

Human Services (continued)...

- *Amend provisions in SB08-177 that place a limit on the amount TANF reserves that counties are able to retain.* County TANF reserve funds are a critical resource for counties in meeting budgetary demands during economic downturns & increased demand for services.
- *Support Family and Adult Services, the funding used by counties to pay employees to process applications for assistance.* In 2010, caseload increases and funding needs identified by the state workload study resulted in a \$1.8 million funding shortfall.
- *Conduct a Child Welfare workload study.* Both the Governor's Child Welfare Action Committee and The Foster Care and Permanence Task Force recommend that the Department of Human Services conduct a workload study to determine the appropriate number of cases and the resources required to adequately serve children and families in the child welfare system.

*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 39 Denver area mayors. Representing 2.2 million Coloradans, the MMC provides a forum for relationship building and development of regional approaches to shared goals.*

Metro Area County Commissioners 1325 Pearl Street Denver, Colorado 80104 303.441.3500	Metro Mayors Caucus 899 Logan Street, Suite 309 Denver, Colorado 80203 303.477.8065
--	--



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

## 2011 KEY PRINCIPLES & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



*Arvada, Aurora, Bennett, Boulder, Bow Mar,  
Brighton, Broomfield, Castle Pines North,  
Castle Rock, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village,  
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 2011.

## 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.

## PRIORITIES

### 1. Transportation and Mobility

- *Implement Colorado Transportation Finance Implementation Panel's recommendations to meet the estimated \$1.5B annual shortfall.*
- *Identify innovative models for future financing, as the present model is inadequate.*
- *Commit to multi-modal transportation solutions as a long-term approach.*

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 challenges of implementing the CTFIP recommendations and work to identify equitable and sustainable approaches to funding our transportation and mobility needs.

### 2. Mail Ballots

*Support voting by mail. As more Coloradans opt to vote by mail, please support their will and work with the County Clerks and CCI in a proactive approach to mail ballot legislation.*

Sixty percent of Colorado voters already choose to vote by mail. Mail ballots increase voter turnout, improve accountability, and substantially reduce the high cost of elections for counties and the state. Complexities of federal and Colorado election law make it very expensive to maintain the three voting options for all voters (mail, early voting and Election Day polling places). Colorado statute requires a 'paper ballot' system by 2014, which means all mail ballots or voting machines must provide a paper trail. Voting systems employed in the 2008 General Election may be

used, however some counties need to replace equipment, resulting in significant cost.

### 3. Petitions for Property Valuation Appeals

*Support revisions to the appeals process. Requiring petitioners to submit itemized income documents and appraisals relating to the subject property earlier in the process will reduce costs and expedite the process.*

Current statute (CRS 39-1-103(5)(a)) requires assessors to consider income approach to value on property other than residential. Typically, attorneys and consultants fail to provide assessors or County Boards of Equalization necessary income data at time of appeal. This lack of data prolongs the appeals process creating a backlog at the Board of Assessment Appeals. Often CBOE, through county attorney's offices, must file a motion for discovery to obtain income data. Current process creates a backlog at the BAA up to two years with counties paying 12% interest on valuation reductions.

### 4. Human Services

- *Oppose structural reorganization that removes local control of county human services.* MACC opposes any legislation that restructures the State of Colorado human services system into a more centralized system.
- *Support creation of a Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) Oversight Board, with County Commissioner and Director representation.* As end users of the CBMS system, counties serve as an early warning system for technical and operational problems with the system. It will promote a State-County partnership around CBMS.

*...continued on reverse side...*