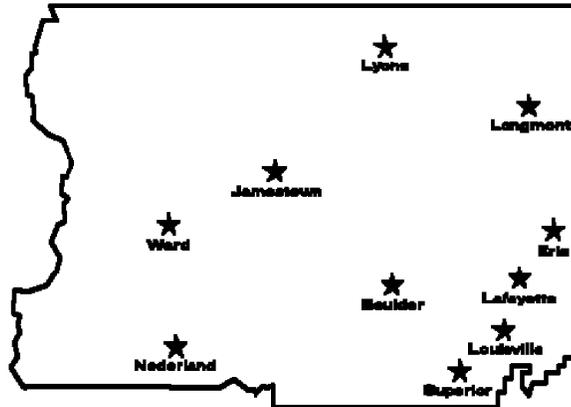


**BOULDER COUNTY CONSORTIUM OF CITIES**



**Boulder County Consortium of Cities  
2026 Reference Guide**

## **Consortium of Cities Membership**

Boulder County  
City of Boulder  
Town of Erie  
Town of Jamestown  
City of Lafayette  
City of Longmont  
City of Louisville  
Town of Lyons  
Town of Nederland  
Town of Superior  
Town of Ward  
City and County of Broomfield  
(ex-officio)

**Q: What is the Consortium of Cities?**

**A:** The Boulder County Consortium of Cities serves to provide an organizational structure to promote interaction and communication among county, city, and town governments in Boulder County for the benefit of the separate governments and the residents of the county as a whole.

The Consortium includes one designated representative from each City Council or Town Board and one alternate. Each City or Town has one vote in decision-making matters. Any elected official or City/Town managers' staff is welcome to participate in meetings.

**Q: What does the Consortium do?**

**A:** The Consortium provides opportunities for the communities of Boulder County to:

- Share ideas and assistance on issues and problems facing local governments and create task forces and working groups to address them;
- Find common ground for the solution of problems facing separate or multiple local jurisdictions within the County;
- Provide a mediation tool for jurisdictions in Boulder County who have unresolved differences;
- Form countywide coalitions where joint action will enhance the pursuit of opportunities, such as support of ballot initiatives, countywide tax initiatives, joint research and reports, and shared grant opportunities; and
- Form consensus and develop resolutions and letters of support surrounding key issues that encourage the action of member governments.

**Q: Does the Consortium have any authority?**

**A:** The Consortium is not a policy making or advisory body; it serves as a forum for discussion and problem solving surrounding common issues that face local communities. However, as a collective entity of elected officials from local municipalities, the Consortium has the unique ability to inform community decision makers about the ideas, actions, and issues relevant to their own policy decisions.

**Q: Does it cost money to participate in the Consortium of Cities?**

**A:** No. The Consortium does not have a budget, finance projects, or fund grants. Occasionally, the Consortium will work together to apply for or support grants for member communities that mutually benefit Boulder County cities and towns. Consortium members have also secured money from their home communities to fund projects.

**Q: How do City Councils and Town Boards learn about Consortium activities?**

**A:** Consortium members relay updates to their town councils and boards in many ways: Provide Consortium of Cities updates at Council/Board meetings; share meeting highlights via email; or discuss Consortium goals at Council/Board retreats. When possible, the Consortium provides cross-community and joint community presentations on active task forces and projects. Finally, Consortium meetings are held online and in person and the meeting recording is posted online afterwards.

**Q: How does a Consortium Member or City/Town place an item on the agenda for Consortium of Cities meetings?**

A: The Consortium identifies common high-priority issues on an annual basis and sets annual goals which help direct the meetings. The agenda for Consortium meetings is also developed based on discussion at the prior meeting and consideration of ongoing initiatives and projects. The Consortium Chair also helps develop the agenda for each meeting. If you have an issue that you'd like to discuss at a Consortium meeting, you can contact the staff liaison at 303-441-1297.

**Q: How can Consortium members share information with their home communities about projects they are involved in through the Consortium?**

A: Boulder County creates press releases for most jointly supported and developed projects, resolutions, and other accomplishments. Consortium members can use these press releases – and reformat them to provide specific information relevant to their community – to share information with local media, organizations, and residents. They can also be posted on municipal websites.

**Q: Does the Consortium of Cities produce resources or publications surrounding the issues that they discuss?**

A: The outcomes of task forces or working groups may include a report, plan, proposal, or call to action. This information is available at the Consortium of Cities website hosted by the Boulder County Commissioners' Office at <https://bouldercounty.gov/departments/commissioners/consortium-of-cities/>. Member communities can link to this webpage from their website if desired.

**Q: What is the general flow of the meetings?**

A: After a welcome and brief introduction, the Consortium spends the bulk of its meeting time on the primary topic. Meeting topics are announced before the meeting and each jurisdiction prepares remarks regarding their efforts and experiences regarding the meeting topics. During the meetings, Consortium members can engage directly with fellow elected officials or their subject matter expert staff about the meeting topic. Time allowing, a secondary topic may be presented which gives an update on a particular issue. Lastly, members share updates about community events before adjournment.

## Consortium of Cities Regional Efforts

Project	Date	Purpose/Outcome
Local Minimum Wage	2022-2024	The Consortium of Cities' Local Wage Working Group hosted a <a href="#">Local Wage Webinar in September 2022</a> to hear presentations about recent local minimum wage state legislation, the cost of living and wage history in the Denver Metro Area, and the economic rationale for increasing wages. The Local Wage Working Group continued to research, discuss, and recommend options for cities and towns in Boulder County. One local jurisdiction passed their own local minimum wage ordinance in 2023, and a second jurisdiction passed a local minimum wage in 2024.
Gun Violence Prevention	2021	During the 2021 Colorado legislative session, state lawmakers passed a law to give local governments the authority to adopt ordinances addressing the sale, purchase, or possession of firearms within their jurisdictions ( <a href="#">Colorado Senate Bill 21-256</a> ). On July 7, 2021, the Consortium of Cities held a special meeting on gun violence prevention laws and regulations. A number of Consortium members adopted gun violence prevention ordinances beginning in 2022.
Boulder County Regional Housing Partnership	2016	In 2016, the Consortium formed the Boulder County Regional Housing Partnership to help address the region's escalating housing costs. The Partnership remains active, and is engaging all Boulder County jurisdictions, as well as other community partners, in the implementation of the regional housing plan, <a href="#">Expanding Access to Diverse Housing for Our Community</a> . The Partnership is steered by Boulder, Longmont, and Boulder County, and engages housing, health, and human services experts and leaders from across the county.
Water Stewardship Task Force	2012-2013	In 2012, the Consortium of Cities formed the Water Stewardship Task Force, which was charged with exploring water-related opportunities for multi-jurisdictional collaboration in the areas of water conservation, water source and supply, coordinated drought response, and water education programming. The Task Force membership included local elected officials, local jurisdiction staff, and nonprofit and private sector subject matter experts. The WTSF focused on developing coordinated approaches for water management, aiming to connect utilities, agriculture, and the public on sustainable solutions. The WTSF delivered a final report to the Consortium of Cities in June 2013.

Energy Strategy Task Force	2006	The purpose of the Energy Strategy Task Force was to provide a countywide clearinghouse for information and education on energy issues and to create a framework for local and regional action on energy sustainability. The ESTF developed the ClimateSmart initiative – a countywide campaign that educates residents about energy efficiency. In 2007 the ESTF released a Draft Regional Sustainable Energy Plan, which outlined action items for Boulder County local governments to implement to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
Revenue Stability Working Group	2005	The Revenue Stability Working Group was convened to explore strategies to improve fiscal stability, encourage sound planning and growth, and reduce the growing expense of competition and incentives among Boulder County municipalities. In 2007 the group began researching the possibility of sharing a portion of revenue in order to alleviate the effects of sales tax revenue fluctuations.
Affordable Housing Initiative	2003	The Consortium established an affordable housing initiative to undertake a cooperative housing needs assessment financed by participating consortium governments and cosponsors, including foundations and federal/state partners. In 2006, the HOME Consortium developed a consolidated plan to identify local community housing needs and stipulate how funds will be used for local housing development. The plan served to address the housing and community development needs of low- and- moderate-income residents in the Consortium area for FY2007–2009.
Regional Transit Committee	2003	Made up of representatives of the municipalities, businesses, and environmental and civic groups, the RTC was created to gather and share information about regional transit issues and opportunities common to Boulder County and the City and County of Broomfield. In 2006 the RTC finalized a regional transit plan for Boulder and Broomfield counties.
Regional Transportation Task Force	1996	Partially as a result of the cooperative efforts of the Transportation Coalition, the Consortium of Cities established the Regional Transportation Task Force in 1996. The Task Force helped to define a broader consensus on transportation solutions in key regional corridors in Boulder County.
Regional Trails	1994	In 1994, the Consortium asked the municipal and county trails staff to work together to develop a regional plan for trail connections in Boulder County. The staff produced a map of regional trails, which was adopted by the Consortium. The map and analysis was used to support individual jurisdictions' requests for state or Great Outdoors Colorado funding of trails identified on the regional map, or those that provide a link to regional trails.
Household Hazardous Waste	1994	The Consortium first addressed this issue and defined a process by which intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) were negotiated and written to implement the HHW program. The HHW program continues to provide household hazardous waste disposal services to Boulder County residents.

<p>Open Space Task Force</p>	<p>1992</p>	<p>The Consortium initiated a countywide Open Space Task Force made up of representatives of the municipalities, the county, and business, environmental, and civic organizations to look at how a countywide open space acquisition program might be established. The work of this task force led to a countywide sales and use tax ballot initiative that allowed for bonding. This initiative passed in 1993, and with additional bonding and tax initiatives passed over the years by Boulder County voters, has allowed the County to acquire over 70,000 acres of open space.</p>
<p>Solid Waste Recycling</p>	<p>1992</p>	<p>What is now the Boulder County Recycling Center had its beginnings with a Consortium of Cities sponsored solid waste summit in 1992. From that summit, the Consortium established a Solid Waste Task Force, leading to the passage of a tenth-of-a-cent countywide sale and use tax and the creation of a Recycling and Composting Authority charged with establishing the countywide recycling center. Now, the County administers that center with Eco-Cycle as the operations contractor.</p>
<p>Boulder County Transportation Coalition</p>	<p>1989</p>	<p>In 1989, the Consortium established the Boulder County Transportation Coalition to provide a unified Boulder County response to the metropolitan transportation finance package under consideration at the time in the state legislature. The Coalition had active participation from all the cities and some of the towns in Boulder County as well as Chambers of Commerce and civic and environmental organizations. The group also was active on several other important transportation issues including alternative modes and new airport access for Boulder County, on which they completed a traffic pattern study.</p>