vibrancy, public safety, and community character. If one of our goals is to reduce our impact on the climate and the environment, it will take a daunting amount of action to counteract the carbon and toxics released in one afternoon when the Marshall Fire destroyed 550 Louisville homes, multiple businesses, and thousands of acres of public and private property. The Louisville residents who have tried to repair and rebuild properties damaged or destroyed by the fire have first-hand knowledge of the impact of climate disasters. They also understand the challenges and opportunities of advanced building and energy codes, the fire debris and construction wastes generated, the economic risks of the insurance market, and the real-world challenges of disaster preparedness.

I have reviewed the questionnaires submitted by the Sustainability Board candidates. Only one candidate, Tawnya Somauroo, directly addressed the resilience/adaptation aspect of sustainability. I'm surprised no other candidates addressed it, since the Council-affirmed values for sustainability clearly include these issues and have been on the website for some time. Tawnya also appears to be the only candidate with direct experience recovering from a climate disaster, and the only one who has deep experience working to build coalitions to define and implement workable solutions to reduce our risk going forward. She has studied the issues thoroughly by working closely with County and State agencies, and national nonprofits engaged in adaptation, resilience, and preparedness. Her expertise and collaboration would be a great asset to the Sustainability Board.

The City has taken multiple actions to reduce wildfire risk on City property, protect City infrastructure, and educate residents through the Recovery and Resilience Division. The recent passage of home hardening codes was a big accomplishment! However we have not yet seen a comprehensive City-wide plan to address climate resilience, adaptation and preparedness. There is also no mechanism for resident input or transparent government on this issue. In contrast, Sustainability has a 56-page action plan revised in 2020, and an Advisory Board to assist with input and transparency. I believe it's a really great decision by Council to bring adaptation into the sustainability tent. We now need to make sure there is adaptation expertise in the advisory board.

Besides bringing Tawnya's expertise in adaptation onto the board, I also encourage you to look for a balance of board membership that brings both theoretical knowledge of opportunities and possible actions with the practical experience of what it really takes to implement sustainability and adaptation. I spent my 38-year career as a research engineer and communicator at NREL, engaged in "the possible," but as a Marshall Fire Survivor, I have had a crash course in the pragmatics of building, energy, and WUI codes, along with disaster recovery and preparedness. We need both to make progress across the community.

I appreciate your efforts on behalf of our community.

Ann Brennan
888 Larkspur Court

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From: [H.M.](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Ember Brignull](#); [Adam Blackmore](#)
Subject: Open Space Plan
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 4:10:54 PM

Dear Council Members, Director Blackmore and Superintendent Brignull,

Good afternoon. I am writing to celebrate and recognize how we benefit every day from the Open Space team's excellent work. Thank you team! But I also want to ask us to imagine the amazing results they could achieve, if instead of the outdated twenty year old 2004 Open Space Management Plan, they had a state-of-the-art plan and sufficient project and grant management resources to meet Louisville's city charter requirement to preserve and protect open space consistent with good stewardship and sound ecological principles. The 70% of voters who supported the Open Space and Parks Sales Tax in 2023 shouldn't have to wait four years for an open space plan currently not funded to be completed until 2027.

The twenty-nine Open Space properties, twenty-five miles of trails, hundreds of native species, and thousands of people who enjoy this environment deserve an inspiring and well-resourced OS plan and budget now. A plan with visionary objectives for more citizen engagement, long-term habitat restoration, improved biodiversity, healthier properties, and better protection for native plants and wildlife.

Starting now in 2025, we need expert-supported planning based on data, comprehensive vegetation inventories, wildlife surveys, science, and benchmarking. This will result in strategic and operational goals based on resource management standards and best practices. It's just too long to wait until 2027. Please revisit the OS Capital budget as soon as possible to prioritize Open Space planning in 2025, we need to get started without delay.

With a new plan, staff and OSAB can then develop capital projects and programs that surpass outdated, decades-old plans and constrained resources. Then voters can start seeing results from the capital projects and program enhancements on the ground in 2026 and 2027.

Examples of neighboring and peer communities' open space capital projects include:

- Acquisitions of Environmentally Crucial Properties
- Dedicated Water Rights for ponds and wetlands
- In-stream flow minimums for creeks and waterways
- Long-term Native Habitat Restoration (soil management, seeding, planting, weeding, fencing, signing, managed grazing, and monitoring)
- Baseline and periodic vegetation, aquatic, and wildlife inventories
- A data-based system for rating/scoring property and habitat conditions
- Nature Discovery Trails and zones
- An Interpretive education center
- Structured nature play experiences
- System-wide Trail and Property Wayfinding signs, maps, and directional aids
- Stream and riparian zone erosion restoration and mitigation

- Invasive species reduction / Native Species restoration
- Native Species Nursery
- Native Species Demonstration Gardens
- Trail management and building missing and new trail connections
- Expanded Volunteer and education programs in support of marginalized communities

With more planning and budget resources, we are confident that staff and OSAB can develop a comparable list of capital and operational projects for Louisville. In support of staff and OSAB and protecting open spaces, Louisville Open Space Advocates (LOSA) will continue to advocate for:

- Expert and data-based OS planning beginning in 2025
- Open space property acquisitions
- Resources, planning, and budget investments comparable to Parks
- Best practices and benchmarking for open space acquisition, protection, and restoration

Thank you Adam, Ember and the Open Space staff for your terrific work, patience and dedication to the environment and our community. Let's fund a 2025 Open Space Management Plan capital project now for an even brighter future.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Moshak

Louisville Resident

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