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## From the Director's desk...

### The art of voting well

Lately, everywhere I go, NWCCOG members are talking about the November 6th ballot that will be in the mail October 15th-just a few weeks from now.

Ballots are lengthy this year. Don't expect to go behind the curtain or open a mail-in ballot over coffee before work expecting to read and comprehend on a first pass. Many will do just this, resulting in many incomplete ballots.

This is of concern as complex and important decisions come pages after the usual barrage of candidates. There are 13 statewide ballot measures (as of Sept 13th), six of which were legislatively referred, seven of which were "citizen" driven initiatives. This ballot has more decisions than the average SAT section. Those voting the top and skipping the rest will do a disservice to schools, roads and slaves.

To inform voters and encourage them to vote to the bottom of the ballot, NWCCOG is supporting Count Me In workshops for citizens with local partners in three of our five counties in early October (See schedule below.) We highly recommend that you attend, seek information from multiple sources, do your homework, and take notes before voting.



Voting is further complicated because as an initiative is proposed to be on the ballot, it is often referred to a different number than what actually ends up on the ballot. For example - Just Compensation for Public Takings was Ballot Initiative 108, now that it is on the ballot, it is Amendment 74 and if passed will be added as an amendment to the Colorado Constitution. On the other hand Propositions, like 109 and 110, if passed will not amend the constitution thus allowing more flexibility in the long term.



Transportation could be also confusing. As Eagle County Commissioner Ryan [recently noted](#), Proposition 110 (fund for transportation from sales tax) will be the first attempt to reset funding that was established in 1991 when Colorado had half as many residents and spent twice as much per resident on transportation. Leaders like Ryan, and others on the I-70 Coalition believe it may be the last opportunity for a statewide fix to transportation infrastructure. If it fails, front-range communities have vowed to seek their own funding solutions. She points out that confusingly Proposition 109 (bond for transportation, no funding) would direct the legislature to "find the money" but does not bring in funding. These will sound alike to most voters and 109 comes immediately before 110 on the ballot.

NWCCOG Mobility program has an information sheet on Propositions 109 and 110 [here](#).

Later in the newsletter we quote Sam Mamet from CML who spoke against both Amendment 74- formerly Ballot Initiative 108 - (just compensation for public takings) which is an industry reaction to Proposition 112 - formerly known as Initiative 97 - (only the lawyers will win). You can vote to end slavery in Colorado and limit Payday Loan charges to ... only... 36%! Welcome to direct democracy in Colorado-doing what the legislature and regulators cannot or will not do. Study up.

**Jon Stavney**

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[For additional 2018 Election Resources see our website here.](#)

# QQ Group opposes Amendment 74

Amendment 74 - formerly Ballot Initiative 108 - which would change the Colorado Constitution to require just compensation to be paid to any property owner when a government law or regulation reduces the fair market value of private property has been soundly opposed by members of the Water Quality and Quantity Committee.

Passage of this amendment could mean significant negative impacts to the use of local and state regulations to protect water quality and quantity, and to land use regulations. The committee produced a [memorandum](#), providing background information and some of the possible impacts to water quality regulations and land use regulations we may see if Amendment 74 were to pass.



Sam Mamet, Executive Director of Colorado Municipal League (CML) addressed QQ on August 20th in Silverthorne regarding Amendment 74. He explained it was filed in response to the proposed 2,500' setback for Oil and Gas according to its sponsor. Since there will be no ability for the legislature to refine, define or adjust what government actions might damage property value, Sam said we all need to get used to saying "will it please the court," while the "thousands" of interpretations of "fair market value" and "taking of private property for public use" shake out in the courts. For instance, does granting a liquor license, or regulating the VRBO next door or granting a variance to the grocery store down the street reduce your property value? How about changing riparian setbacks, or having expensive storm water standards, or zoning at all? QQ has now joined Club 20 and other groups to oppose Amendment 74. Sam's tweet is titled "sugarcoatedlemon."

Torie Jarvis, Co-Director of QQ now publishes a [review of each QQ](#) meeting in the form of an e-mail newsletter if you want a recap of the meeting.

## Props 109 and 110 - Transportation and Infrastructure

As noted, election day is quickly approaching and two important and somewhat confusing transportation funding measures will be on the Colorado ballot this year.

The first is Proposition 109, also called "Fix Our Damn Roads". It is a transportation bond initiative that would authorize \$3.5 billion in bonds to be used exclusively for road and bridge expansion, maintenance and repair of specific statewide projects. The principal and interest on the borrowed money would be paid for out of the state budget and legislators would decide how to repay the bonds out of the general fund over the next 20 years. These funds could not be used for transit, administration or any indirect costs not associated with the aforementioned projects. If the proposition is passed, there are 66 predetermined projects that will be fixed with this funding. The list of projects can be found [here](#). If passed, the funds for this proposition would be taken from other projects.



The second proposition on the ballot this year, Proposition 110 also called "Let's Go Colorado", would increase the sales and use tax by .62 percent over the next 20 years making the new rate increase from 2.9 percent to 3.52 percent by 2038. On average, this would cost each household in Colorado an additional \$130.63 per year. Initially, the state could borrow \$6 billion to fund immediate road and highway projects that have been neglected. It is estimated that the sales tax will generate \$20 billion dollars over two decades, and of that, 45% of the funding would go to CDOT for state projects, 40% would go to local governments and the remaining 15% would go to multi-modal projects aimed at reducing traffic congestion. If the proposition passes, projects to consider will be determined by various community governments and CDOT.

As mentioned previously, Eagle County Commissioner Jill Ryan explained Proposition 110 (fund for transportation from sales tax) will be the first attempt to reset funding that was established in 1991 when Colorado had half as many residents and spent twice as much per resident on transportation. [See her report here](#).

Hinsdale County Commissioner Cindy Dozier (R) said, "Colorado has been underfunding transportation for decades because we're using a funding source that just can't keep up while the need continues to grow. Speaking as a rural county commissioner, I believe the only way we'll be guaranteed that our local roads and highways will get the repairs they need, is by going to the ballot and dedicating new revenue to this critical priority."

The short and dangerously over-simplified version of these two Propositions is this - Proposition 109 funds road

improvements without a tax increase; Proposition 110 funds road improvements with a tax increase. It's important to keep in mind that the funds for improvements with Prop 109 (approximately \$3.5 Billion) must be taken from other areas of the already stretched budget. The funds for Prop 110 are new and will leave intact other critical services currently being provided. It gets even more complex from here and you are urged to [read the full report](#).

It is clear that Colorado roads are in desperate need of repair. Ultimately how the repairs are funded will be left up to Colorado voters on November 6. Be informed.

## NWCCOG Membership Sends Message to Congress-fund the USFS



It seems like we've been talking all summer about how many of our local governments are supplementing federal agency budgets to cooperatively manage "front country" federal lands. From one angle it is a beautiful partnership with intergovernmental cooperation and alignment that addresses critical concerns like wildfire mitigation and enforcement. Federally managed public lands are the cornerstone of our recreation economy, and they are being loved to death and under-managed, putting the resource at risk. On the other hand, it looks a lot like local governments enabling the feds to continue to not fund recreation. A [recent article in PEW Stateline](#) underscores this issue.

The NWCCOG Council Chair and Summit County Commission Karn Stiegelmeier says, "Our most visited National Forest in the nation, the White River National Forest continues to break visitation and recreation records annually, while USFS budgets continue to decline precipitously forcing local county governments to backfill necessary maintenance, law enforcement and management of our federal lands. Increasing use and decreasing funding is clearly and unsustainable trajectory for appropriate USFS management of these treasured lands. With damaged forests, increasing wildfires and recreationists loving our forests to death, we are now in a crisis mode."

Patti Clapper, Chair Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners, White River National Forest and NWCCOG Council member goes on to say, "It is of greatest importance that revenues generated locally stay locally."

This September, we finally gathered all the signatures from the membership in order to send a [letter to our Congressional delegation](#). We recommend that your jurisdiction send it out (again) as well and add even more local details if you have them. The [September 19th edition](#) of the Summit Daily also has an article with a bit more information.

## Welcome Ombudsman and RSVP Coordinator - Tina Strang

A true Colorado native, Tina hails from Hot Sulphur Springs where she worked in the Grand County government for two decades. Her experiences there as non-medical home health care provider, participation in the nutritional programs, partnering with people in the community, and understanding all aspects of Medicare and Medicaid, uniquely qualify her to take on the joint tasks of Ombudsman and RSVP Coordinator.

Her passion for advocacy will serve her well as she said, "I'm ready for new challenges and am excited about working directly with and advocating for older adults. I really enjoy working with direct recipients of the programs of NWCCOG Alpine Area Agency on Aging."

In her role with the Grand County government, she often came into contact with Erin Fisher, Director of AAAA and Amanda Rens-Moon, Program Specialist and when they described the new combined position of Ombudsman and RSVP coordinator Tina jumped at the opportunity. The flexibility of being able to work from home sealed the arrangement.



Tina and her husband have two grown children and the entire family grew up hiking, camping, traveling and playing in the high country.

## Innovations...

**Civility:** The Town of Blue River adopted a [Code of Conduct](#) for their Town Council this summer. NWCCOG Executive Director, Jon Stavney assisted Town Manager Michelle Eddy by facilitating a council retreat on August 27th, the first part of which was focused on how the Code can be utilized by the council to hold each other responsible for civil behavior that will promote efficient governance. The second half of the retreat was a broad discussion on topics of interest to the 2019 town budget which is being constructed by Eddy. Stavney has facilitated similar discussions for Minturn and Dillon this year.



**Promotion:** It may not seem like a big step, but NWCCOG Energy Program (previously known as Weatherization) now has NWCCOG logos on its white vans and box trucks. The program's new method of collecting success stories from clients so impressed the Colorado Energy Office on a recent visit that CEO has replicated the template for all offices.

**Access:** The Town of Avon has added a translate feature to their website that with a click converts all words on the site. The service was offered by Civic Plus and implemented during a recent re-design, and it was FREE. They learned of the feature from Breckenridge. Avon Communications Manager, Elizabeth Wood said that they don't have analytics on use because it is a Google Plug-in, but she added that despite not knowing about actual use, "almost 50% of the population of Avon is Hispanic which is why it auto translates to Spanish."

Access to public documents and language translation happens to be an ADA requirement few public agencies have caught up with yet.

**Energy Management Tools for Local Government:** NWCCOG was proud to co-sponsor CSU Extension's first [Local Government Energy Academy](#) in August with Eagle County and Walking Mountains Science Center.

Executive Director, Jon Stavney facilitated a roundtable on local approaches to planning and implementation that included speakers from member jurisdictions, Eagle Town Manager Brandy Reitter, Minturn Town Councilor John Wideman and Eagle County Sustainability Director Adam Palmer, along with Carbondale Town Manager, Jay Harrington. For municipalities, it would be difficult to be more "all in" than Carbondale where they recently updated their Climate & Energy Action Full Plan (61 pages) to go with the Town's mission statement and Environmental Bill of Rights.

Harrington credited the community with decades of driving this priority area for leadership to line up behind. By contrast, Wideman in Minturn expressed enthusiasm to get Minturn moving but admitted that public interest and staff capacity were challenging in such a small place. Reitter spoke of how Eagle has moved forward with the full support of the board and staff towards energy efficiency in projects such as the new lower basin water treatment plant. Some communities have an extensive framework of plans, goals and metrics, some are just doing projects, some have deep



community support, while others move forward based on a staff or board champion for a specific project. At the Public Utility Roundtable afterwards, Bryan Hannegan, CEO of Holy Cross Energy noted how valuable it was that if communities have energy reduction goals, whether for carbon, greenhouse or just lowering their bills that it is very useful for their local energy provider to know that so they can partner and strategize together.

As a follow-up, Cary Weiner from CSU who organized the event shared that CSU performs Community energy Assessments to local governments that want to get started. Cary's contact information is 970-491-3784 or email [cary.weiner@colostate.edu](mailto:cary.weiner@colostate.edu).

# Community Conversations

## Frisco Senior Law Day

Summit County held its second senior law day at the Summit County Community & Senior Center on September 12th. The event drew 70 attendees and sessions included topics about estate planning, long term care resources, protecting yourself online, changes in the tax law, legal approaches when there are medical and memory concerns, and wills/trusts.



## "Let's Talk About Ageism: A Morning with Anti-Ageism Activist" Ashton Applewhite"

On August 14th, the Alpine AAA attended an anti-aging event in Colorado Springs with expert Ashton Applewhite. She's been recognized by the New York Times, National Public Radio, the New Yorker, and the American Society on Aging as an expert on ageism and her work is compelling and fascinating. Find out more about her work at: [www.thischairrocks.com](http://www.thischairrocks.com)

## Save The Date

### NWCCOG's first Disaster Preparedness Workshop for local government - Appropriately 12/7/18

Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Local Governments, Eagle County Building, December 7th, 2018. This summer, major wildfire incidents touched every county in our region, and raised awareness of many community leaders as to the need to be better prepared. What steps can leaders take to position their jurisdiction for an incident that exceeds local response capabilities? The workshop is for those in local government who may find themselves asked to make decisions during an incident—who are not professionally trained in emergency management. It is intended to get local elected officials, town managers and other department heads oriented as to what they should be doing well ahead of an incident to prepare their organization, themselves and their community for that worst day before it arrives. Few of us want to think about our community's "Worst Day" before it arrives, but if you are an elected official, it is your legal responsibility to be sure your community has taken key steps to prepare itself. Look for an e-mail announcement, and sign up on NWCCOG website in coming weeks.

**Count Me In! Read all the way to the end of the ballot this November.**

**You are invited to learn more about this civic engagement effort at a FREE workshop!**



**Count Me In!** is a robust civic engagement effort that reaches into communities across the state through trusted community members to educate voters and potential voters on the issues they will see on the ballot. The 2018 effort is underway, working with partners across the state to set up events for their communities so voters can feel educated and empowered to participate in the election.

Colorado voters are going to see a long ballot in November. From choosing the next Governor to deciding on important ballot initiatives, voters will have their work cut out for them. Colorado voters

have a unique responsibility to directly vote on policies affecting their communities. Voters don't take their responsibility lightly, but many people don't know enough about the issues and decide not to vote all the way down the ballot. Being an informed decision maker provides another essential piece of the foundation for creating the thriving communities we all aspire to build.

NWCCOG is partnering with the Vail Valley Partnership, Summit County Chamber, Grand County Economic Development, and the Colorado Fiscal Institute to bring these workshops to our region. We will be offering 3 workshops in the region.

These workshops are FREE, but RSVP required. Please RSVP to [schneider@coloradofiscal.org](mailto:schneider@coloradofiscal.org). Visit [www.countmeincolorado.com](http://www.countmeincolorado.com) for more information.

#### **EAGLE COUNTY:**

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Colorado Mountain College - Edwards Campus Room #250

150 Miller Ranch Road, Edwards, CO 81632

Lunch provided

[Visit Facebook page here](#)

#### **SUMMIT COUNTY:**

Thursday, October 11, 2018

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

North Branch Summit County Library - Blue River Room

641 Center Circle, Silverthorne, CO 80498

Light breakfast provided

[Visit Facebook page here](#)

#### **GRAND COUNTY**

Thursday, October 11, 2018

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Granby Library, 55 Zero Street, Granby, CO 80446

Lunch provided

[Visit Facebook page here](#)

RSVP required to [schneider@coloradofiscal.org](mailto:schneider@coloradofiscal.org).

Visit [www.countmeincolorado.com](http://www.countmeincolorado.com) for more information.



# ATTENTION VALLEY SENIORS



# SENIOR LAW DAY

ALPINE LEGAL SERVICES • AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

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**Friday, October 19th**

**Basalt Middle School • 9AM-3:45PM (Doors open at 8AM)**  
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**Featuring Keynote Speaker Kim Mooney**

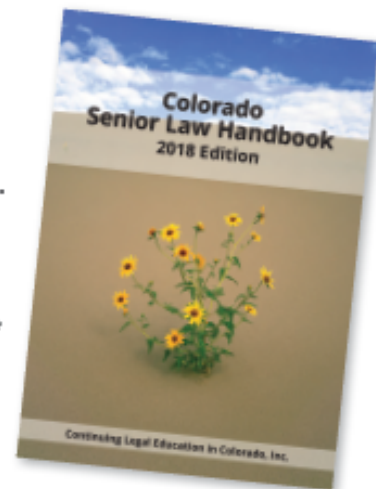
Internationally recognized Thanatologist and founder of Practically Dying LLC.

*"The Facts of Life And Death. Fact One: They're not Separate (and that's a good thing)"*

## YOUR RSVP BY OCT. 4<sup>TH</sup> INCLUDES:

- Full day of concurrent sessions on wills & trusts, powers of attorney, living wills, probate, fraud, planning for long-term care, memory issues, and more.
- A copy of the 2018 *Colorado Senior Law Handbook* (while supplies last)
- FREE 1:1 attorney consultation (first-come, first-served)\*
- Lunch & refreshments

**COST:** FREE



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\*SIGN-UP FOR 1:1 LAWYER CONSULTATION:

*Space is limited* • 970.945.8858

## 2018 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

**Thursday, October 25, 2018**

Full Council Meeting

Location: Community & Senior Center Fremont Rm, 83 Nancy's Place, Frisco, CO

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Review of draft 2019 budget

**Thursday, December 6, 2018**

Full Council, EDD Board & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: Eagle County Government Garden Level Classroom, 500 Broadway St., Eagle

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: 2018 budget revisions; approve 2019 budget; adopt 2019 meeting schedule; annual NWCCOG Foundation Board meeting.

**Northwest Colorado Council of Governments**

[www.nwccog.org](http://www.nwccog.org)

970.468.0295

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!**

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