

Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2007

H.R. 980

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 980 by a wide margin. It is now awaiting action in the U.S. Senate. Relevant portions of the proposed legislation appear below. The Authority that is referred to below is the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

2 (1) *IN GENERAL*- Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Authority shall make a determination as to whether a State substantially provides for the rights and responsibilities described in subsection (b). In making such determinations, the Authority shall consider the opinion of affected employers and labor organizations. Where the Authority is notified by an employer and an affected labor organization that both parties agree that the law applicable to such employer and labor organization substantially provides for the rights and responsibilities described in subsection (b), the Authority shall give such agreement weight to the maximum extent practicable in making its determination under this subsection...

8 ...*(b) Rights and Responsibilities*- In making a determination described in subsection (a), the Authority shall consider a State's law to provide adequate rights and responsibilities unless such law fails to substantially provide rights and responsibilities comparable to or greater than each of the following:

(1) Granting public safety officers the right to form and join a labor organization, which may exclude management and supervisory employees, that is, or seeks to be, recognized as the exclusive bargaining representative of such employees.

(2) Requiring public safety employers to recognize the employees' labor organization (freely chosen by a majority of the employees), to agree to bargain with the labor organization, and to commit any agreements to writing in a contract or memorandum of understanding.

(3) Providing for bargaining over hours, wages, and terms and conditions of employment.

(4) Making available an interest impasse resolution mechanism, such as fact-finding, mediation, arbitration, or comparable procedures.

(5) Requiring enforcement through State courts of--*[your state]*

(A) all rights, responsibilities, and protections provided by State law and enumerated in this subsection; and

(B) any written contract or memorandum of understanding.

9 (c) *Failure To Meet Requirements*-

(1) *IN GENERAL*- If the Authority determines, acting pursuant to its authority under subsection (a), that a State does not substantially provide for the rights and responsibilities described in subsection (b), such State shall be subject to the regulations and procedures described in section 5...

A full copy of this bill is available on CCI's website (www.ccionline.org). CCI recommends that you contact your U.S. Senators and let them know your views.

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Eastern District Meeting

The 2007 summer Eastern District meeting was held on Thursday, August 16. The meeting took place at the Washington County Event Center in Akron. Every member county in the district was represented. State Representative Cory Gardner once again joined the Eastern District meeting. After introductions, the CCI staff presented information about pertinent 2007 legislation and proposed 2008 legislation. Mandates and authorities that resulted from 2007 legislation were discussed. The commissioners brought forth individual concerns about election requirements, new tax options, energy building codes and photocopying costs for record requests. The list of possible CCI initiated legislation was presented. The super slab/toll road issue and lottery funding for community organizations were also raised. Counties were encouraged to put forth their concerns in proposed National Association of Counties (NACo) resolutions.

State Representative Gardner spoke briefly about passed legislation that he proudly supported, such as the Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority. He expressed concern about the water issues Colorado faces in the South Platte and Republican River Basins.

Washington County Commissioner David Foy wanted to bring the "Rocky Mountain National Park Acidification Study" to the attention of those gathered. The study details the increased levels of nitrate that has been found in the Rocky Mountain National Park. It has led environmental groups to urge for

regulation against activities such as the application of nitrate fertilizers. Commissioner Foy is concerned about the science behind the study and the effects of potential regulations on agriculture and economic development.

Yuma County Commissioner Robin Wiley gave an update on the Republican River. Colorado has been out of compliance with the Republican Water Compact for multiple years. Nebraska has also been out of compliance. Kansas is ready to sue Nebraska and Colorado on the grounds that their consumption surpasses their allocation. State Representative Gardner encouraged interstate diplomacy.

Another issue raised at the meeting was, "Are counties charged for municipalities' inmates?" Eastern District President and Morgan County Commissioner Tony Carlson wondered what other eastern counties were doing in the case of a county housing an inmate cited for city offenses. Some counties said they have intergovernmental agreements with municipalities. There was also discussion about right of way ownership, local 911 communication centers and increasing Eastern District attendance at CCI steering committee meetings. The last topic of discussion was Colorado counties' participation at NACo. Washington County Commissioner Dennis Everhart said that NACo participation was definitely worth it. Colorado counties are effective at making Colorado's views heard and represented in NACo resolutions.

Right: Eastern District meeting attendees gather to discuss issues.

Below: Logan County Commissioner Debbie Zwirn, CCI Executive Director Larry Kallenberger, Morgan County Commissioner and District President Tony Carlson and Yuma County Commissioner Trent Bushner attend the meeting.

Below Center: The Washington County Events Center is located on the county fairgrounds.

Below Right: Washington County Commissioner Bruce Johnson and Phillips County Commissioner Bud Bieseemeier getting ready for the meeting to start.

Below: Yuma County Commissioner Dean Wingfield, State Representative Cory Gardner and Yuma County Commissioner Robin Wiley speak during a break.



Front Range District Meeting

The 2007 summer Front Range District meeting took place on August 17 at the Denver Art Museum in a room nestled in the middle of the Pre-Columbian collection exhibit. Every Front Range county was represented. Dave Ferrill from the mayor's office offered everyone tickets to enjoy the museum following the meeting, compliments of Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper.

The CCI staff presented 2007 legislation that affects counties and proposed legislation for 2008. Some of the legislative issues discussed included fireworks sales, photocopying costs on requested records and voting requirements. The CCI staff pointed out bills from the 2007 legislative session that impacted counties, but did not result specifically in mandates or authorities, such as the Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority and salary publication.

Each of the county representatives gave updates on what was happening in their county. Weld County is experiencing new uranium mining. Larimer County is implementing intra-county transfer development rights (TDR) pilot programs. In Adams County, there have been many foreclosures. Adams County Commissioner Skip Fischer assured everyone that the situation is not as bleak as some might believe. The current housing slump has localized impacts, but Adams County has actually experienced an increase in overall

valuation. Jefferson County passed a mountain ground water overlay district. Boulder County is being affected by the pine beetle infestation, in areas east of the continental divide like Eldora ski resort. Broomfield is anticipating the opening of a new Wal-Mart. They are also trying to create a downtown area south of the library. Denver is preparing for the Democratic National Convention, as well as forging on with Greenprint Denver, the mayor's environmentally sustainable land use plan. Arapahoe County estimates the cost to expand their justice center to be about \$250 million. They also have a legacy grant for open space along the South Platte River. Douglas County hosted a water summit to work with water providers to be more conservation minded. El Paso County highlighted its involvement in a multi-county initiative known as Peak to Prairie to preserve open space.

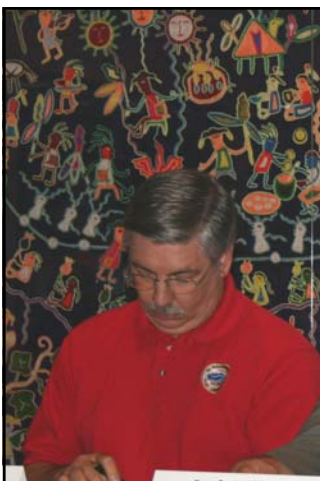
The last agenda item was an update on the Metro Area County Commissioners (MACC) report on mentally ill inmates in county jails. The task force that was commissioned to take on this issue included representatives from many groups: law enforcement, mental health and local communities. The findings were clear. Mentally ill inmates cost counties \$45 million per year and they stay in jail on an average 103 days longer than other inmates. One solution being discussed involves temporarily suspending inmate Medicaid coverage as opposed to terminating such coverage. This could help prevent recidivism therefore cutting county costs.

Below Center: Front Range District meeting attendees gather at the Denver Art Museum to discuss issues.



Left: Dave Ferrill from Denver, Broomfield Councilmembers Linda Reynolds, Bette Erickson and Bob Gaiser and El Paso County Commissioner Jim Bensberg listen as CCI staff speak about issues.

Below: El Paso County Commissioner and District President Dennis Hisey takes notes at the meeting.



Below: Douglas County Commissioners Jack Hilbert and Melanie Worley enjoy a little humor during the meeting.



Southern District Meeting

The Southern District meeting was marked by a good turnout at the Walsenburg Community Center Gym on August 23, 2007. The commissioners were delighted to be joined by State Representative Wes McKinley. With District President and Prowers County Commissioner Gene Millbrand presiding, the meeting began with a presentation of 2007 legislation affecting counties. One of the bills that prompted discussion was SB07-045 that requires counties to charge no more than \$0.25 per page for photocopies plus research and retrieval costs. Multiple counties reported actual costs that exceeded the \$0.25 per page limit. CCI Legislative Director Chip Taylor suggested compiling statistics of actual costs from counties and revisiting the issue with the legislature.

There was discussion about getting election systems certified and staff trained in time for elections. An issue raised by Huerfano County Commissioner Scott King was the district attorney salary raise. The salary raise was intended to retain district attorneys throughout the state. Costilla County Commissioner Ed Vigil was concerned that the raise would put pressure on the county to raise the salary of other staff members in the district attorney's office. Commissioner King acknowledged that the huge turnover of district attorneys was adversely affecting conviction rates.

The conversation turned to proposed 2008 legislation. CCI Executive Director Larry Kallenberger encouraged participation at the steering committee meetings before the legislative session to ensure that all the counties' voices are heard. CCI Membership Coordinator Michael Smith spoke briefly about the National Association of Counties (NACo) resolutions that were submitted from other districts and encouraged Southern District counties to submit issues of concern. Otero County Commissioner Jake Klein gave the example of the pine bark beetle legislation which was a direct

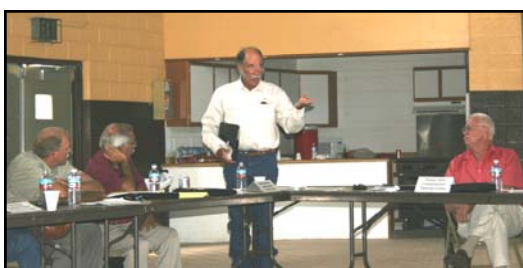
result of Colorado counties' efforts at NACo. One of the reasons for Colorado's success at NACo is ample representation on their steering committees. Currently, there are 19 Colorado vacancies on NACo's various steering committees. Please contact CCI for details.

The afternoon portion of the meeting began with an update from Mike Perez of Colorado Department of Transportation, on U.S. Highway 50 that is planned to pass through the southeastern corridor. With the feasibility study completed in 2003, multiple community meetings in 2006 and environmental studies underway, the project is progressing into matching set priorities with available funding. The website address that gives updated progress on the project is www.us50east.com. The next item on the agenda was courthouse security presented by Judge Stan Brinkley, a district judge from Lamar. He emphasized the importance of making county courthouses secure for everyone who works and does business there. He encouraged the southern counties to apply for the available grants for this cause since it is tailored to help rural communities with courthouse security. Bent County Commissioner Bill Long gave an update on the tamarisk infestation. The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District received an \$80 million grant over the next four years to address removal, restoration and long-term maintenance of the tamarisk problem. Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site expansion was discussed and Las Animas County commissioners presented a letter they wrote to Senator Wayne Allard and Senator Ken Salazar stating opposition to the expansion. Southern District commissioners unanimously agreed to co-sign the letter. Las Animas County Commissioner Gary Hill expressed fear of losing his own land and having his family forcibly escorted off their land by federal marshals. The meeting ended with State Representative Wes McKinley speaking directly to the issue of eminent domain and Piñon Canyon.

Right: Southern District meeting attendees greet each other outside the Walsenburg Community Center Gym.



Right: State Representative Wes McKinley speaks to Southern District meeting attendees.



Left: Prowers County Commissioner and District President Gene Millbrand welcomes attendees.



Below: Southern District meeting attendees pledge allegiance to the flag before beginning the meeting.



Western District Meeting

Montrose Commissioner Allan Belt welcomed the attendees to the Bridges Golf and Country Club in Montrose for the Western District meeting on August 24. Western District President and San Miguel County Commissioner Elaine Fischer began the meeting by praising the local government collaboration on the western slope. The commissioners were apprised of 2007 legislation that directly affected counties. It was noted that the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment has produced compliance fact sheets on the new immigration statutes, which will be available on the CCI website (www.ccionline.org). Discussions on county mandates and powers prompted questions about fireworks sales, election requirements and photocopying costs for requested records. From discussions in other districts as well as the Western District, the issue of photocopying costs of records will need to be revisited. Garfield County Commissioner Trési Houpt spoke of spending thousands of dollars on a request for 10,000 e-mails. Other counties reported similar experiences.

When the discussion turned to proposed legislation for 2008, commissioners weighed in on the legislation proposed by their own counties. The different counties shared what they were already doing regarding the issues raised and what would be helpful in addressing these issues further. Some of the hot topics were split assessment on 35+ acre parcels with a residential dwelling and off-highway vehicle registration. CCI legislative liaison Andy Karsian gave an update on the federal bill to mitigate effects of the mountain pine beetle infestation. The bill will address collection points, transportation arrangements and clean up grants.

Next on the agenda was the issue of broadening jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. There is currently a National Association of Counties (NACo) resolution opposing the expansion of federal jurisdiction over the broader category of

“waters of the United States.” It is important for counties to take note, because it would put in place new requirements, which could adversely affect the progress of county projects. The meeting proceeded with an update on the work of the Severance Tax and Federal Mineral Lease Revenue Interim Committee. Mesa County Commissioner Craig Meis is co-chair of the Severance Tax Working Group that reports to the interim committee. He emphasized the goal of the working group, noting that the committee is to take into account the local impacts of energy extraction and to make sure the revenue is going to those needs. CCI Executive Director Larry Kallenberger gave an update on the Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel. The panel is discussing whether or not there should be a “local share” and whether the traditional 60/40 state/local split should be applied to any new revenues. He reminded everyone that state and local governments have historically worked together on the issue of transportation. The issue will be discussed at the 2007 CCI winter conference.

La Plata County Commissioner Wally White introduced the topic of the proposed Desert Rock Power Plant. He and other commissioners are concerned about the environmental impact of a coal fired power plant on the four corners community. The result of the discussion was a decision to send a letter to Governor Bill Ritter bringing his attention to the organizations and governmental entities that have already taken formal opposition, as well as New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson’s opposition to the project. Delta County Commissioner Wayne Wolf briefly discussed the impacts of the seizure law changes and Medicaid termination for inmates. Others mentioned current efforts to address these issues. Garfield County Commissioner Trési Houpt said that, as the local government representative on the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, she would be happy to travel to different areas of the state to discuss specific, local issues.



Far Left: Delta County Commissioner Jan McCracken and Mesa County Commissioner Steve Acquafresca speak before the meeting began.

Left: Moffat County Tom Gray and Rio Blanco County Commissioner Ken Parsons enjoy the view and speak before the district meeting.



Far Left: Western District meeting attendees gather at the Bridges Golf and Country Club to discuss issues.

Left: District Vice-President and La Plata County Commissioner Wally White, Montrose County Commissioner Allan Belt and District President Elaine Fischer speak before the meeting.

Mountain District Meeting

Representatives from Mountain District counties gathered at the historic Fairplay Hotel for the district meeting on Thursday, August 30. Park County Commissioner Leni Walker welcomed everyone to the county. Fremont County Commissioner and Mountain District President Larry Lasha moderated the meeting. The first discussion was 2007 legislation that affected counties causing mandates and authorities. As the list of legislation was explained, the ones that generated the most discussion were fireworks sales, building code requirements, election requirements, photocopying costs for requested records and early childhood councils.

There were mostly clarification questions on these issues. The counties were encouraged to have their clerk and recorders take note of how much it was costing to provide photocopies of requested records, so that there would be data when the issue is revisited. When it came to the topic of voting machine requirements, Chaffee County Commissioner Tim Glenn expressed concern about the expensive machines that were previously certified becoming obsolete for future certification. Park County Commissioner Leni Walker raised the issue of required security measures in voting locations being a huge cost to counties. Eagle County Commissioner Sara Fisher explained that all mail-in ballots would be an option for 2007 elections, but not for 2008 elections. With these varying concerns, CCI legislative liaison Tony Lombard suggested to watch for developments in the next couple of months to know how best to address them. CCI Legislative Director Chip Taylor said the bright side is that there should not be any new federal rules put in place to further compound the requirements on counties in 2007 or 2008.

Progressing to 2008 proposed legislation, commissioners spoke regarding issues proposed by their own counties. Following a discussion about counties being able to publish legal notices in different venues, Chip Taylor encouraged everyone to submit ideas and potential solutions to address this issue. CCI legislative liaison Pat Ratliff suggested that commissioners talk with their social service directors about their county's TANF and childcare reserves. There are proposals being discussed to spend down these reserves, such as increasing basic cash assistance.

In the afternoon portion of the meeting, representatives from the Colorado Division of Emergency Management spoke about options for emergency communication in mountainous regions. Their website (www.niix.org) shows interoperability plans and requests feedback. Afterwards, Pitkin County Commissioner Dorothea Farris, as a board member of National Association of Counties (NACo), encouraged further participation in NACo. Some of the issues in which NACo is involved that directly affect Colorado are payment in lieu of taxes (PILT), off-highway vehicles, housing, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. She gave a CCI Board of Directors report as she is the CCI President-elect for the board. At the August board meeting, it was determined that a survey will be sent to see how CCI is representing county needs. Following her comments, Chaffee County Commissioner Tim Glenn, who is on the Wildlife Commission, spoke about the privatization of the Colorado Lottery. There has been discussion of the lottery as underperforming and the possibility of privatizing for a lump sum payment. Commissioner Glenn urged commissioners to be involved in this discussion as stakeholders because lottery funds are very important to counties. Lastly, it was decided to postpone the agenda item regarding cost savings measures to the district meeting at the CCI winter conference.

Right: Teller County Commissioner Jim Ignatius speaks to mountain counties about emergency communication.

Far Right: Eagle County Commissioners Sara Fisher and Peter Runyon and Pitkin County Commissioner Dorothea Farris greet each other at the Fairplay Hotel.

Below: Fremont County Commissioner Mike Stiehl, Chaffee County Commissioner Jim Osborn and Chaffee County co-administrator Dan Short listen to the presentation of issues.

Center: Fremont County Commissioner and District President Larry Lasha speaks with Park County Commissioner John Tighe during lunch.

Far Right: Mountain District meeting attendees gather at the historic Fairplay Hotel.



STATEWIDE HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS PROJECT

--BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF HOUSING BALANCE --

By Kathi Williams, Director
Colorado Division of Housing

The Colorado Division of Housing (CDOH) works to ensure Coloradoans live in safe, decent, and affordable housing through administration of federal and state funding. The division partners with local governments and the private and non-profit sectors to increase and maintain Colorado's affordable housing stock, including multifamily rental projects and homeownership opportunities.

Housing is an important aspect of a community's overall economic health. To achieve a healthy community requires investments in 1) economic development, 2) health care, 3) housing, 4) transportation, 5) higher education; 6) infrastructure; and 7) workforce training. One or more of these components can temporarily sustain a community's economic health, if those components are highly functioning. For example, an economic engine such as a ski area may hide any deficiencies in a community's ability to provide housing. Employees will simply seek housing that is affordable, despite long commute times. This is called "drive till you qualify." However, long commutes are not healthy for families or communities. Housing close to jobs is good for Colorado businesses. Lower employee commute times translate into lower rates of absenteeism due to vehicular or weather related problems and free up household dollars for a family's health insurance, education or other important expenditures.

In 2006, the Colorado Blue Ribbon Panel on Housing, a partnership between CDOH, the Rocky Mountain Land Institute (RMLI) and the University of Denver (UD), examined housing needs across the state and recommended that a common format be used for all Housing Needs Assessments performed in the state. Based on this recommendation, CDOH will fund Housing Needs Assessments that use a common template developed in conjunction with housing experts. CDOH recognizes, however, that we need to be responsive to local resources and needs, some variety in study format will be necessary.

Advantages of the common format of Housing Needs Assessments include the following:

- **Local Strategic Planning**

CDOH intends that these studies form the foundation for local strategic planning to address local housing needs. Applicants must demonstrate their willingness and ability to bring the appropriate stakeholders together to create housing plans and to implement them.

- **Public Access to Data**

In order to promote the use of Housing Needs Assessment information, all such reports funded by CDOH will be available to the public through the CDOH website and other mechanisms. Submission of a PDF version of your Housing Needs Assessment for use on the CDOH website is required.

- **Statewide Coverage**

The Colorado Division of Housing's goal is to have Housing Needs Assessments updated or newly completed for all counties in the state by the end of 2008. In order to meet this goal, CDOH staff will be providing on-going technical assistance and funding to move these projects forward. CDOH maintains a list of recently completed Housing Needs Assessments on its website, www.dola.state.co.us/cdh/index.html. Applicants should review this list to determine which areas of the State are without current Housing Needs Assessments and contact the housing development staff person assigned to assist your area at the following website address: <http://www.dola.state.co.us/cdh/stafflist.htm>. For further information, please call Lynn Shine at (303) 866-2046.

Heritage Planning Grants

Colorado Office of Smart Growth, Department of Local Affairs

Colorado Heritage Planning Grant (CHPG) Program funds are available for 2007. The CHPG program provides financial assistance to local government *working cooperatively* to address public impacts caused by growth. The office requests applications be submitted jointly by the governing bodies of at least two local governments. For more information, please visit

www.dola.colorado.gov/osg or call 303.866.2156.

Applications due Friday, November 30, 2007

2007 Junior Livestock Sale

On August 28th members from the CCI Board of Directors attended the Colorado State Fair's Junior Livestock Sale held in Pueblo County. The CCI Board decided several years ago that supporting the Junior Livestock Sale was a way to encourage young people who are and will be leaders in their communities as well as those who will some day represent the agriculture business in Colorado.

Each year the Board budgets \$1,500 toward the Sale. These dollars, combined with additional funds raised from county commissioners determine the total amount CCI is able to spend for purchasing animals. With the help of former Morgan County Commissioner Mark Arndt, who initiated this project when he was a member of the CCI Board, CCI purchases animals from counties that represent the different CCI districts. This year CCI purchased animals from young people representing Douglas, La Plata, Rio Grande and Saguache counties.

The CCI Board would like to thank all the county commissioners who participated in this project that supports young people involved in 4-H and FFA.

Right: Logan County Commissioner Gene Meisner, Crowley County Commissioner Matt Heimerich, Larimer County Commissioner Kathay Rennels, Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig and Washington County Commissioner David Foy pose with the young woman showing her lamb.

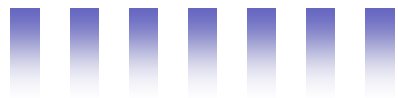


Left: A young boy proudly shows the trick he taught his pig.

Right: The young livestock sale participant is showcasing her animal's photo to a potential buyer.



CCI LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



October 5, 2007

10 a.m.

CCI 2007 WINTER CONFERENCE

November 26-28

Crowne Plaza
Hotels & Resorts
(Formerly Colorado
Springs Sheraton)

El Paso County
Colorado

Summary of Proposed NACo 2008 Resolutions

As of Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Below you will find the eight resolutions that will be considered at CCI's Winter Conference business meeting. There are indications from other commissioners that two to four additional resolutions may still be submitted. NACo resolutions are important because they are counties' methods to develop priorities to lobby Congress. NACo's requirement is that the resolution be of significant importance to counties nationally and that it requires U.S. Congressional action. Contact CCI for details and submit resolutions to Michael Smith at msmith@ccionline.org.

Issue:	Proposed Policy:	Maker/County	NACo Assignment
Federal Mineral Lease (FML) Deduction on Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) Payments	NACo policy is to exempt FML payments to local government from inclusion in the <i>Prior Federal Lands payments to the county</i> within the 12-month period prior to the federal PILT calculation in September of each year. This deduction occurs within the Option A calculation.	Ken Parsons, Rio Blanco Craig Meis, Mesa	Public Lands
Federal Mineral Lease (FML) Increased Payments to Counties	NACo policy is to amend the Federal Mineral Leasing Act to read: Of the 50% of FML revenues being returned to the states by the federal government, 5% would be returned directly to the counties from which the revenues were derived in proportion to the value of the extracted minerals. And 5% would be returned from the federal 50% to bring the total returned to local government to 10% of the funds being generated within the county's jurisdiction. Further, a mechanism for sharing this 5% among each county government and the municipalities within that county, must be included in the amendment.	Ken Parsons, Rio Blanco	Public Lands
Loss Of Property, Ownership Rights And Unwarranted Takings	NACo policy is to join other agencies and advocates against the taking and improper use of private property, such as unnecessarily enlarging military bases or maneuver sites, especially in rural counties.	Peter Dawson, Baca	Energy, Environment & Land Use &/or Public Lands
Natural Gas Well Produced Water Evaporation Ponds On Federal Lands	NACo policy is to require the Bureau of Land Management to change its policy/regulations to allow wastewater from natural gas wells to be processed on their federal lands.	Steve Acquafresca, Mesa	Energy, Environment & Land Use
Soil Nitrates Regulation	NACo policy is join other advocacy organizations to create a larger coalition to advocate for a science based policy that is objective and unbiased, while conducting a cost benefit analysis of the actual effects of nitrates in the soil.	David Foy, Washington	Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Delay Election Reform and HAVA	NACo policy is to put a hold on election reform until a process is set up to certify voting machines before elections and to establish a national/state data base of voters and/or to allow an extension of time for HAVA completion.	Bob Gaiser, Broomfield & Phillips County BOCC	Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs
Federal Emergency Management Agency Snow Emergency Guidelines	NACo policy is to require FEMA and other appropriate federal agencies to update the snow assistance policy to include language that identifies updated measurement, demographic and meteorological conditions.	Park County BOCC	Justice Public & Safety
Interstate Highway Reconstruction Costs	NACo supports the increase of federal level of funding to cover more of the cost of reconstruction of the Interstate Highway system built in the 1960 through 2000 that connects the nation, by increasing the fuel tax and pro-rating that additional funding to the interstate system nationwide.	Susan Roll Walters, Phillips	Transportation

Alamosa County

The thrust of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad toward the San Luis Valley began in 1876 with the narrow gauge rails surmounting La Veta Pass into the vast valley below by 1877. By the following summer, the rails reached what would become Alamosa at the bend in the great Rio Grande River. This spot had been a stagecoach depot selected by Alexander Cameron Hunt, while he was President of the D&RG Construction Company.

Alamosa grew as an outfitting point for all of Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. By 1890, and for the half century to follow, Alamosa was the absolute center of narrow gauge railroading in America. Passenger trains arrived and departed daily for Denver, Durango, Sante Fe, Salida and Creede. Freight trains brought supplies for development into the valley and took vast resources out such as ore, lumber, cattle, sheep and farm products.

Today, Alamosa County is the commercial hub of the San Luis Valley, a vast expanse of 8,000 square miles surrounded by some of Colorado's most majestic peaks. With only 54,000 people populating the six



CCI District: Southern

Commissioners:
Darius Allen
Frank Mestas
George Wilkinson

Location: South
Central Colorado

Square Miles: 723

Population: 15,282

Assessed Value:
105,696,400

counties of the valley, it is one of the most rural areas of Colorado. First settled by the Spanish and sharing a border with New Mexico, the culture of the area is strongly Hispanic. Alamosa is known for its fine, authentic Spanish and Mexican foods with many descendents from early settlers preserving the cultural heritage of the area.

A solid 85% of Alamosa County's land use is agricultural or rangeland. Less than one percent is urban. Median household income is just shy of \$30,000 annually. Income



Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve, pictured above, is located in Alamosa County.
 Photo Courtesy of Sangres.com.

is earned primarily through agriculture, tourism and government.

The cultural heritage, undeveloped landscapes and towering mountains make Alamosa a popular summer leisure destination. Over 300,000 visitors come to the Great Sand Dunes National Park annually. The two historic trains, the Cumbres & Toltec and the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad collectively attract over 45,000 riders each summer. Others travel for the fantastic birding, fishing, hiking, four wheeling and relaxing in the hot springs. Most visitors make Alamosa their base camp, supporting 10 hotels and motels and over 35 restaurants.

The San Luis Valley has one of the best solar resources in the world. With the sun shining through cool temperatures year round, the development of solar energy in the area is becoming more and more popular. The largest solar concentrator installation in North America is being built just north of Alamosa. Other large projects are being considered.

Alamosa is increasing its emphasis on tourism as a primary means for economic development. The voters of Alamosa have passed both a lodging tax and a local marketing district tax, to provide for much needed resources.

Colorado's newest scenic railroad, the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad, began carrying passengers again for the first time in over 50 years. These history buffs depart and return from downtown Alamosa, in the heart of the historic business district. This prompted the purchase of Alamosa's historic depot as a visitor's center and railroad depot. The project has been designated as a Colorado Welcome Center by the Governor's Office of Economic Development. All are welcome to come!

Larimer County

Located in north central Colorado, Larimer County often feels like a microcosm of Colorado. With northern and eastern plains areas, farms and ranches, urban centers, Colorado State University, technology centers, foothills and mountain communities and Rocky Mountain National Park, the county has tremendous diversity.

Larimer County, established in 1861, covers 2,640 square miles. The county was named for General William Larimer, one of Denver's early settlers and has a population of 276,000 people. The county has a highly educated, skilled and entrepreneurial workforce, as well as a network of resources to support innovation. From energy clusters to agri-tourism to music and art, Larimer County continues to offer citizens opportunities in a changing global marketplace.

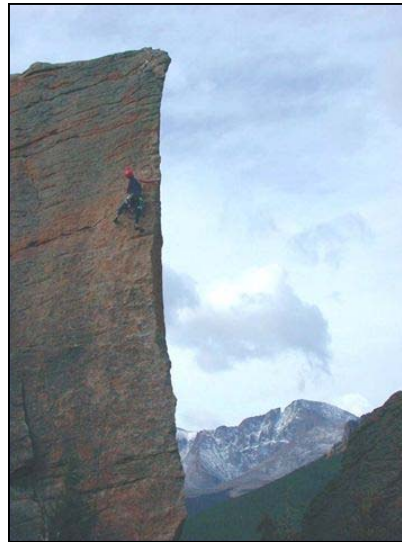
Larimer County supports a large 'outdoor' community. In the fall of 1995, citizens passed an 'open-space' sales tax to purchase open lands.



Horsetooth Reservoir, above, is a popular boating & camping destination in Larimer County. Photo by Steve Moore.

Whether it is whitewater rafting, tubing, hiking, biking, rock climbing, fishing, kayaking, golfing, running, walking, enjoying winter snow sports or boating and camping at one of Larimer County's reservoirs such as Horsetooth or Carter Lake, people come from all over the world to recharge in the county's backyard.

Several years ago Larimer County citizens approved a sales tax for a new fairgrounds complex. In 2003, The Ranch opened, which includes the Fairgrounds Events Complex and Budweiser Events Center located on Interstate 25 (I-25) in Loveland, Colorado. In addition to the annual County Fair and Rodeo, the complex houses The Eagles Central Hockey League team and The Ice Indoor Football team at the Budweiser Events Center. The complex also hosts the

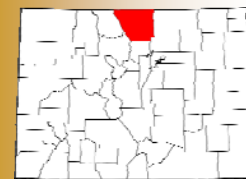


Larimer County employee Jeff Rulli, rock climbs near Rocky Mountain National Park. Photo by Rob Noble

annual Labor Day Event, Thunder in the Rockies. Between these fixed events, there are concerts, crafts shows, equine and 4-H events throughout the year. Larimer County has a large 4-H membership that enjoys the complex.

Larimer County government has a Green Practices Committee whose focus is to minimize the environmental footprint of county government. The county is working with the Fort Collins Climate Wise program to gather baseline data about energy usage. From this data, the committee will develop goals and objectives for improvements.

As with other Colorado counties, issues like public safety, transportation and rising health care costs remain top priorities. The Board of Larimer County Commissioners' 2007 Work Plan includes eleven topic headings for their focus: Public Safety and Criminal Justice, Implementation of the County's Strategic Plan, Transportation, Land Use Issues, Economic Development, Parks and Open Lands, The Ranch, Health and Human Services, the Environment, General Government and Facilities. These highlight the issues important to Larimer County.



CCI District: Front Range

Commissioners:
Glenn Gibson
Kathay Rennels
Randy Eubanks

Location: North Central Colorado on the Wyoming Border

Square Miles: 2,640

Population: 276,000

Assessed Value:
3,185,729,027

La Plata County

La Plata County is a dynamic and diverse community located in spectacular southwestern Colorado. It was founded in 1874, two years before Colorado statehood. The name “La Plata” means “silver” and is reflective of the rich and colorful mining history of the area. The population of La Plata County is approximately 50,000, with nearly 30,000 living in the rural, unincorporated areas of the county. Population centers include the City of Durango, the county seat, and the neighboring towns of Bayfield and Ignacio. La Plata County is a multicultural community and is unique in having the sovereign Southern Ute Indian and Ute Mountain Indian tribes as neighbors.

The economy is robust with a lively mix of natural gas production, tourism, manufacturing, construction, retail, agriculture and professional services. The county is the regional commercial, cultural and medical services center for this part of Colorado. Fort Lewis College, one of the finest four-year liberal arts colleges in the state, adds another economic and cultural dimension to the community and is a valuable regional resource. The county is a recreational “mecca” where opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, skiing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, backpacking, rafting and other outdoor activities abound. Folks who live here do so because they value the quality of life, appreciate natural beauty and share a genuine sense of community.

Natural gas production represents about 60% of the county’s tax base. The county has 3,250 natural gas wells, with approximately 70 wells permitted, yet not drilled, and approximately 1,728 new wells anticipated over the next

several years. Although gas production is currently strong, the county is mindful that the resource is limited and that future revenues from gas production will eventually decline. Many capital projects are being undertaken now while revenues are strong. For planning purposes, La Plata County is commissioning a study to better understand the projected stream of revenue from gas production in the future.

Environmental sustainability issues are very important to La Plata County. In 2006, the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement to demonstrate leadership in energy management and resource conservation practices.



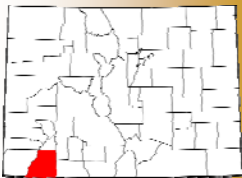
One of the capital projects La Plata County recently undertook included the building of a new road & bridge fleet maintenance shop.

This year, an Energy Management and Resource Conservation Team was formed, comprised of 12 staff members representing various departments, to look at community issues in order to preserve resources and the quality of life in La Plata County.

The BOCC recently began a strategic planning initiative known as the “La Plata County Compass.” This is a process whereby key issues affecting the county will be identified along with goals and action steps to address these issues with an evaluation tool to measure progress toward these goals. Commissioner Wally White, BOCC Chair explained, “The La Plata County Compass will serve as the touchstone for La Plata County and serve as a vehicle to anticipate challenges and maximize opportunities to better serve our constituents and effectively utilize our resources in the years to come.”

The process will provide opportunities for public participation and will involve county employees, department directors and county elected officials. “Our hope and intent is that the strategic plan will reflect a shared vision for the community,” explained Joelle Riddle, BOCC Vice Chair. To that end, local residents are encouraged to visit the La Plata County website at <http://co.laplata.co.us> to take a brief survey to share their thoughts regarding the future of La Plata County.

“The Board and county staff are enthusiastically embracing this worthwhile and important process,” remarked Commissioner Kellie Hotter, “and we hope the public will as well.”



CCI District: Western

Commissioners:

Kellie Hotter
Joelle Riddle
Wally White

Location: Southwestern
Colorado on the New
Mexico Border

Square Miles: 1,700

Population: 47,452

Assessed Value:
2,134,482,160



Kit Carson County

Kit Carson County is a rural county located on the eastern plains of Colorado. The county is mostly level to low rolling prairie with an average elevation of 4,100 feet above sea level. Some valley lands are present, principally along the South Fork of the Republican River and its tributaries. The average annual temperature is 51.8 degrees Fahrenheit and the area receives an annual average of sixteen inches precipitation. The majority of the land within the county is agricultural: irrigated cropland, dry-land farming or rangeland.

There are six incorporated communities in Kit Carson County, each located along Interstate 70. They are Flagler, Seibert, Vona, Stratton, Bethune and the county seat of Burlington. Each of these communities serves as a focal point for surrounding ranch lands.

Kit Carson County was designated a Colorado county in 1889. Before this time, the area was included as a part of Elbert County. Demands for more local representation and more convenient access to county seats across the wide eastern expanse led to the division and the subsequent manifestation of Kit Carson County, along with other smaller county subdivisions. Kit Carson County was named after Christopher Carson, a nineteenth century frontiersman and military leader in the Colorado and New Mexico regions.

Burlington, the county seat and all other Kit Carson County towns were settled along the Rock Island Railroad, which transects the county from east to west. This railway still carries the county's grain production, but is now owned by the Kyle



The Kyle Railroad, which runs east to west through Kit Carson County, carries the county's grain production and other agricultural goods to market.

Railroad, as the Rock Island Railroad no longer exists. Since railhead towns were strategically placed to accommodate the most efficient transport of the agricultural goods to market, the regular spacing of towns, such as the linear path formed by Flagler, Siebert, Vona, Stratton, Bethune and Burlington was intentional. Also influencing formation of the county infrastructure was the system of unimproved, unmaintained roads and ruts that connected the far flung ranches and farms to the key rail corridors.

Home to over 7,642 residents, Kit Carson County's six primary communities offer a wide range of social and recreational

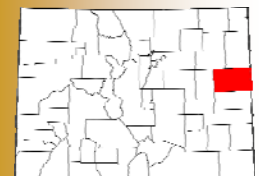


Water consumption continues to be an issue in Kit Carson County.

opportunities: the Historic Kit Carson County Carousel and Museum, Old Town Museum, three golf courses, three public swimming pools, a generous number of well equipped playgrounds and parks, the annual Kit Carson County Fair and PRCA Rodeo.

Kit Carson County lies in the Republican River Watershed which drains into Kansas. One of the biggest concerns in Kit Carson County is meeting water consumption allocation requirements defined in the Republican River Compact Agreement with the State of Kansas. The compact between Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas was signed in 1942 to ensure equitable apportionment of the Republican River waters and stipulates Colorado's total allocation of water consumption to 54,100 acre-feet per year. Recent successive years of drought conditions in the area have caused reduced water flow and increased demand for meeting crop needs. Citizens of Kit Carson County are now working with residents in surrounding areas and with government agencies to meet Colorado's accounting requirements of the compact.

Kit Carson County, like most rural counties, has a constant struggle to maintain the present population and school enrollment. The county's hopes and goals include maintaining a rural heritage with moderate growth and developing an economy that fosters new businesses. The hope is that the young people will have an opportunity to return to Kit Carson County to raise their families. Several communities like Flagler and Burlington are working on economic development programs aimed at bringing new industries to the county to provide new jobs and commerce to the area.



CCI District: Eastern

Commissioners:
 Dave Gwyn
 John Nichols
 Jim Whitmore

Location: East Central
 Colorado on the Kansas
 Border

Square Miles: 2,162

Population: 7,642

Assessed Value:
 92,288,668

Pitkin County

Pitkin County has an annual budget of \$70 million with 237 employees, eight elected officials and an assessed valuation of \$1,887,535,000.

Located in the heart of the White River National Forest, Pitkin County covers 975 square miles (of which 91% is public lands) and is surrounded by the spectacular peaks of the Elk Range in the northern Rocky Mountains. The county includes the communities of Aspen, Snowmass Village, Woody Creek, Old Snowmass, Redstone, Meredith, Thomasville and portions of

county in 2011. The County Manager's Office implements the vision and policies of the Board of County Commissioners with a commitment to excellence in public service and strives to involve the community in county government.

The area's four ski mountains are the most popular attractions in the winter. The summer season provides unlimited outdoor activities including biking, hiking, kayaking and gold medal fishing in the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers. The ghost towns of Ashcroft and Independence offer a scenic outing and a glimpse into the region's rich mining history. The Aspen/Pitkin County Airport, with over 40,000 take-offs and landings annually, is the third busiest in the state, behind Denver and Colorado Springs. The airport has won national awards from the Federal Aviation Administration for its aircraft rescue and firefighting capabilities and for its commitment to improve airfield safety.



the town of Basalt. Pitkin County Open Space and Trails protects and maintains nearly 9,000 acres of the county's most coveted undeveloped property and ranchland. Population forecasts from the U.S. Census Bureau put Pitkin County's population for 2007 at 16,775.

The area now constituting Pitkin County was originally occupied by the Ute Indians. Many silver prospectors arrived in 1879 and by 1880 the Roaring Fork Valley settlements of Independence, Ashcroft and Aspen were incorporated into



CCI District: Mountain

Commissioners:
Patti Clapper
Dorothea Farris
Jack Hatfield
Michael Owsley
Rachel Richards

Location: Central
Mountains

Square Miles: 975

Population: 16,775

Assessed Value:
1,887,535,000

Gunnison County by the State Legislature. The handful of people who stayed in Aspen for the winter of 1880 to 1881 decided to establish their own county. On February 23, 1881, Governor Frederick Pitkin signed legislation designating the boundaries of Pitkin County naming Aspen as the county seat.

Pitkin County citizens voted to have Pitkin County become a home rule county, effective March 21, 1978. The five-member Board of County Commissioners is the governing body and relies on volunteer Citizen Board members to make recommendations on issues ranging from land use applications to noxious weed control. In 2001, the Board of County Commissioners created a "Vision Statement" that addresses the desired state of the

Pitkin County's economy is dominated by jobs generated from second homes, both from construction and spending by second homeowners, according to a 2006 Study: "Transitions in Mountain Communities - Resort Economies and Their Secondary Effects." Second are jobs in the service and retail industries, generated by winter and summer visitors.

Pitkin County's Home Rule Charter provides for the formation of neighborhood planning area caucuses, defined by a geographic area approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The function of each caucus is to make recommendations for matters affecting the caucus area, including planning, zoning, budgeting and work program matters. There are currently seven active caucuses in the county. Citizen engagement is a top priority for Pitkin County and the caucuses help to facilitate active participation in government.

The biggest challenges facing Pitkin County today are the same as other rural resort regions in the West: transportation, housing, growth and quality of life. The county's Strategic Plan addresses the issues of regional transportation, regionalism, environmental protection, growth, workforce housing, community involvement, organizational excellence, fiscal sustainability and a safe and healthy community. County leaders have integrated the Strategic Plan into the annual budget process to guide their decision making for prioritizing resources and services to citizens.

In 2003, Pitkin County embarked on an ongoing Cultural Initiative in order to develop a more efficient and effective work environment that is responsive to the needs of the community and to the changing economic environment.

2007 DIRECT DISTRIBUTION OF SEVERANCE AND FEDERAL MINERAL LEASE FUNDS

State Severance direct distribution payments and Federal Mineral Lease (FML) direct distribution payments, if applicable, are being sent to your local government.

Severance and FML revenues fluctuate significantly from year to year. This year is no exception. Those areas of the state most affected by oil and gas development will, in many cases, receive substantially smaller distributions this year compared to 2006. This is because of the fact that revenues are more than 30 percent lower than last year.

A report showing these statewide direct distributions is available on the department website: www.dola.colorado.gov/2007dd.

NACO ANNOUNCEMENT

Funding available for programs to divert mentally-ill offenders from jail

NACo has announced the availability of grant funds for member counties to develop and expand programs that divert non-violent mentally ill offenders from jails to community-based treatment. This year's funding will be focused on programs highlighting the access to benefits in setting up alternatives to incarceration for mentally ill offenders. **Deadline: Sept. 28.**

Funding for these seed grants is provided by an Eli Lilly and Company education grant. Go to www.naco.org/techassistance in the Criminal Justice section to download the Request for Proposals.

Contact: Justin Carmody at 202.942.4279 or jcarmody@naco.org.

CCI CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

You will soon be receiving a CCI customer satisfaction survey. We hope you'll take the 5-10 minutes necessary to complete it. One will be sent to each commissioner, mayor and councilmember. The CCI Board will review the results and report the results to you.

CCI

Colorado Counties, Inc.

303.861.4076
(FAX)303.861.2818

**Check out our website:
www.ccionline.org**