

CITY OF WESTMINSTER Community Profile

Incorporated in 1911, Westminster's council/manager form of government is consistently recognized for excellence in management and delivery of full services to businesses and residents, without the need for additional service districts. The City provides police, fire, parks, recreation, library, streets, water, and wastewater services.

Poised to become the next urban center of the Colorado Front Range, Westminster welcomed commuter rail service in 2016, with non-stop service from Westminster Station to Denver Union Station in 11 minutes. Westminster is also committed to building its new downtown in the former Westminster Mall site, as a revived economic and community hub.

The City features ample services, shopping and restaurants, along with award winning recreational facilities and diverse housing. Add spectacular mountain vistas and Westminster stands out as the place to connect with business, with workforce, and with great Colorado lifestyle.

The City of Westminster approved its Adopted 2017 Budget in October 2016. The City's 2017 Budget totals more than \$289 million. The City's property tax mill levy will remain unchanged for the 24th consecutive year at 3.65 mills, one of the lowest local property tax rates in Colorado.

With the opening of the FasTracks B Line in July 2016, Westminster is working to ensure our south neighborhood adjacent to the Westminster Station is transformed into a walkable, transit-oriented community. Downtown Westminster (the location of the former Westminster Mall) will be a state of the art transit oriented development, designed to connect to the next rail station on the B Line. The future rail station at Church Ranch (adjacent to the Shops at Walnut Creek) is already a thriving retail and entertainment destination.

CITY COUNCIL CONTACTS

Mayor Herb Atchison
herb.atchison@netzero.com
303-915-5625

Mayor Pro Tem Alberto Garcia
agarcia@cityofwestminster.us
303-521-3996

Councillor Bruce Baker
bbaker@cityofwestminster.us
303-408-2288

Councillor Shannon Bird
sbird@cityofwestminster.us
303-435-3480

Councillor Maria De Cambra
mdecambra@cityofwestminster.us
303-658-2006

Councillor Emma Pinter
epinter@cityofwestminster.us
720-239-2053

Councillor Anita Seitz
aseitz@cityofwestminster.us
303-817-5237

STAFF CONTACTS

City Manager
Donald M. Tripp
dtripp@cityofwestminster.us
303-658-2010

Policy & Budget Manager
Chris Lindsey
clindsey@cityofwestminster.us
303-658-2004

Policy & Budget Analyst
Kristen Koehler
kkoehler@cityofwestminster.us
303-658-2007

CITY LOBBYISTS

Attwood Public Affairs & Siegel Public Affairs
Amy Attwood / Becky Long
amy@amyattwood.com / becky@siegelpa.com
720-840-4912 / 303-863-2400

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES GUIDE



City of Westminster

4800 West 92nd Avenue
Westminster, CO 80031
Phone 303-658-2001
www.ci.westminster.co.us



WESTMINSTER

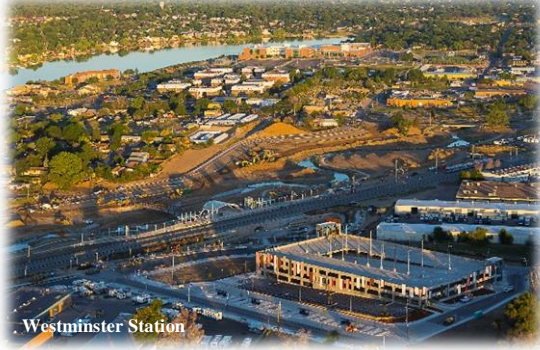
SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- Transportation: Key to the Future of the State and Metro Region
- Sales & Use Tax: The City's Primary Source of Revenue
- Police: Protecting the Safety of Our Community
- Home Rule: It's Not Just a Recommendation - It's the Law

CITY OF WESTMINSTER STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- Visionary Leadership, Effective Governance, and Proactive Regional Collaboration
- Vibrant, Inclusive, and Engaged Community
- Beautiful, Desirable, Safe, and Environmentally Responsible City
- Dynamic, Diverse Economy
- Financially Sustainable Government Providing Excellence in City Services
- Ease of Mobility

TRANSPORTATION: KEY TO THE FUTURE OF THE STATE AND METRO REGION



The City of Westminster knows meeting the mobility needs of the state and metro region are critical to the quality of life of our residents and workforce. As the next Urban Center of the Colorado Front Range, we pursue and invest in multi-modal transportation options. Our regional connectivity and ability to meet goals for reduced congestion, improved air quality and sustainability require state funding.

- We request our members of the State Legislature pursue and approve new funding for all modes of transportation.
- We ask for your support to ensure any funding package includes completion of the B-Line (Northwest Rail). It connects us to our neighbors to the west, and east to Union Station, Denver International Airport and the world.
- Westminster is committed to improving walking and biking - providing our residents and workforce with active living options. The US 36 Bikeway is a unique regional asset. Funding is needed to make it a seamless corridor with the highest degree of safety. Two grade separations are required: at Sheridan Boulevard – one of the highest crash locations in the region, and at Church Ranch Boulevard – a thriving retail and entertainment center.

SALES AND USE TAX: THE CITY'S PRIMARY SOURCE OF REVENUE

Sales and use tax revenue is the primary source of funding for City of Westminster services and operations. In Westminster, these taxes comprise over 68% of the general fund revenues that fund crucial services for the public. It is critical that control over this primary funding source remain at the local level, where it can be efficiently and effectively administered. Two significant issues are at the forefront of sales and use tax administration presently, as explained below: tax remittance simplification and the collection of sales and use tax on remote sales.

- Westminster is committed to engaging in serious discussions about simplifying Colorado's sales tax system in a way that balances the need to raise revenue with the burdens of compliance. Home rule cities in Colorado have a history of working with business in collecting this tax, including successful efforts to adopt standard definitions, utilize uniform remittance and exemption forms, and provide access to certified electronic address databases. While Westminster values cooperative efforts towards simplification that make collecting and remitting sales tax easier for businesses, we have strong concerns about the impacts that any statutory mandates for such efforts may have on home rule authority and local control.
- The City of Westminster supports efforts that allow state and local governments to require businesses to collect sales and use taxes on remote sales. Colorado's losses of sales tax to untaxed electronic commerce were estimated to be around \$170 million in 2011. Loopholes under the current system ensure that some citizens are not paying their fair share for local services. However, such taxation must remain under the sovereignty of the state and local governments imposing the taxes. Authority for such taxation should not be predicated upon their surrender of tax policy decisions to a national body.

POLICE: PROTECTING THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY

The City of Westminster Police Department's role is to enforce the law in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both the statutory and judicial limitations of police authority and the constitutional rights of all persons. The department serves the people of Westminster by performing the law enforcement function in a professional manner, to prevent and deter crime, and when necessary, to apprehend those who violate the law.

In light of recent deaths and attacks against Law Enforcement Officers nationwide, legislation should not only protect the safety and rights of our citizens but also protect the safety and rights of our Law Enforcement Officers. There are over 900,000 sworn Law Enforcement Officers nationwide. In 2016, Law Enforcement fatalities are up 19% when compared to 2015. During 2016, Colorado has had five Law Enforcement fatalities.

A JOB LIKE NO OTHER

On a daily basis, Police Officers face threats and dangers within their profession. According to statistics collected by the FBI, in 2015, 86 law enforcement officers were killed in the line-of-duty. Of these, 41 Law Enforcement Officers died as a result of felonious acts, and 45 officers died in accidents. In addition, 50,212 officers were victims of line-of-duty assaults.



HOME RULE: IT'S NOT JUST A RECOMMENDATION – IT'S THE LAW



The City of Westminster believes strongly in the principles of home rule authority and local control. The City of Westminster believes that home rule authority increases the effectiveness and efficiency of local government services, thereby enhancing the quality of life in the community and the value provided to local taxpayers.

- The City of Westminster expects State legislators to respect and support home rule authority and Colorado's tradition of local control.
- The City of Westminster will oppose legislation that adversely affects the City's ability to manage these matters pursuant to its home rule authority.
- The City of Westminster strongly supports local control in employee-employer relations, as the City of Westminster strives to maintain the highest levels of communication and cooperation between management and frontline personnel.