



Consortium of Cities

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COVER MEMO

TO: Consortium Members and Alternates, Mayors, City and Town Managers, and Other Interested Persons

FR: Mark Ruzzin, Boulder County Commissioners' Office

DATE: October 6, 2009

RE: DRAFT 2009 Legislative Agenda

At its August 5 meeting, Consortium representatives supported the staff proposal to continue the work necessary to develop a legislative agenda for consideration by the Consortium at its October 7, 2009 meeting. Board members agreed that:

- a legislative agenda would be a valuable tool for advancing Consortium positions at the state level;
- joint advocacy efforts will bring more power to the Consortium's collective voice and provide it with the ability to proactively address issues of mutual concern; and
- development of such an agenda will further support the Consortium's reputation as a group of local governments that have learned to work together.

In addition, board members agreed to forward to the county the top 3 priority issues of their respective jurisdictions for inclusion in the legislative agenda.

With this direction, on August 31 the Consortium staff group met to go through the list of policy items and identify the areas of common interest amongst the member jurisdictions. The month of September was spent developing and refining the draft legislative agenda proposal.

Staff is asking for Consortium direction on the following issues at the October 7 meeting:

1. Suggestions for the information to be included in the "Member Information" section of the legislative agenda (p. 2).
2. Consideration of the policy items included in the draft "Legislative Positions" and "Issues of Interest" sections of the legislative agenda (pp. 4 – 7) and conditional approval of a Consortium of Cities legislative agenda.
3. Discussion of a process for using a formally approved Consortium of Cities legislative agenda.
4. Discussion of steps to be taken between the October and December Consortium meetings (see proposed timeline below).

Please note that the staff team applied a consensus test to the policy items included in the draft legislative agenda, and is recommending that the Consortium use this same test for its consideration.

Regarding next steps for the legislative agenda work item, the staff team is proposing the following:

- **October 7:** The Consortium approves some iteration of the legislative agenda.
- **October 8 – December 1:** Consortium members seek approval of the legislative agenda from their respective city councils and town boards.
- **December 2:** The Consortium formally approves the legislative agenda, with amendments if necessary.
- **January – May 2010:** The Consortium and individual members lobby on behalf of the adopted positions during the 2010 session of the General Assembly. It is expected that the Consortium will have a regular agenda item during the session to be updated on its legislative activities.

The staff team looks forward to the discussion on October 7.