



Policy Statement – adopted 02/02/2016

The Littleton City Council and staff work together to ensure the City of Littleton remains a high-quality organization and a safe community in which to live, work and play. To ensure this is the case, Council and staff coordinate to identify issues occurring at the regional, state and federal levels that require monitoring and may require advocacy on the City's behalf.

The City Council recognizes that the state and federal legislative processes generally do not lend themselves to the timing of action by municipal governments. With a desire to be responsive and ensure the City's interests are represented, this document is designed to give staff direction to act on key issues of concern to Littleton City Government and as a brief guide for legislators to reference when considering proposals that may affect the City.

The following subject areas and positions are not meant to be a comprehensive list of matters of City concern. They have been identified by staff and confirmed through Council action and constitute the official positions of the City of Littleton and serve as a guide for establishing a position on issues that require quick action if deemed appropriate by staff.

Local Control & Home Rule

State and Federal intervention into issues best handled at the local level undermine local control and the City's home rule authority. Article XX of the Colorado Constitution grants home rule municipalities such as Littleton, "the full right of self-government in local and municipal matters." Efforts to strengthen local control should be supported, while intervention by the state or federal governments into local issues or efforts to detract from the City's home rule authority should be opposed.

State and Federal Mandates

Mandates imposed on local governments, especially unfunded mandates, can stretch the financial and personnel resources of the City and shift such resources away from local priorities and needs. At a minimum, any mandates imposed on the City should be funded entirely by the entity imposing said mandates. The City will oppose any efforts that are not appropriately funded, that are not a priority for the City, or that may impose financial burdens or require a shift in personnel resources.

Tax and Finance

The City's finances are interrelated with state finances and policies. The City supports actions by the State of Colorado to adhere to fiscal fair play and efforts to address competing



constitutional provisions that do not negatively affect the City's finances. The City also supports efforts that expand municipal taxing authority or equitably share new state revenue with municipal governments. The City will oppose efforts that reduce local revenues or preempt municipal taxing authority, including authority to set the local tax base, local collection and related authority.

Economic Development

The City of Littleton has been a leader in economic development in the State and supports the State in the implementation of a multifaceted economic development program that is coordinated with local efforts and promotes the economic vitality of our state and attracts and grows businesses and creates jobs. The City will oppose actions that hinder local economic development and job-creation efforts.

Land Use and Development

The City of Littleton supports local control related to planning, land use, development and redevelopment. The City support policies that encourage in-fill and transit-oriented development and limits sprawl and further development in unincorporated areas. The City will oppose efforts that reduce or preempt municipal land use authority or impose further restrictions on the use and powers of urban renewal authorities and the use of tax increment financing.

Transportation

Littleton recognizes the need to maintain and expand the State's multimodal transportation system and that our streets, sidewalks, trails, transit and others services are a part of that interconnected system. The City supports efforts to develop new flexible funding options to maintain and improve our state, metro and local transportation systems.

Telecommunications

The City recognizes the importance of the availability of high-quality telecommunication services to residents and businesses for economic development and enhanced quality of life. The City supports market competition in the telecommunications realm, efforts to promote build out and fiber optic or comparable connections to residences and businesses and protection of municipal franchising and regulatory authority, including control over uses in the public rights-of-way.

Other areas of concern that are monitored and evaluated on a case by case issue include police, fire and emergency medical services, municipal courts, environmental/sustainability issues, open meetings/open records law, liquor and marijuana enforcement, workers' compensation, procurement/public contracts, human resources, and governmental immunity, among others.