

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM**  
**#11-2019**

**DATE:** February 24, 2020  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Heather Geyer, City Manager   
**SUBJECT:** CR-54 – 2020 Legislative Issues Guide

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**PURPOSE**

To provide City Council with a final update on the Legislative Policy Statement for the 2020 Legislative Session.

**BACKGROUND**

The Legislative Policy Committee has developed this final Legislative Policy statement for consideration by the entire City Council. The policy statement is intended to be general in nature and serve as a tool for county and state officials to reference during the 2020 Legislative Session.

Changes to the 2020 Legislative Issues Guide include the following:

- Updated photos throughout the document
- Updated content in the Attainable Housing section
- Updated content in the Transportation section and updated title
- Updated content in the Environmental Sustainability section
- Rephrasing of the Public Employment section

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff is recommending approval of the draft 2020 Legislative Policy Statement.

**BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of the printed document is approximately \$250. Document design is done in-house.

**STAFF REFERENCE**

If Council members have any questions or comments, they may contact Heather Geyer, City Manager at [hgeyer@northglenn.org](mailto:hgeyer@northglenn.org) or 303.450.8706.

CR-54 – 2020 Legislative Issues Guide

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-54  
Series of 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Series of 2020

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN 2020 LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Northglenn has an interest in the legislative activity of the Colorado General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, state legislation may impact the residents of the City of Northglenn, and may also impact or influence municipal operations of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in providing input on proposed legislation, and the Legislative Policy Committee has developed a Legislative Policy Statement, which identifies the City's position on legislative issues; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Policy Statement will be utilized as guiding policies when reviewing and responding to proposed legislation of interest to the City of Northglenn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The 2020 Legislative Policy Statement, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, is hereby adopted by the City Council.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEREDITH LEIGHTY  
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHANNA SMALL, CMC  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
COREY Y. HOFFMANN  
City Attorney



CITY OF  
**Northglenn**



**2020**

**State  
Legislative  
Issues Guide**



# THE CITY COUNCIL HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR 2020 AND DEVELOPED A FORMAL POLICY STATEMENT.

The City of Northglenn was founded in a location that was once the “edge” of the Denver metro region.



Times have changed and the City now finds itself encompassed by further suburban growth but competitively positioned along the Interstate 25 corridor, nearly in the center of the Denver metro region.

This advantageous position provides easy access to most destinations, including downtown

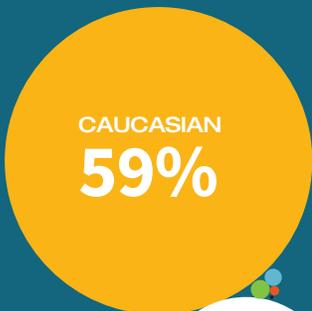
Denver, Boulder and Denver International Airport, as well as a variety of employment centers in all directions.

Its competitive location strategically positions Northglenn for both future residential and new business growth.

## NORTHGLENN AT A GLANCE



### RACE/ETHNICITY

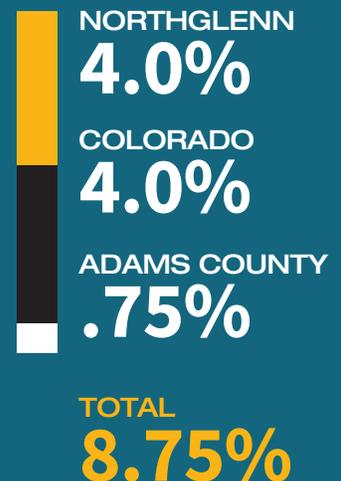


- ASIAN **2.9%**
- OTHER **2.4%**
- AFRICAN AMERICAN **1.7%**
- NATIVE AMERICAN **0.3%**

### LOCATION



### SALES TAX





## COUNCIL GOALS

The City Council has identified eight main goals for the community that guide the legislative policy statement.

- *High-Performance Government*
- *Community Engagement*
- *Public Safety*
- *Business Retention and Growth*
- *Housing Opportunities*
- *Diverse Community*
- *Sustainability*
- *Infrastructure*



## AS IS THE CASE WITH MOST COMMUNITIES, THE CITY MUST RESPOND TO A CHANGING REGIONAL ECONOMY THAT IS INFLUENCED MORE AND MORE BY A GLOBAL ECONOMY.

Integrated in these larger systems is the specific economy of the City of Northglenn and the tax structure that provides the community with the resources and services deemed necessary. The City's current operating budget is largely dependent on retail sales tax dollars that often fluctuate with national and regional economic trends. This tax structure and the necessity to attract retail sales tax dollars will have a large impact on strategies that attempt to reinvent land uses in the future.

Although the City has not adopted a formal policy statement in the area of water quality and quantity, this is an important statewide issue that may affect Northglenn. The City may take formal positions on this individually or as part of regional coalitions that have interests common to the City.



## LOCAL CONTROL & MUNICIPAL HOME RULE

Colorado has a tradition of local control and decentralized governmental authority that is reflected in the home rule provisions of the State constitution and in substantial grants of power to Colorado municipalities in State statutes.

These provisions reflect a belief that local issues and local needs are generally best addressed locally. The City strongly shares this belief.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports State legislation that enables and facilitates the resolution of local issues locally.*
- *Opposes State legislation that would pre-empt or otherwise limit municipal authority, including legislation that aims to diminish or intrude upon the authority of home rule municipalities.*





*Northglenn High School  
STEM facility lobby.  
All of Northglenn is served by the  
Adams 12 Five School District.*

**Northglenn is a unique community with 14 schools within a 7.5-square-mile radius.**

The City believes an effective education system supplies our municipalities with an educated and well-trained community and workforce who will both allow existing businesses to expand and attract new business investment.

The most effective programs are those partnerships among our educational institutions, local stakeholder and local governments. Due to its importance to our communities, the City supports education as a community-wide value.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports state and local policies and initiatives that encourage greater early learning, K-12, higher education, workforce training opportunities and*

*lifelong learning opportunities that allow cities to attract and retain an excellent workforce.*

- *Supports access to information and resources that help parents and caregivers give students the greatest chances to learn and grow in safe and healthy ways.*
- *Supports state initiatives that enhance creative and innovative partnership opportunities with businesses and educational institutions. This includes shared facilities, school resource officers, and enhanced programming.*
- *Supports education funding that is balanced between state and local sources and takes into consideration all sectors of the economy.*
- *Supports funding that would enhance early childhood education opportunities.*

## URBAN RENEWAL/ REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**The City’s urban renewal authority is an extremely useful and proven tool for remedying urban blight in economically depressed areas.**

Urban renewal often involves use of the increase in tax revenue due to the urban renewal project (called the “tax increment”) to first pay off costs associated with the development, before beginning distribution to this tax increment to the various governments that levy a tax on the improved property. In recent years, the General Assembly has addressed a variety of bills on this subject, some of which have been enacted.

Therefore, the City:

- *Opposes further watering down of municipal urban renewal authority and/or downtown development authority by the General Assembly.*





## ATTAINABLE HOUSING

**The City is committed to an environment that offers a variety of housing options for all City residents, in every stage of their life, including those on fixed incomes or of limited financial means.**

The General Assembly has enacted laws that have attempted to include remedies for homeowners with construction defects, but are also widely regarded as having caused a dramatic decline in the construction of multi-family, owner-occupied housing (condominiums) in Colorado.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports a balanced approach to resolving construction

*defects concerns between builders and homeowners, as exemplified by the City’s adoption of a model ordinance on the topic.*

- Supports increasing local government’s ability, in partnership with the county and neighboring jurisdictions, in providing services to individuals, families and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Supports increasing local government’s ability to regulate, manage or generate alternative sources of funding for attainable housing and public/private partnerships.
- Support leveraging funding through state and local partnerships to provide homeownership assistance.

## TRANSPORTATION

With its position astride the metro area’s major north-south corridor, the City naturally has a strong interest in State transportation planning and financing.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports the completion of RTD’s FasTracks N Line commuter rail to 144th Avenue as originally planned.
- Supports local control of public

*roads, public transit, pedestrian paths and bike lanes to address emerging modes of transportation that serve the entire metro area and Adams County.*

- Supports alternative methods of funding transportation infrastructure needs.
- Supports funding and policy changes to encourage community efforts in electrifying the transportation sector.



**The Northglenn • 112th N Line FasTracks station will provide a new transportation option for residents.**





## SALES AND USE TAXES

**Like most Colorado municipalities, Northglenn is highly dependent on sales and use tax revenues, providing 65% of the City's tax revenues annually.**

An effective sales tax has enabled Colorado municipalities to generally avoid reliance on the far less popular property tax, which funds most municipal operations nationwide.

Under Colorado's constitution, Northglenn and other home rule municipalities are entitled to locally collect and administer this tax.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports efforts that would simplify the tax system for those remitting tax, provided that such measures would not materially jeopardize the revenue raising capacity of the tax*

*system or its legal basis.*

- *Supports efforts to facilitate "main street tax equity" by requiring collection of tax on remote sales by Internet or mail-order vendors within the City.*
- *Opposes legislation that would jeopardize the City's home rule authority over sales and use tax matters, through resultant litigation, or otherwise.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**The City is committed to building a framework for environmental sustainability for the future.**

The City is committed to mitigating the devastating impacts of climate change, while providing the community with excellent parks and recreation services and facilities. Additionally, the City operates water, wastewater and stormwater utilities in a financially-sound, reliable, safe and environmentally-friendly manner.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports maintaining or enhancing funds for parks, trails, forestry, horticulture and recreation services and facilities.*
- *Supports equal or greater funding levels of Great Outdoors Colorado grants awarded to municipalities.*
- *Supports municipal and state reuse, composting, recycling programs and exploring incentives for end markets.*
- *Supports collaboration between state and federal government agencies and Colorado's local*

*governments to advance local climate protection.*

- *Supports equitable strategies to enable and accelerate building electrification.*
- *Supports accelerating retirement of existing fossil fuel generation facilities and their replacement with cost-effective and reliable clean energy supplies, through means that protect both utilities and consumers.*
- *Opposes legislation that would diminish the authority of local government to regulate environmental impacts to the City.*



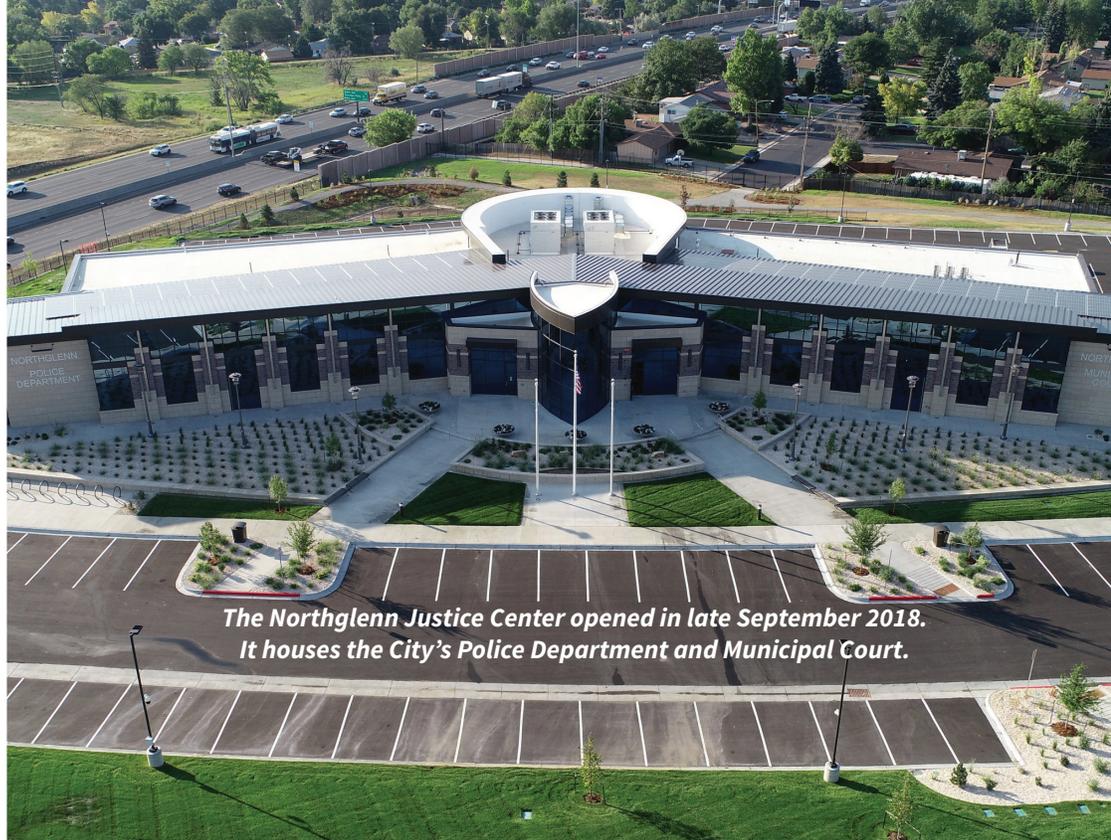
# UNFUNDED MANDATES

Programs and regulations mandated by the State or federal government upon local governments without adequate funding force local governments to divert scarce local funding away from pressing local needs.

Therefore, the City:



- Supports protection of statutory and constitutional provisions that protect local governments from being obliged to comply with unfunded mandates.
- Opposes unfunded State or Federal mandates.



The Northglenn Justice Center opened in late September 2018. It houses the City's Police Department and Municipal Court.



## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Public health and safety is a primary responsibility of the City.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports State legislation that resolves the issue of medical expenses for individuals in custody with an equitable solution for all parties.
- Opposes State legislation that would jeopardize or impair the reliability of the E-911 system.
- Supports state and local programs to address the youth vaping crisis and opioid epidemic.
- Supports providing communities with resources to address chronic homelessness, supportive housing, mental health, suicide prevention and substance abuse.



## MARIJUANA REGULATION

With the legalization of recreational use of marijuana, municipalities across Colorado, including the City, have confronted questions about the meaning of the restrictions on “open and public” consumption.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports legislation providing a definition of what is meant by “open and public” recreational consumption of marijuana.
- Opposes efforts by the federal government to interfere with State or local medical or recreational marijuana use or distribution.

# TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Access to reliable, high-speed and affordable broadband and cable programming is a priority for the City.**

Therefore, the City:

- Supports the retention of municipal regulatory authority over broadband and cable television systems.
- Supports affordable access by all municipalities to state-of-the-art telecommunication and information services.

- Opposes federal or state restrictions on local control of municipal rights-of-way or on the authority of local governments to develop or acquire their own telecommunications infrastructure.
- Opposes federal or state restrictions on municipal franchising, regulatory and taxing authority over telecommunications systems



## PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

The City supports efforts to maintain its ability to determine the terms and conditions of municipal employment.



## CONTACT US

### City Council & Staff

**Mayor Meredith Leighty**

303.918.1568 • [mleighty@northglenn.org](mailto:mleighty@northglenn.org)

**Mayor Pro Tem Jenny Willford**

303.710.1140 • [jwillford@northglenn.org](mailto:jwillford@northglenn.org)

**Council Member Becky Brown**

720.255.4708 • [bbrown@northglenn.org](mailto:bbrown@northglenn.org)

**Council Member Joyce Downing**

303.457.3542 • [jdowning@northglenn.org](mailto:jdowning@northglenn.org)

**Council Member**

**Julie Duran Mullica**

720.365.7077 • [jmullica@northglenn.org](mailto:jmullica@northglenn.org)

**Council Member**

**Antonio B. Esquibel**

303.941.8491 • [aesquibel@northglenn.org](mailto:aesquibel@northglenn.org)

**Council Member Katherine E. Goff**

720.668.8110 • [kgoff@northglenn.org](mailto:kgoff@northglenn.org)

**Council Member Randall Peterson**

303.264.8728 • [rpeterson@northglenn.org](mailto:rpeterson@northglenn.org)

**Council Member Ashley Witkovich**

720.448.8734 • [awitkovich@northglenn.org](mailto:awitkovich@northglenn.org)



City Council, from left: Randall Peterson, Ashley Witkovich, Becky Brown, Julie Duran Mullica, Antonio B. Esquibel, Meredith Leighty, Katherine E. Goff, Joyce Downing and Jenny Willford.

### City Manager

**Heather Geyer**

303.450.8709 • [hgeyer@northglenn.org](mailto:hgeyer@northglenn.org)

### City Attorney

**Corey Y. Hoffmann**

Hoffmann, Parker, Wilson & Carberry, PC

### City Lobbyist

**Bowditch & Cassell Public Affairs**

**Ed Bowditch, Partner**

303.489.8680 • [ed.bowditch@bcpublicaffairs.com](mailto:ed.bowditch@bcpublicaffairs.com)

**Jennifer M. Cassell, Partner**

785.393.0472 • [jennifer.cassell@bcpublicaffairs.com](mailto:jennifer.cassell@bcpublicaffairs.com)