



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Ginny Sawyer, Project and Policy Manager
Tyler Marr, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT

Resolution 2024-128 Adopting the City's 2025-2026 Legislative Policy Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to consider the City's 2025-2026 Legislative Policy Agenda. Each year the Legislative Review Committee develops a legislative agenda to assist in the formation, analysis, and advocacy of pending legislation and regulation. The Legislative Policy Agenda is used as a guide by Council and staff to determine positions on legislation and regulation under consideration at the state and federal levels and as a general reference for state legislators and the City's congressional delegation.

Creating a 2-year policy agenda is intended to better align with the state representative terms and selection of Legislative Review Committee members.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Legislative Policy Agenda (LPA) is a guiding document meant to highlight our home rule status and reflect issues that affect the quality of life and governance of our community. It also reflects strategic goals of the City and areas of specific focus based on recent Council and staff policy efforts. It is used as a guide by Council and staff to determine positions on pending or introduced legislation, and as a general reference for residents, community organizations, state legislators, and members of Congress.

The Legislative Policy Agenda also refers to the City's partners in the legislative space, which include the Colorado Municipal League, the National League of Cities, the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities, and Colorado Communities for Climate Action.

The attached updated LPA was developed with direction from Council and input from City staff, then reviewed by the Legislative Review Committee (LRC), which is currently comprised of Councilmembers Canonico, Ohlson, and Pignataro.

Both clean and redlined versions are attached. Once adopted, the Communications and Public Involvement Office will format and design into a polished document for limited printing and placement on fcgov.com. LRC recommended changes to the draft Legislative Policy Agenda at its October 15, 2024, meeting noted below in red:

- Updating of bullets in the AIR QUALITY section including the addition of:
 - *Supports development and implementation of targeted ozone reduction strategies, including seasonal emission budgets for major polluters.*
 - *Supports measures to reduce emissions from industrial sources, regional oil and gas operations and gas-powered vehicles and equipment, particularly in non-attainment areas.*
 - *Supports strengthening fuel efficiency standards for internal combustion engine vehicles, and policies that promote their replacement **with zero- and low-emission vehicles (e.g., electric or hydrogen)** and the development of appropriate **charging/fueling** infrastructure.*
- Confirmed and clarified language in the HOUSING section:
 - *Supports **stronger amendments to** construction defect laws to promote the construction of owner-occupied attached housing.*
 - *Supports exploring expansion of the Mobile Home Act to address rent pad stabilization, transparency in utility billing, adequate maintenance of water and wastewater infrastructure, access to safe drinking water, and other livability issues.*
 - *Supports continued funding and expansion of programs for eviction and foreclosure prevention, **including provision of free legal assistance** and adopting a statewide right to counsel for residents facing eviction or foreclosure.*
- Section on Oil & Gas has been updated to include DEEP GEOTHERMAL AND CARBON STORAGE:
 - *Fort Collins residents have expressed continuing concern about the human and environmental impacts from **regional** oil and gas development, particularly in relation to local air quality, public health, and the protection of natural resources. With the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) now expanding its regulatory authority to include deep geothermal operations and potential carbon storage in deep wells (Class VI wells), these concerns are increasingly relevant to a broader range of subsurface resource management activities. Additionally, **there is concern** over transported emissions from oil and gas operations outside of City limits that contribute to local ozone formation.*
- In PUBLIC SAFETY section:
 - *Added a bullet related to a bill the City is initiating: **Supports the establishment of the City's right to enforce municipal codes on City property that may lie outside the City's official geographic borders.***
 - *Added a bullet to articulate policing issues, particularly downtown: **Supports legislative action that deters the illegal sale, possession, and use of narcotics in public spaces.***
- RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE REDUCTION section contains a few updates including:
 - ***Opposes mixed waste processing for municipal solid waste and only supports utilizing clean waste-to-energy technology for processing materials that are not re-usable, recyclable, or compostable.***
 - *Supports incentives and funding for programs that promote waste **and plastic reduction**, reuse and recycling, and development of related infrastructure.*
- Confirmed with staff that the following statement, under SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT, can be removed:
 - *Supports efforts to reduce the cost of food delivery for small businesses by managing third-party delivery fees and encouraging statewide licensing of these service providers.*

- Removal of statements that have been addressed through legislation.
 - *Supports the equitable distribution of sales tax collections on e-commerce transactions.*
 - *Supports de minimus exemptions to Verification of lawful presence CO ST § 24-76.5-103 by adding a new section (3)(f) to the State law that exempts the City from following the verification process for any particular local public benefit that is valued at less than \$500.00, or that is not provided directly to the beneficiary by the City.*

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Legislative Review Committee reviewed and recommended changes and updates to a draft Legislative Policy Agenda for the 2025-2026 time frame at its October 15, 2024, meeting. Draft minutes are attached.ne.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution
3. Legislative Policy Agenda (redlined)
4. Legislative Review Committee Minutes, October 15, 2024