



2025 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 is a renowned art community and gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park.

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, economic development, 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 2036. 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
Dana Foley
Laura Light-Kovacs
Jon Mallo
Patrick McFall
Steve Olson
Andrea Samson
(Vacant)

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 has one of the lowest sales tax rates in the region which has not seen an increase since 1984. In 2024, the City underwent budget cuts to maintain essential services. The City 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.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- The City supports efforts to increase funding for small business support and for the revitalization of Loveland's Downtown.

LOCAL CONTROL

LOVELAND STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PRESERVATION OF LOCAL CONTROL

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 City prioritizes collaboration with regional and state governmental agencies before resorting to broad mandates with cross-jurisdictional impacts.
- The City respects policies that promote efficiency and collegiality among employees and citizens who possess differing viewpoints and backgrounds.

TAX POLICY

The City of 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, the City supports policies that 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

The City of Loveland supports the equitable application of sales tax requirements to web-based and brick and mortar retailers alike. The City 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.

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of Loveland recognizes the critical importance of providing a safe community for its residents, including those experiencing behavioral health issues or other challenging life situations. The City supports efforts to increase health and public safety for its residents.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- The City supports legislation that provides additional benefits and protections to citizens with physical and mental disabilities as categorized under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The City supports policies to increase funding and respond to the dangers of wildfire and other extreme weather events.
- The City supports increased funding from State and Federal agencies to provide for our veteran community.
- The City supports opposes any federal spending cuts or restrictions to Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- The City supports our local school district's efforts to preserve fiscal and operational autonomy as well as support for School Resource Officers to protect our youth.
- The City recognizes the need for additional funding for Co-Responder programs from Federal and State entities.

HOUSING

The City of Loveland recognizes the challenge of affordability and availability of quality housing and supports efforts by the State and Federal entities to allow for more affordable housing.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- The City supports the use of Federal, State, and local Financing tools to develop a robust and diverse housing stock.
- The City supports Federal funding at a regional level to address the growing challenge of homelessness.
- The City recognizes that the lack of affordable housing contributes to the challenge of homelessness.
- The City recognizes the difficulty for low-income seniors and young adults to find housing and supports efforts to address this problem through regional, State, and Federal tools.

HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

LOVELAND SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR ALL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

The City of 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 is currently a one-size-fits-all approach that could be changed to align with true airport activity levels.

WATER, POWER, & FIBER OPTIC RESOURCES

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

WATER QUALITY

The City's key priorities include wildfire impacts on source water quality, PFAS monitoring and remediation, EPA Lead and Copper Rule updates, clear and reasonable nutrient discharge limits, and stream temperature monitoring and treatment. The City supports federal and state programs aiding these efforts, particularly the Emergency Watershed Protection grant program for post-wildfire water quality management.

WATER CONSERVATION

The City 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.

MUNICIPAL FIBER

The City supports expanding publicly-owned broadband utilities to promote economic growth and community resilience. We oppose any limitations on municipal broadband's ability to operate effectively and participate in programs and grants while also supporting broader access to low-cost middle-mile fiber infrastructure, such as WAPA and other government-owned systems.

POWER

The City of 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. The City supports federal efforts to streamline the environmental review process for new transmission corridors necessary for embracing renewable dispatchable energy resources.