

Legislative Process and Agenda

Because Lyons is a Statutory Town, the actions of the State Legislature can have great impact on our day-to-day operations and our residents. While we appreciate our partnership with CML as a lobbying arm, there are situations in which Lyons may diverge from their stances. There are also situations in which Lyons may agree with their stances and may want to supplement CML's lobbying efforts with testimony before the legislature.

Currently, testimony at the State Legislature on behalf of Lyons should only occur with explicit Board approval. Testimony on bills either in or out of committee is often scheduled between Board meetings, making it impossible to testify without calling a special Board meeting to gain approval. The approval and adoption of a Legislative Agenda can free any Trustee or Board and Commission Chair to testify on any issue which conforms to the approved Legislative Agenda, without prior specific approval by the Board of Trustees. However, each Trustee or Chair who is planning on testifying should provide notice of this to the Board of Trustees via the Town Clerk.

This Legislative Agenda can be amended by resolution in the future, and every Trustee or Board and Commission Chair should feel free to bring forth amendments.

The proposed Legislative Agenda is for discussion and amendment purposes. If adopted, it will be a resolution on the next Consent Agenda.

2023 and 2024 Legislative Agenda, Town of Lyons, Colorado

A. Local Control

The Town of Lyons is a Statutory Town. Being such, Lyons wishes to maintain local control to the greatest extent possible.

Policy Positions:

- Oppose unfunded mandates at the local level.
- Support legislation that enhances municipal authority and flexibility to address local needs.
- Oppose legislation that diminishes local control of zoning.
- Oppose legislation that diminishes local control of marijuana and psilocybin sales.
- Protect core provisions of the Colorado Urban Renewal law, which provides effective redevelopment tools for municipalities such as tax increment financing and eminent domain.
- Protect the autonomy of employment and personnel decisions made by city administration.

B. Housing Affordability

The Town of Lyons is committed to preserving and expanding housing affordability.

Policy Positions:

- Support the creation and preservation of state and municipal funding options for affordable housing.
- Enhance and preserve the rights and interests of the residents of manufactured home communities.

- Support the expansion of housing choices.
- Encourage partnerships with government entities and nonprofits to achieve affordable housing goals.

C. Transportation

The Town of Lyons is severely underserved by regional transportation options, particularly to and from Longmont and wishes to expand our regional options while creating safer public and multimodal local options.

Policy Positions:

- Support ongoing state funding for transportation projects.
- Oppose efforts to divest state-owned roads to municipalities without adequate funding.
- Support investment in regional transit projects and major highway corridors that include multimodal access and safety.
- Increase transportation access for vulnerable populations, including youth, older adults, those with lower income and people with disabilities.

D. Public Safety

The Town of Lyons contracts with the Boulder County Sheriff for law enforcement and relies on the Lyons Fire Protection District for emergency services. We wish to provide our community with continually enhanced public safety services.

Policy Positions:

- Support funding for direct services for public safety departments and individuals to promote first responder mental health wellness.
- Oppose local government mandates to enforce Federal immigration laws.
- Support increasing funding for wildfire mitigation for local communities
- Support state-level actions to prevent gun violence.

E. Health and Human Services

The Town of Lyons is currently challenged in providing basic public transportation, as well as medical and pharmaceutical care to its residents, and it is committed to supporting the highest quality of life possible for its aging population.

Policy Positions:

- Support increasing accessibility, availability, quality, and affordability of cost of basic health and human service needs.
- Support expanded mental/behavioral health services, reduced barriers to care, and funding to support such programs and initiatives.
- Support programs that promote a lens of aging and disability in all areas.
- Support legislation that seeks to address mitigation of the climate crisis.