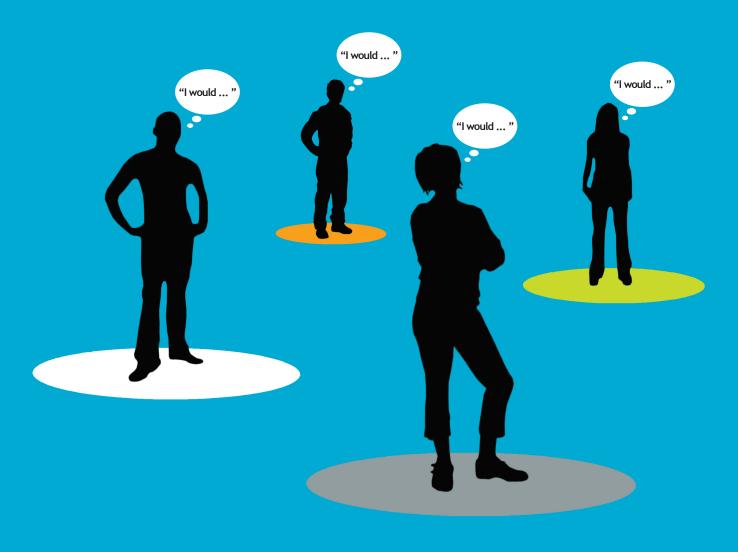
The Colorado Municipal League (CML) and COLOTRUST present the seventh annual

# CML "IF I WERE MAYOR ... " ESSAY CONTEST

The 2014 CML "If I Were Mayor ..." essay contest invites seventh and eighth grade students to tell others what they would do as mayor to make their city or town the best place to live.

(For contest details and entry form, see reverse side.)





CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has served and represented Colorado's cities and towns since 1923. CML encourages involvement in municipal government so people can help shape the policies that impact their lives, families, homes, and environment in the belief that community issues and needs should be addressed at the local level. CML provides training and resources for elected officials and municipal staff, helping them better serve their municipality and its residents.



COLOTRUST is a statutory trust organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado and is intended solely for the use of Colorado local governments.

COLOTRUST serves over 1,500 local government entities and is designed to provide local governments with a convenient method for investing in short-term investments carefully selected to provide maximum safety and liquidity, while still maximizing interest earnings.

## **CML "IF I WERE MAYOR ... " ESSAY CONTEST**

We want to hear your ideas!

#### IF YOU WERE ELECTED MAYOR, HOW WOULD YOU MAKE YOUR CITY OR TOWN THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE?

Winners will receive a certificate of achievement, \$500 to establish a scholarship account with CollegeInvest, and the opportunity to be recognized during the **92nd CML Annual Conference June 17–20, 2014 in Breckenridge**.

CML is pleased to announce that the honorary chair for this year's essay contest is **Ken Salazar**, who has had a long and distinguished career in public service in Colorado. His many accomplishments include the following: U.S. Interior Department Secretary for President Obama; Colorado United States Senator; Colorado Attorney General; head of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources; and chief counsel to Governor Roy Romer.

## CML "IF I WERE MAYOR ... " OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

All entries must be submitted with this form by Friday, April 4, 2014.

Teachers may submit any number of entries using one form and may make photocopies of this form if needed. Questions? Contact CML Communications Coordinator Christine Taniguchi at ctaniguchi@cml.org or 303-831-6411.

School	
School Address	
City	Zip
Name of Teacher	
Phone	
Email	

#### SEND ENTRY FORM WITH ESSAYS TO:

CML, 1144 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203 or ctaniguchi@cml.org

Important: Students must include their first and last names, school, teacher's name, and total number of words at the top of their essays. The official entry form must also be submitted with the entries.

#### **CONTEST RULES**

- The contest is open to all Colorado students enrolled in the seventh or eighth grades during the 2013–14 school year. Students who are home schooled are also eligible. In order to avoid any real or apparent favoritism, no submissions will be accepted from students who are related to any Colorado municipal official or employee. Students who won in 2013 are not eligible to win in 2014.
- · Only one essay per student may be submitted.
- Essays should be approximately 500 words or less.
- Essays will be judged by a committee of CML and COLOTRUST officials and other community leaders based on the following:
  - Displayed knowledge about the role of a mayor
  - · Essay relation to contest topic
  - Creativity
  - Legibility, spelling, and proper use of grammar
- Essays must be received by Friday, April 4, 2014.
   Winners will be notified by May 2, 2014.
- Teachers should submit all of their students' essays with the attached entry form.
- Essays will not be returned and will become the property of CML.

### ABOUT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

**What is a municipality?** A municipality is a city or a town. Cities and towns collect taxes, make contracts, provide services and make laws or ordinances for the health, safety, and well-being of its residents.

Why is municipal government important? Of the three major forms of government in the United States — federal, state and local — none affects citizens more directly than local government. Many city and town governments provide vital services including police and fire protection, streets and roads, libraries, recreation, and clean water.

Who are the leaders? The elected leaders of a city or town are the mayor and city or town councilmembers or trustees. In Colorado, councilmembers, trustees, and alderman are elected directly by citizens. In some cities and towns, the mayor is elected by citizens; in others, the mayor is elected by the council.

How are cities/ towns funded? Colorado's cities and towns depend heavily on sales tax revenue. That means that the city/town collects a percent of every item or service purchased within its boundaries. Cities and towns also receive revenue from other fees such as for water service to your home and licenses such as dog or bike licenses.

#### **USEFUL VOCABULARY TERMS:**

**Tax:** A percentage of money paid to the government for services such as streets, sewers, police, fire, libraries, etc. Most people don't like paying taxes, but none of the services provided by municipal government would be possible without taxes. Municipal governments in Colorado collect two kinds of taxes from citizens: Property tax and sales tax.

**Property tax:** A tax paid yearly by everyone in Colorado who owns property, based on the value of the property. The more the property is worth, the more tax the owner pays.

**Sales tax:** A tax paid, as a percentage of the total bill, every time you buy a product or service.

**Budget:** A careful plan of expenses (money needed) and revenue (money received) of an organization, usually produced on a yearly basis. When expenses and revenue are equal, the budget is said to be "balanced."

Ordinance: A law made by a city or town government.