

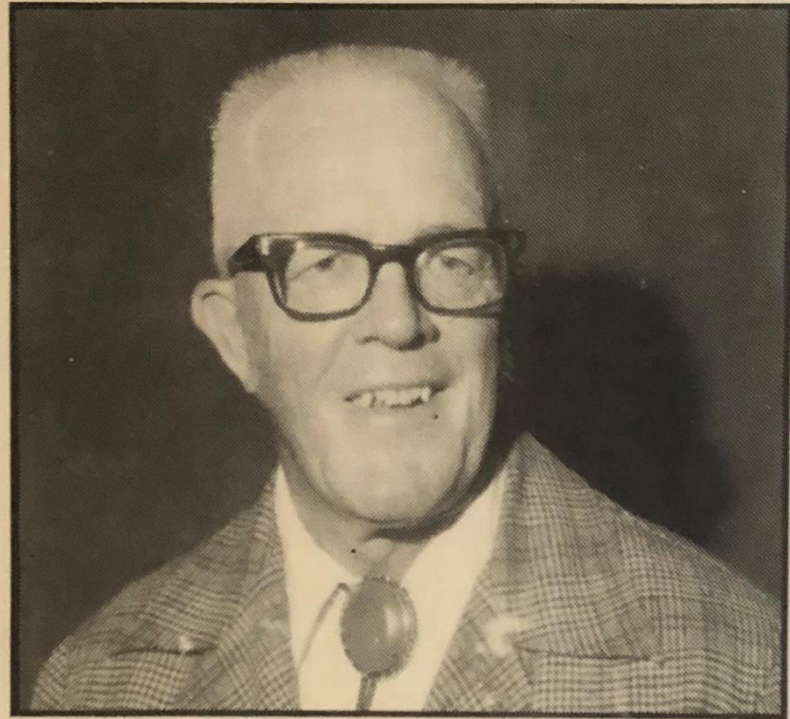


# What is CCI?

## County Government 101

- Eric Bergman, Policy Director
  - office: 303-861-4076
  - mobile: 303-915-2909
  - [ebergman@ccionline.org](mailto:ebergman@ccionline.org)

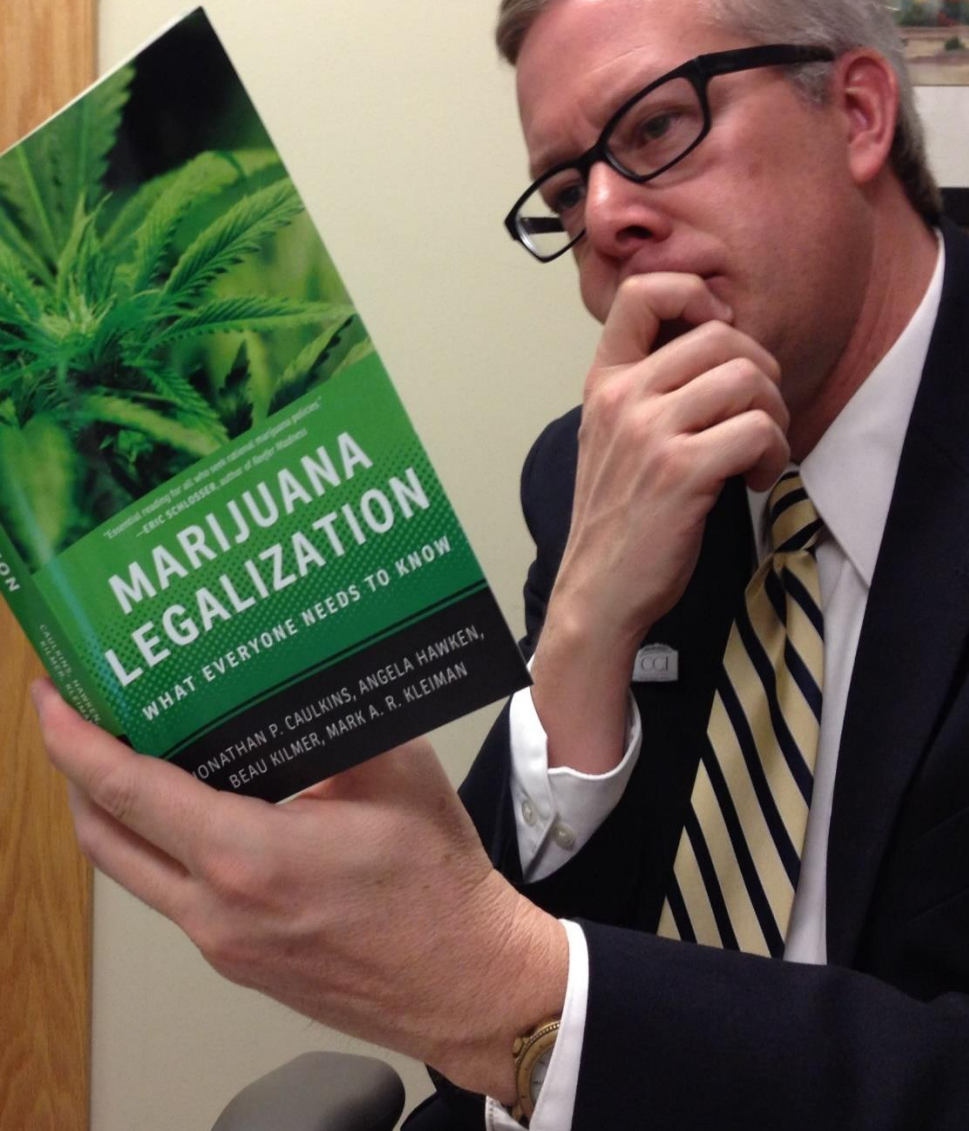
**The Bergman  
Family:  
County Proud  
Since 1984**



*Bob Bergman*  
Republican  
**COMMISSIONER**  
**DISTRICT 3**



# County Government: The Times They Are A-Changing





# County History



# County History

- The county form of government predates both the Articles of Confederation and the US Constitution – and has been in effect in America for over 380 years!
- The word “County” comes from the English practice of placing each court under the governance of a count.



A photograph of a hobbit house, likely from the movie The Hobbit. The house is built into a hillside, with its roof covered in lush green grass and some red autumn leaves. The main entrance is a large, round, yellow door. To the left of the door is a smaller, arched window with a yellow frame. The house is surrounded by greenery, including a wooden picket fence in the foreground and various plants and flowers. A blue mailbox is visible on the right side of the image.

## **FUN FACT**

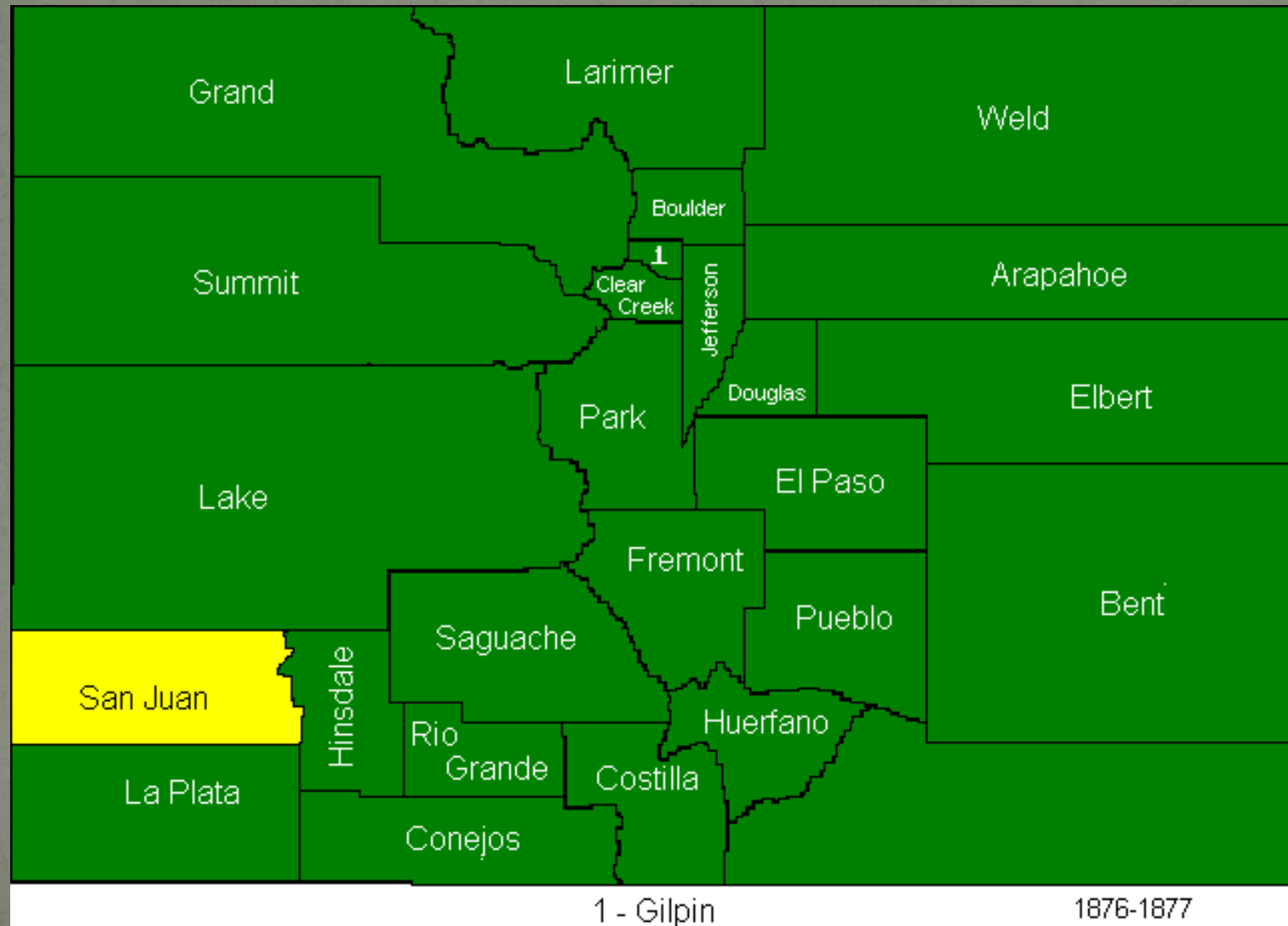
- **Prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066, the unit of government in England was the shire – and the governing officer was called the “reeve.” The term “sheriff” is derived from the term “shire-reeve.”**



# County History

- This English county model was transplanted to American soil and first appeared in Virginia in 1634.
- When Colorado was established as a territory in 1861, it had 17 counties. When it achieved statehood in 1876, it had 26 counties. Today it has 64.
- Counties are now a common unit of local government across the U.S. - although in Louisiana and Alaska they are called parishes and boroughs, respectively.

# Colorado Counties - 1876





# Colorado Counties - 2023

■ Eastern ■ Front Range ■ Mountain ■ Southern ■ Western





# County Commissioners' World

- Counties are constitutional subdivisions of state government – originally created to carry out the policies and programs of the state (but a LOT has changed in the last 145 years).
- Counties possess only those powers that are expressly set forth (or necessarily implied) in state statute.



**In Colorado, county power is deliberately decentralized, with responsibilities split amongst a number of elected officials:**

- Commissioners
- Sheriff
- Clerk & Recorder
- Treasurer
- Assessor
- Coroner
- Surveyor
- District Attorney



# **County Manager/Administrator**

Most counties have a county manager or administrator who is responsible for implementing the Board of County Commissioners' policies and priorities, balancing the annual budget, overseeing day-to-day operations of the county and supervising county staff. Having a county manager or administrator is not required, but currently 50 of the 64 counties employ one.

# Other County Staff

- County Attorney
- County Human Services Director
- County Road and Bridge Supervisor
- County Public Health Director



# County Commissioners' World

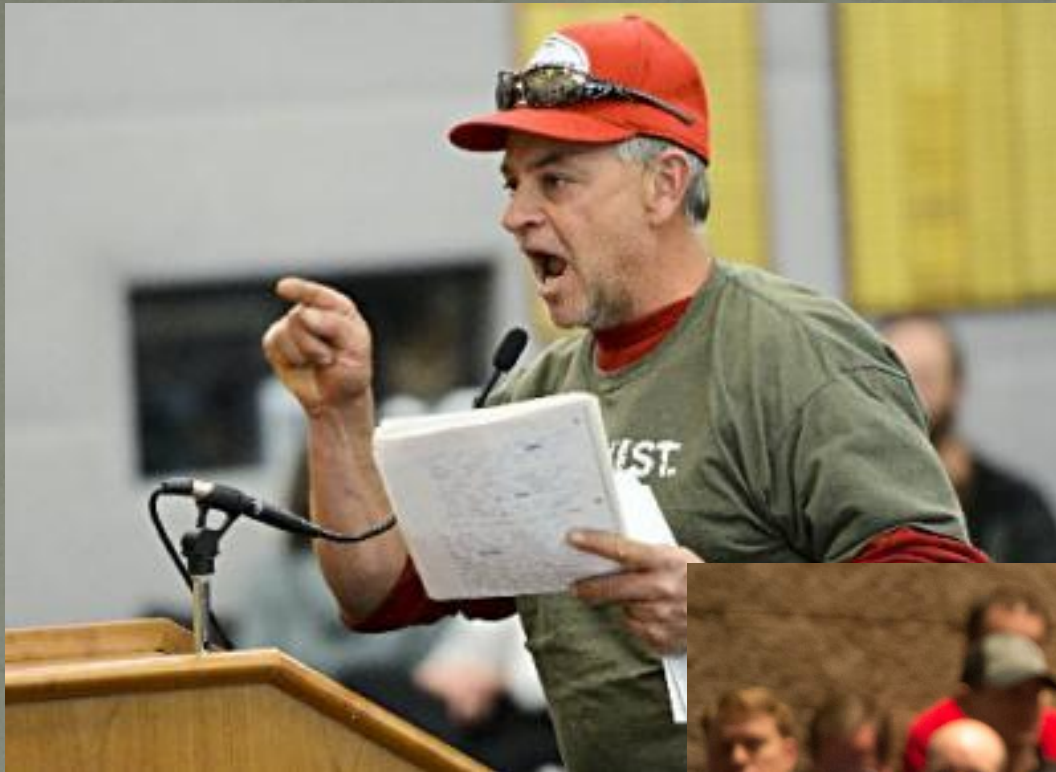
- Commissioners have the responsibility for running the administrative, budgetary and policy-making functions of the county as a whole.
- Commissioners have no direct authority over the other elected officials in the county EXCEPT the commissioners approve the budgets for all the other elected officials' departments.

# Welcome to Endless Hearings-ville



**Population:  
YOU**





**FEEL the love!**



# Roles of the County Commissioner

## Agricultural Research and Protection

- CSU Cooperative Extension
- Right to farm ordinances
- Blowing soils, weeds and brush
- Irrigation districts
- Predator control
- Pest control
- Prairie dog and rodent control
- Noxious weed management

## Airports

## Ambulance service

## Budgeting and finance

## Cemeteries

## Condemnation (eminent domain)

## County property

## Management

## Acquisition

## Joint use with municipalities

## Debt for construction and maintenance

## Public buildings

## Roads and bridges

## Drainage structures and facilities

## Emergency telephone service (911)

## Employment issues

## Personnel policies

## Insurance

## Overtime/leave

## Retirement

## Personnel management

## Fire codes

## Firearms regulation

## Hazardous waste incinerator siting

## Housing authorities

## Improvement districts

## Local improvement districts

## Public improvement districts

## Land use management

## Libraries

## Licensing/Regulation

## Dance halls

## Dogs and pets

## Escort services

## Flea markets

## Liquor

## Marijuana

## Massage parlors

## Auctions

## Nude entertainment

## Pawn brokers

## Trash haulers

## Oil and mineral rights and operations

## Parks and Recreation

## Police powers generally

## Property valuation appeals

## Public health

## Purchasing

## Roads and bridges, transportation

## Sewage treatment and sewers

## Social/health and human services

## Street lights

## Solid waste disposal

## Siting

## Dumping grounds

## Trash removal

## Underground utilities

## Water service

## Wildfire planning and response



# County Revenues

- Property tax is the main revenue source for counties
- Sales and excise tax authority (general and marijuana)
  - - Importance of Wayfair decision
- Fees (Clerk's Office, Land Use & Development, etc.)
- State funding (including HUTF (Highway Users Tax Fund) shareback, human services pass-through and severance tax)
- Grants from state and federal agencies (DOLA, CDOT, USDA – Rural Development, etc.)
- Federal funds including PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) and SRS (secure rural schools) payments

# County Responsibilities

- Elections
- Property assessment and taxation
- Human services and public health
- Law enforcement and public safety
- Courthouses and district attorneys
- Motor vehicle - license plates and registration
- Road and bridge construction/maintenance
- Emergency Management (wildfire, flood, etc.)



# Emerging County Issues

- Child Welfare Continuum of Care
- Affordable Housing
- Marijuana, hemp and magic mushrooms
- Broadband
- Property Taxes (in a post-Gallagher world)

**My friends - YOU GOT THIS!**





# **And CCI is here to help!**

- Source of education tailored to the needs of county commissioners.
- Forum for networking with other commissioners, sharing best practices, and taking cooperative action.
- Collective county voice at the General Assembly.
- Credible source of county information.

# Educate / Advocate / Empower

These words encapsulate CCI's mission and embody the services that we at CCI try to provide.

- We work to **educate** and ensure that commissioners can make informed decisions for their counties.
- We strive to protect counties from adverse state and federal policymaking through **advocacy**.
- We seek to **empower** our members so they can govern effectively and have a voice in the policy affairs that impact their communities.







- Formed in 1907, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation
- By statute, an instrumentality of member counties
- 61 of Colorado's 64 counties are currently members
- Lobbies for county commissioners at the General Assembly
- 86% of revenues come from county dues





- An affiliated 501(c)(4) with its own dues structure
- Membership based on presence of public lands in the county
- Dues based on federal payment program receipts
- Dedicated primarily to federal lobbying on PILT, forest payments, federal lands issues
- Also maintains a strong presence in NACo Public Lands and Western Interstate Region



- A 501(c)(3) nonprofit and charitable organization
- Membership open to all, the home of our corporate associate program
- Focused on educating and assisting county officials and promoting knowledge of and interest in county government
- Foundation hosts two conferences each year, an associates' reception, and new commissioner orientation every other year.



# CCI Structure and Governance

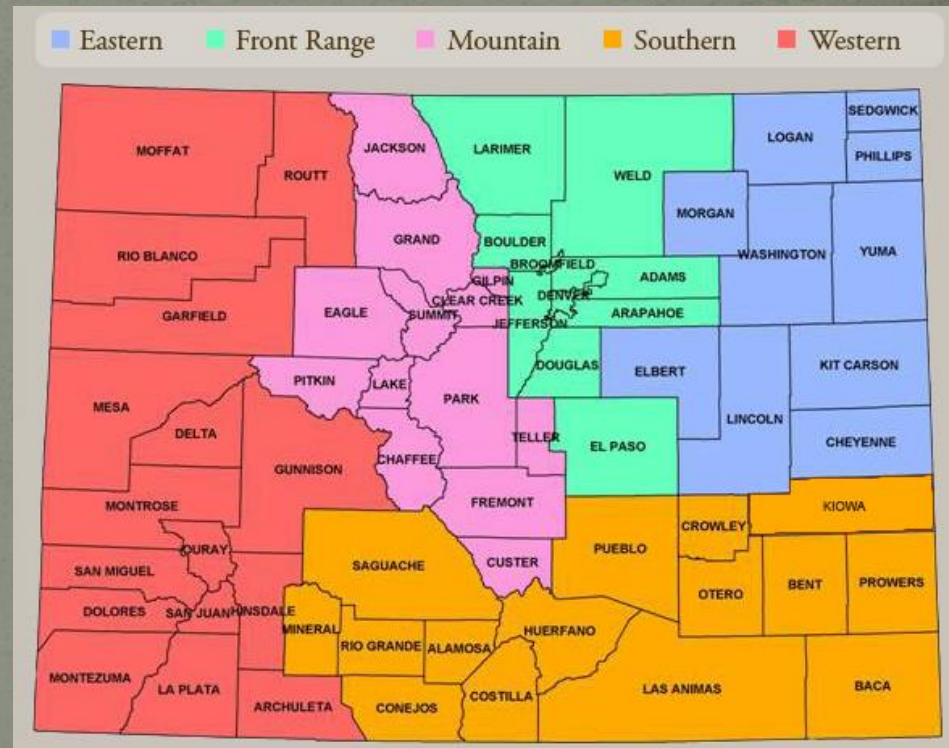
- **Board of Directors – 8 members**

- Member from Each District
- Immediate Past President
- Secretary and Treasurer from the over 50,000 Caucus

- Budget and Dues Development
- Administrative Oversight
- Establish Advisory and Ad Hoc Committees
- Amicus Participation

- **Districts – 5 regions**

- Elect Board Representatives
- Facilitate Regional Dialog
- Bylaws Committee



# CCI Structure and Governance

- **Nine Steering Committees**

- Subject Matter Based (Ag, Wildlife & Rural Affairs, Land Use & Natural Resources, Transportation & Telecom, General Government, Justice & Public Safety, Health & Human Services, Tax & Finance, Public Lands, and Tourism, Resorts & Economic Development)
- Determine Bill Positions During Session
- Recommend County Legislative Priorities
- Recommend Policy Statements and Changes

- **Legislative Committee**

- Legislative Agenda Oversight
- Policy Statement Oversight





Legislative Issue

Background: DCC Director Drew Williams is trying to...  
...the community's resources...  
...the state's...  
...the state's...  
...the state's...

Bill Holen  
Commissioner  
Arapahoe County

Jim Fackler  
Commissioner  
Morgan County

Steve Johnson  
Commissioner  
Larimer County

PLEASE  
Don't touch  
this



# CCI Structure and Governance

- **Full Membership Decisions**
  - Approval of Budget and Dues Schedule
  - Approval of Legislative Agenda and Policy Statement Changes
  - Approval of Bylaws Changes
  - Positions on Initiatives and Referenda
- **Special Committees**
  - Bylaws Committee
  - Amicus Committee



# Opportunities for Participation

- Legislative Agenda
- Policy Statement
- District Positions
- Meetings
  - Steering Committees
  - District Meetings
  - Conferences
  - Workshops and webinars
- Serve as a committee chair or officer


[About Us](#)
[Publications](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[Info Center & Library](#)

## Coronavirus Information

## COLORADO COUNTIES, INC.

*Educate · Advocate · Empower*

CCI is a non-profit, membership association whose purpose is to offer assistance to county commissioners, mayors and council members and to encourage counties to work together on common issues. Governed by a board of directors consisting of eight commissioners from across the state, our focus is on information, education and legislative representation. We strive to keep our members up-to-date on issues that directly impact county operations. At the same time, we work to present a united voice to the Colorado General Assembly and other government and regulatory bodies to help shape the future.

[Learn More About CCI »](#)

Notices

2020 Off-System Bridge Program - Solicitation for Applications

[Full Post »](#)
[Recent Notices »](#)

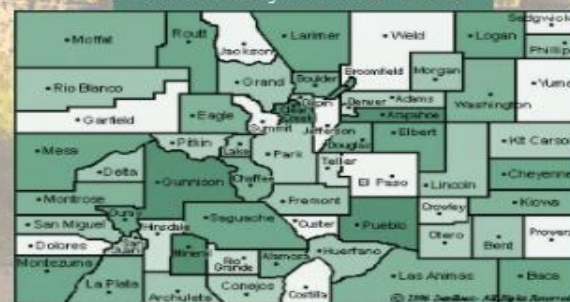
### Upcoming

January 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 14, 2021	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
CCI New Commissioner Orientation - via Zoom	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
January 22, 2021	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CCI Legislative Update Call	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
January 28, 2021	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
CCI Steering Committee Meetings	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

[Full Calendar »](#)
[Previous](#) [Next](#)

Click a County Visit Their Website



### Links

Local & State Resources  
National Resources  
Colorado Water Issues

### Associate Members

About the Program & How to Apply  
Associate Members (Alphabetical)  
Associate Members (Category)  
Application

### 2021 Summer Conference

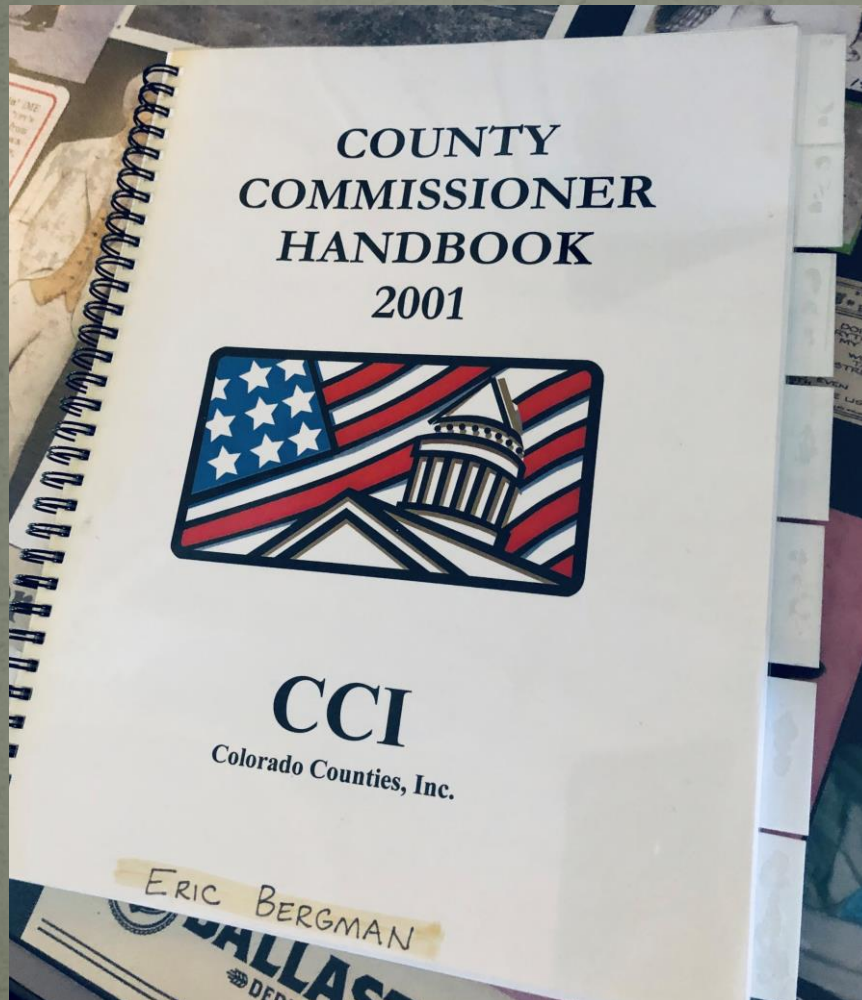
June 7-9, 2021  
Eagle County, CO  
[Click here for more info](#)

For questions or more






# County Commissioner Handbook



# Publications and Electronic Updates



**Legislative Report**

May 5, 2014

[For best resolution: Open this email in your browser](#)

**Colorado Counties Legislative Team**

Brian Bergman – General Government and Transportation & Telecommunications  
Andy Hansen – Agriculture, Wildlife & Natural Affairs, Land Use & Natural Resources, Public Lands, Forestry and State Natural Services  
Cathy Ferguson – Health & Human Services  
Don't see one of our legislative priorities or another bill? Give us a call: 303.891.4675

**General Government**  
[HB1066](#)  
[SB01003](#)

**Health & Human Services**  
[HB1365](#)  
[HB1375](#)  
[HB1393](#)

**Land Use and Natural Resources**  
[HB1339](#)  
[SB0197](#)

**Tax & Finance**  
[HB1339](#)  
[SB0197](#)

**Transportation & Telecommunications**  
[HB1339](#)  
[SB0197](#)

For more detailed bill information, please visit our [Website: Bill Tracker](#).



Colorado Counties, Inc. Non-Profit Organization

Timeline

82 posts

Write something on this Page...

Colorado Counties, Inc. November 24 at 10:25am · 49

Are you ready for winter conference? Get the latest updates in today's CCI eCounty Lines. <http://ccilines.org>

Like · Comment · Share

Colorado Counties, Inc. November 24 at 10:25am · 49

Today's Transportation Winter Summit in Denver brought together policy makers and business leaders from around the state. See here: [Commissioner Carl Stiles \(Summit County\), Commissioner Roger Penhag \(Greeley County\), State Rep. and former Routt County Commissioner Diane Hirsch-Buon, and Commissioner Kathy Chandler-Henry \(Sage County\).](#)

**County Status**

Weld

Morgan

Adams

Arapahoe

Elbert

El Paso



**CCI**  
COLORADO COUNTIES, INC.  
Educate · Advocate · Empower



**CCI Foundation**  
An affiliate of Colorado Counties, Inc.



**CCI Public Lands**  
An affiliate of Colorado Counties, Inc.

## 2015 Annual Report



**CCI**  
COLORADO COUNTIES, INC.  
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## eCounty Lines

November 22, 2016


**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:**  
[Conference Delegates Will Gain Insight into Fiscal Challenges](#)

**CCI MEETING:**  
[El Paso County Hosts Winter Conference Starting on Monday](#)  
[Conference Features Elite List of Product/Service Suppliers](#)

**IMPORTANT NEWS FOR COUNTIES:**  
[Planning Group on Aging Releases Draft Recommendations](#)  
[SEMTAC Has Position Available for a Rural Commissioner](#)  
[Commissioner Needed for Coroners Standards Board](#)



**CCI**  
COLORADO COUNTIES, INC.  
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**CML**  
COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE  
The Voice of Colorado's Cities and Towns

**SB05-152 Opt-Out Kit:**  
A Local Government Blueprint  
for Improving Broadband  
Service in Your Community

May 2017

ing Businesses Grandfathered In  
status. Map Revision: July 21.

DEDICATED TO THE CRAFT



# Other Services and Activities

- Legislative Representation and Information
- Education
  - Webinars and workshops
  - Initiative Information and Research
  - County Operations and Administration
  - County Election Data and Ballot Information
- Information Sharing and Networking
- Appointments to Executive Branch Councils and Commissions
- Liaison with Other County-Based Organizations
- Off-System Bridge Grant Program

# CCI World Headquarters

CCI is located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Grant in downtown Denver.

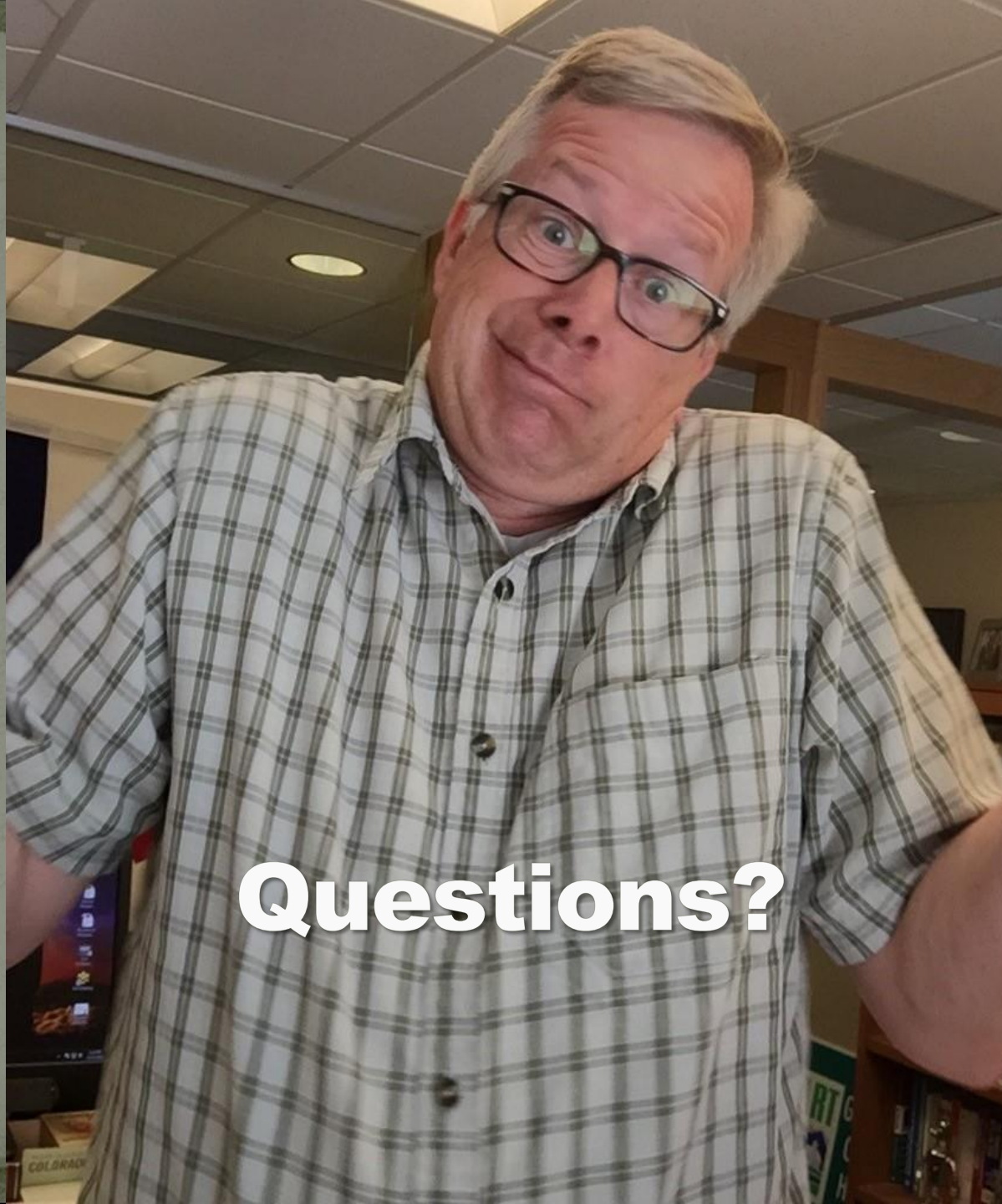
CCI and CTSI are conveniently located in the same building.

Free county parking on the north side of the building is accessible from the alley.

We look forward to seeing you!







**Questions?**



# What is CCI?

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  - mobile: 303-915-2909
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