

#### **4. Local Improvement Districts**

Support legislation to amend state statutes governing local improvement districts that levy a sales tax to:

- Allow for properties outside the LID to opt into the district
- Allow for more flexible use of LID funds

Colorado statute provides no mechanism to add properties to a sales tax LID, even when property owners want to be added, therefore limiting economic development potential for the district. Sales tax-funded LIDs are an important tool for supporting local businesses and communities while advancing business and economic development efforts.

#### **5. Colorado Open Records Act (CORA)**

Support legislation to clarify conflicting law and prohibit voted ballots from disclosing a voter's identity outside of the public election process as a result of the availability of other public information on individual voters.

Counties have received CORA requests for voted ballots, which are resulting in litigation and costs due to statutory conflicts and confusing regulations. Protection of the voted ballot is a fundamental cornerstone of democracy and secures elections against intimidation and corruption. Without it, voter confidence and participation is decreased.

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#### **6. Foreclosures**

Support a clean-up bill to include several procedures, provide property owners with more complete and timely information, and standardize some forms.

The economic downturn has revealed the need for changes in foreclosure statutes.

#### **7. Human Services**

**Child Welfare:** Give CDHS authority to expand the number of counties utilizing the differential response model, while maintaining the methodology and integrity of the research model for the current pilot counties.

**Barriers To Permanency For Foster Care:** Support legislation to remove statutory disincentives to permanency and include support for efforts to find permanent homes for developmentally disabled youth in foster care.

**The Metro Area County Commissioners**, formed in 2003, is a unified positive force comprised of seven Denver metropolitan area counties. Representing 2.8 million people, the MACC works together to accomplish common goals.

**The Metro Mayors Caucus**, formed in 1993 is a collaborative organization comprised of 40 Denver area mayors. Representing 2.2 million Coloradans, the MMC provides a forum for relationship building and development of regional approaches to shared goals.



Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield,  
Denver, Douglas, Jefferson

# 2012 KEY PRINCIPLES & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER REGION

Arvada, Aurora, Bennett, Boulder, Bow Mar,  
Brighton, Broomfield, Castle Pines, Castle Rock,  
Centennial, Cherry Hills Village,  
Columbine Valley, Commerce City, Dacono, Denver,  
Edgewater, Englewood, Erie,  
Federal Heights, Firestone, Foxfield,  
Frederick, Glendale, Golden, Greenwood Village,  
Lafayette, Lakewood, Littleton, Lone Tree,  
Longmont, Louisville, Morrison, Nederland,  
Northglenn, Parker, Sheridan, Superior,  
Thornton, Westminster & Wheat Ridge

# KEY PRINCIPLES & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As elected officials in trying economic times, we share a common goal of providing a high quality of life while maximizing effectiveness and efficiency in our service delivery and provision of vital infrastructure. Collaboration and communication among city, county & state officials are critical to achieving this common goal. To this end, MACC & MMC have joined forces to identify shared principles and priorities for 2012.

## PRINCIPLES

### ■ **Respect Local Control**

Cities and counties need local control to respond to local challenges in an efficient, cost effective and timely manner. We will support legislation that expands our capacity to address local challenges and oppose any that preempts or unduly restricts our power to address local concerns.

### ■ **Honor Prohibition of Unfunded Mandates**

Despite an executive order, statutory prohibition & TABOR, each year new laws, rules and regulations are imposed without implementation funding. Please don't impose unfunded mandates on cities & counties.

### ■ **Provide Early Dialogue & Meaningful Involvement**

When considering legislation with a distinctly local or Denver metropolitan impact, MACC & MMC should have a seat at the table. Early involvement is critical to addressing our shared challenges in a way that respects our local needs and decision making.



*Colorado State Capital Building, Denver*

## PRIORITIES

### 1. Ballot Reform

**Support reform that raises the threshold for amending Colorado's Constitution and adds protections for voter approved statutory initiatives.**

Support legislation referring a measure to voters that (i) requires constitutional amendments to win 60% of the vote, (ii) keeps a simple majority threshold for statutory amendments and stipulates that legislative changes in first 3 years require a 60% supermajority and, (iii) requires that petition signatures be collected in each state congressional district to qualify for the ballot.

### 2. Transportation and Mobility

- **Implement the Colorado Transportation Finance Implementation Panel recommendations to resolve the estimated \$1.5B annual shortfall for multi-modal transportation needs statewide.**
- **Support innovative models for state and local financing and regional efforts to secure the funding necessary to build out FasTracks by 2020.**

Transportation and mobility are critical issues for Colorado and have consistently been among the top priorities for both of our organizations. Please consider us to be your partners as you deal with the challenge of identifying equitable and sustainable approaches to funding our transportation and mobility needs.

### 3. Government Investments

**Support a change to the statute to allow the purchase of the senior debt of the U.S. Government Agencies.**

On August 5, 2011 Standard & Poor's downgraded the U.S. Government debt from the AAA to AA. This caused many governments in Colorado to no longer purchase U.S. Government Agency debt. The State Treasurer's office and Colorado County Treasurer's Association have joined together to request this statutory change. This "change" will preserve the status quo, which has served Colorado governments so well over the past several decades.

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