

Overall State of Our Cities & Towns

Colorado's cities and towns continue to play a key role in the economic health of our communities.

Municipalities provide the infrastructure and services that are the backbone of our economy, and they invest in economic development programs that help to maintain the healthy economy we enjoy.

Comparing the 2017 Local Economy to the Previous Year

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Better 50% | Steady 37% | Decline 13% |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|

Municipal Revenues in 2017 Reflect the Economy

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Increase 48% | Steady 35% | Decline 16% |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|

That does not mean municipal budgets are without funding challenges.

Budget Challenges

Unfunded Street/Bridge Projects • 90%

Affordable Housing • 85%

Increased Health Insurance Costs • 84%

Increased Demand for Municipal Services • 84%

Tight Labor Market • 82%

Unfunded Water/Wastewater Projects • 79%

To view the complete survey results, as well as a video on the State of Our Cities & Towns, visit www.cml.org/state-of.

2018 STATE OF OUR CITIES & TOWNS



Public Safety

Both police and fire departments are delivering services with greater efficiencies. All police departments share the cost of least one service such as emergency dispatch or a crime lab with another department. Fire departments are cooperating not only in shared services such as mutual aid and training, but in meeting the growing threat of wildland fires with advanced planning and mitigation programs.

The Colorado Municipal League's *2018 State of Our Cities & Towns Report* looks at the essential services of municipalities that ensure public safety.

Police

Current public perceptions of police work, driven primarily by events occurring elsewhere in the country, are a challenge facing today's police departments. Police are responding by working more closely with residents and local businesses on crime prevention and reporting — efforts such as community policing and civilian community services officers are yielding positive results.

Community Policing • 59%

16%
plan to

Civilian
Community • 32%
Officers

New technology also is helping to build public trust. Officer-worn body cameras record contacts with civilians. Antidotes are provided to revive opioid drug overdose victims.

Body Cameras • 51%

21%
plan to

Opioid Revival
Drugs • 47%

Sharing services such as 9-1-1 dispatch, training, SWAT, crime lab, and drug enforcement task forces helps to provide cost-effective and efficient public safety in all Colorado municipalities.

Shared Services • 100%

Fire

The way we live and use 9-1-1 services are reshaping municipal fire departments throughout the state.

Two-thirds of today's fire department calls are medical emergencies, and fire departments are finding more efficient methods of response through full ambulance service, community paramedicine programs, and alternative response vehicles.

Ambulance
Service • 36%

16%
transport

Innovations such as community wildland fire protection planning and new equipment such as fog nails and smoke curtains are making fire departments more effective.

Wildland
Protection Plan • 48%

10%
plan to

Wildfire
Mitigation • 33%

12%
plan to

Mergers with districts or neighboring municipalities are becoming a popular way to provide cost effective and efficient fire services in Colorado.

13%

merged in the past decade

Recruiting Reported as a Challenge Across Public Safety

69%



Some challenges in recruiting police officers: inadequate pay/benefits, rural location, current public perceptions

52%



Challenges in recruiting volunteers for fire departments: work out-of-service area, training requirements, compensation, time constraints