

County Government 101  
CCI Refresher  
January 15, 2025

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# Agenda

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I. History

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II. Role of Counties

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III. Emerging Issues

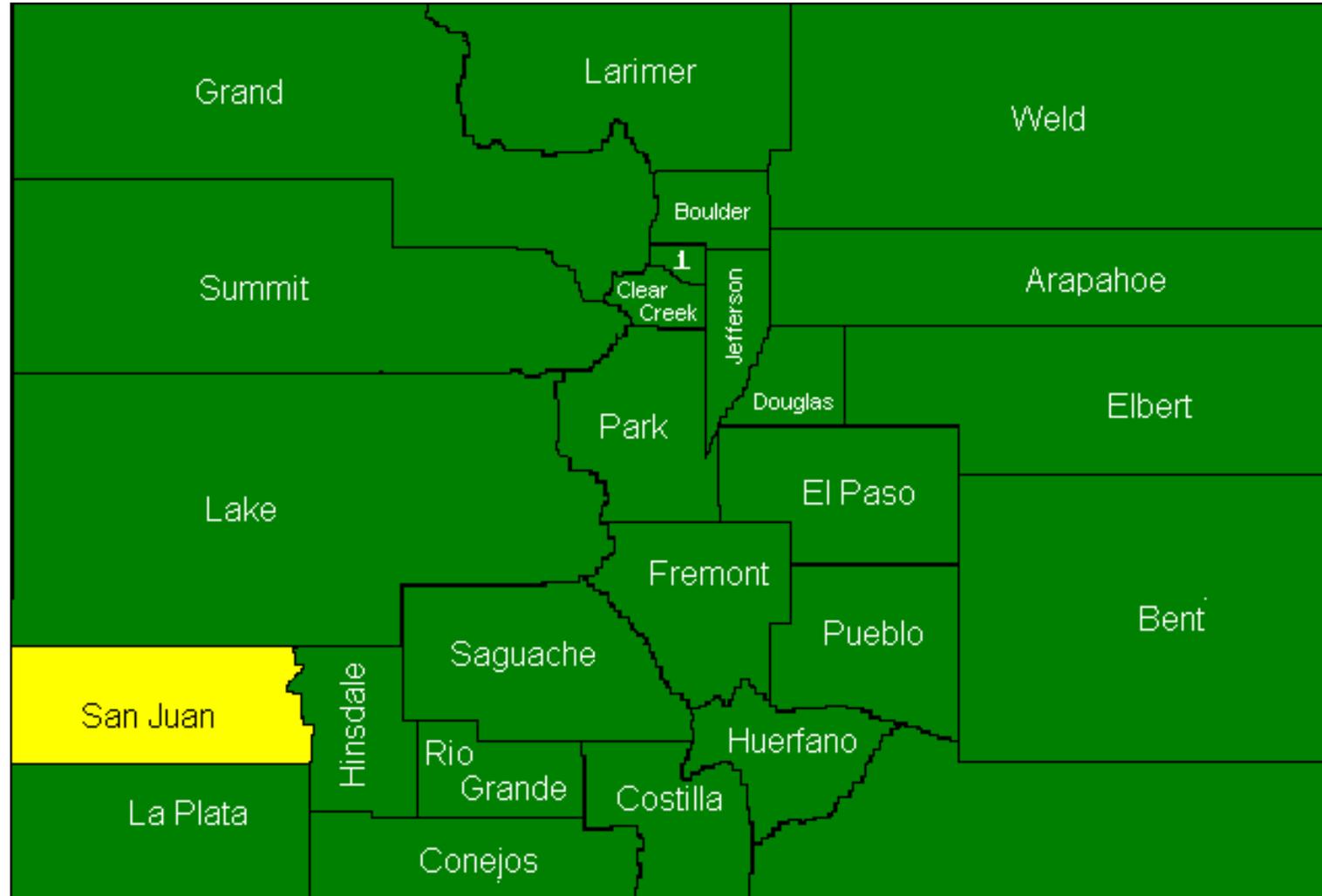
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IV. About CCI & Affiliates

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V. Q & A

# Colorado Counties - 1876



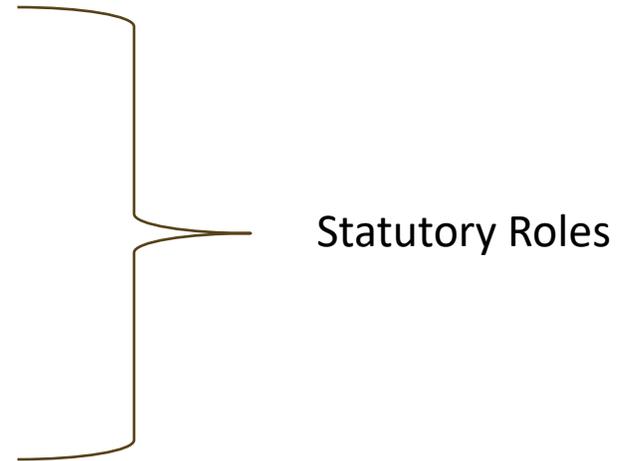
# Colorado Counties - 2025

■ Eastern ■ Front Range ■ Mountain ■ Southern ■ Western



# County History, Background, and Facts

- Constitutional subdivisions of state government – originally created to carry out the policies and programs of the state
  - 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.
- Commissioners are responsible for running the administrative, **budgetary**, and policy-making functions of the entire county.
- County Elected Officials:
  - Commissioners
  - Sheriff
  - Clerk & Recorder
  - Treasurer
  - Assessor
  - Coroner
  - Surveyor
  - District Attorney



# County Staff



County Manager/Administrator



County Attorney



County Human Services Director



County Road & Bridge Supervisor



County Public Health Director

# Role of County Government



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.)

# Where do counties get their funding?



PROPERTY TAX is a main revenue source for counties



Sales and excise tax authority (general and marijuana)



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

# Responsibilities of Local Governments (A-H)

<b>Agricultural Research &amp; Protection</b> CSU Extension Right to Farm Blowing soils, weeds, and brush Irrigation Districts Predator Control Pest Control Prairie Dog & Rodent Control Noxious Weed Mgmt	<b>Debt for Construction &amp; Maintenance</b> Public Buildings Roads & Bridges
<b>Airports</b>	<b>Drainage Structures &amp; Facilities</b>
<b>Ambulance Service</b>	<b>Emergency Telephone Services (911)</b>
<b>Budgeting &amp; Finance</b>	<b>Employment Issues</b> Policies & Management Insurance Overtime Leave Retirement
<b>Cemeteries</b>	<b>Fire Codes</b>
<b>County Property</b> Management Acquisition Eminent Domain Joint Use w/ Munis	<b>Firearm Regulation</b>
	<b>Hazardous Waste Incinerator Siting</b>
	<b>Housing Authorities</b>

# Responsibilities of Local Governments (I-Z)

<b>Improvement Districts</b> Local Improvement Districts Public Improvement Districts	<b>Purchasing</b>
<b>Land Use Management</b>	<b>Roads/Bridges/Transportation</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Sewage Treatment &amp; Sewers</b>
<b>Libraries</b>	<b>Social / Health &amp; Human Services</b>
<b>Licensing / Regulation</b> Adult Entertainment Auctions Dance Halls Dogs & Pets Escort Services Flea Markets Liquor Marijuana Massage Parlors Pawn Brokers Trash Haulers	<b>Streetlights</b>
<b>Oil &amp; Mineral Rights &amp; Operations</b>	<b>Solid Waste Disposal</b> Siting Dumping/Trash Removal
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Underground Utilities</b>
<b>Police Powers (generally)</b>	<b>Water Service</b>
<b>Property Valuation Appeals</b>	<b>Wildfire Planning &amp; Response</b>
<b>Public Health</b>	

# Emerging County Issues

- **Property Taxes**
- **Web Accessibility**
- **Human Services Funding**
- **Housing Affordability**
- **State/County Friction**
  - Counties lack tools municipalities have
  - Philosophical vs. Operational Realities

# CCI Support

- 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.

# About CCI

- Formed in 1907, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation
- Members consist of entire commissioner boards
- Staff works solely for counties
- 86% of revenues come from county dues





## Educate / Advocate / Empower

- We work to **educate** and ensure that commissioners can make informed decisions for their counties and learn from one another.
- 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.



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

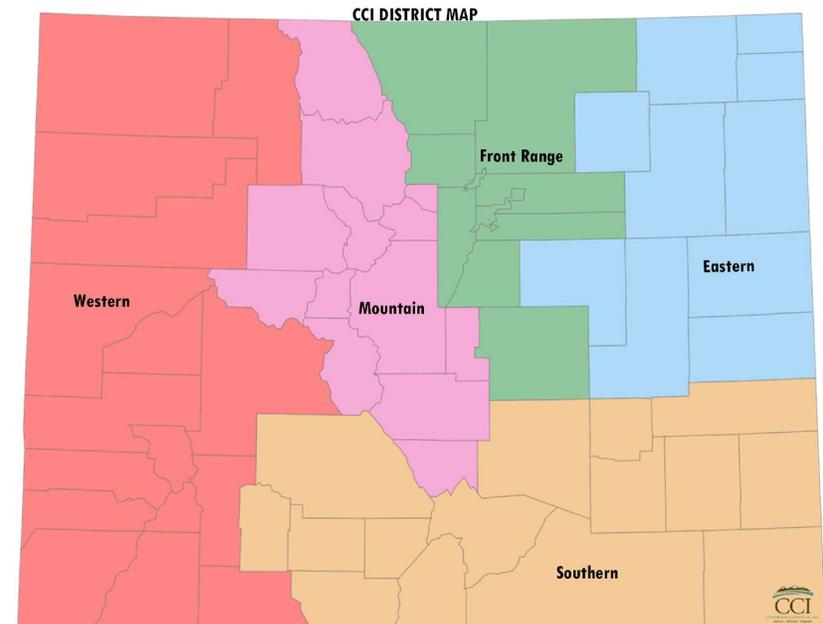


- An affiliated 501(c)(4) with its own dues structure
- Membership based on the presence of public lands in the county
- Dues based on federal payment program receipts
- Dedicated primarily to federal lobbying on PILT, forest payments, federal lands issues
- Maintains a strong presence at the National Association of Counties (NACo)

# CCI Structure & Governance

- **Board of Directors – 8 members**
  - Member from Each District (5)
  - Immediate Past President (1)
  - Secretary and Treasurer from the over 50,000 Caucus (2)
- **Board Focus**
  - Budget and Dues Development
  - Administrative Oversight
  - Establish Advisory and Ad Hoc Committees
  - Amicus Participation

- **Districts – 5 regions**
- Elect Board Representatives
- Facilitate Regional Dialogue
- Bylaws Committee



# CCI Steering Committees

- **Nine Steering Committees - Subject Matter Based**
  - Agriculture, Wildlife & Rural Affairs,
  - Land Use & Natural Resources,
  - Transportation & Telecommunications,
  - General Government,
  - Justice & Public Safety,
  - Health & Human Services,
  - Tax & Finance,
  - Public Lands, and
  - Tourism, Resorts & Economic Development
- Facilitated by a Chair & Vice Chair
- Determine Bill Positions During Session
- Recommend County Legislative Priorities
- Recommend Policy Statements and Changes
- **1 county, 1 vote**
- **65% approval threshold**

# 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

## Other Services & 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



Questions?