

Town Management & Branch Heads

Bruce Nickerson, Town Manager

Carissa Medina, Town Clerk

David Montgomery, Police Chief

Pascale Pring, Director of Corporate Services

Firestone, Colorado

Incorporated in 1908, the Town of Firestone is a statutory municipality with a Council-Manager form of government. The Town provides a full range of services, including: water, storm water, fire protection, police, parks, recreation, street maintenance and other traditional municipal services.

Along with providing general services, being the fastest growing community in Colorado according to the 2010 U.S. Census is a full time job. It is a credit to the Town's forward thinking philosophy of a community in motion that makes it a unique and desirable place to live. In fact, strategic planning, quality service and strong leadership have ranked Firestone among the top 25 Best Places to Live according to Money Magazine.

Policy Statement

The Legislative Policy Statement is an essential tool used by Board members and staff in approaching legislative issues. As such, the Town of Firestone partners with organizations such as the Colorado Municipal League to ensure that the local level of government is given fair representation.



2017 Legislative Policy Statement

Town Board of Trustees:

Mayor Paul Sorensen

John Damsma

George Heath

Samantha Meiring

Drew Peterson

Doug Sharp

Bobbi Sindelar

Colorado Municipal League Policy Committee Liaison:

Samantha Meiring, Board Member

Bobbi Sindelar, Alternative Member

2016 SUMMARY POLICY STATEMENTS

LOCAL CONTROL

First and foremost, the Town strongly supports the preservation of local control on issues of local concern. In order to address local desires, community issues and needs should be addressed locally. State and federal government interference can undermine local control. Therefore, the Town:

- Urges state and federal officials to respect Colorado's tradition of local control and allow municipal officials to address local problems without interference from the state and federal government.
- Urges congress and the executive branch to respect the roles and responsibilities of state and local governments and similarly urges state officials to avoid preempting local authority.
- Supports state enabling legislation that provides statutory and home rule municipalities with authority and flexibility to address local needs.
- Recognizes the desire of the citizens statewide and in the Town and many local communities to establish mechanisms for local control and opposes state action that attempts to weaken local control, authority and flexibility.

BUDGET

The Town opposes state and federal mandates that are not funded by those levels of government. Managing scarce resources is difficult at every level of government. The Town supports intergovernmental partnerships and collaborative problem solving. We are not in a position to be able to absorb costs of programs mandated by federal and state governments.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION

FUNDING

Transportation is priority. The Town advocates for the development of regional transportation funding sources to assist with the solutions to the interstate and state highway infrastructure deficiencies.

TRANSPORTATION

The Town supports advancements in the regional and local public transportation network and views such improvements vital to its economic development efforts. The Town also advocates for creative solutions, strategic partnerships, and energy efficiency in all aspects of transportation needs.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Town supports the uniform delivery of emergency services to the community to prevent overlapping services from area providers, confusion during times of emergencies and double taxation to residents and land owners. The Town also recognizes the need for close cooperative efforts at all levels of government and supports increased funding to assist local government and first responder responsibilities.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Citizens are best served when officials of federal, state and local government (including municipalities, counties, special districts and school districts) respect the roles of each entity and work toward common solutions. Therefore, the Town:

- Supports increased dialogue and cooperation among federal, state and local officials and the development of cooperative intergovernmental solutions to common problems

WATER RESOURCES

Firestone supports a diverse water portfolio. There are several water issues of importance to the Town.

Basin of Origin

Any transfer of native flows from Northern Colorado to other basins must compensate to the native basin. Any basin of origin bill must not unduly inhibit the Town's ability to acquire and use C-BT or other water rights in the Town's water supply system.

Water Quality

Any bill concerning water quality must not infringe on the Town's ability to seek protection of its water rights.

Water Supply Development

Firestone would likely support bills designed to encourage water supply development within the existing framework of the Colorado water law. Supply encouragement could take the form of financial assistance or streamlined approval processes for new water storage projects.

Public Trust Bills

Firestone is concerned about potentially harmful changes to the existing water law, including those designed to override the prior appropriation doctrine. Efforts to revise the administration of water rights radically or otherwise change the stream flow regime for rivers could damage Firestone's critical water supply planning efforts.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The Town supports responsible energy development and strong, sustainable energy partnerships that balances both the land and mineral owner's rights in a congruent manner that promotes local control and protects the community health, welfare and safety.

TAX POLICY

Sales and Use Taxes

The primary revenue sources for municipalities are local sales and use taxes. Statewide, municipalities generate more than \$5 in these taxes to every \$1 of property taxes. Sales and use taxes have enabled municipalities to fund public services and improvements and keep municipal property taxes relatively low. Appropriate actions at federal, state and local levels should preserve or enhance these local revenues. Therefore, the Town:

- Supports retention of authority for all municipalities to set local tax rates for statutory municipalities to have meaningful input regarding legislation that may affect their tax bases, and for home rule municipalities to collect their own taxes and determine their own tax bases.
- Supports appropriate legislation or court action allowing state and local governments to require businesses to collect state and local sales and use taxes on remote sales.
- Opposes legislation that would preempt the authority of state and local governments to apply their sales and use taxes to remote sales.
- Supports legislation that allows municipality's local control of auditing sales tax collection.

Internet Sales Tax Collection

The Town believes that web-based internet businesses should be required to collect local sales taxes in a similar manner as bricks and mortar business in order to create commerce equity.

The Town of Firestone does not favor changes to the allocation of motor vehicle use tax.

Motor Vehicle use tax is allocated to the Town in which the vehicle is registered so that the tax can support the street maintenance effort where the vehicle impacts the state of roadways. Firestone supports continued utilization of FASTER fees to support local transit and transportation priorities.

URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

The Town believes in legislation that provides for a financing mechanism available at the local level to transform unproductive and unsafe property into an asset that creates value for the community is essential. The Town opposes further one-size-fits-all approaches to urban renewal that limit flexibility to cooperate with other taxing districts.