



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 20-006, **Version:** 1

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**To:** Board of County Commissioners

**Through:** N/A

**From:** Michelle Halstead, director of communication & administrative services

**Subject:**  
Approval of the 2021 Arapahoe County Legislative Principles

**Purpose and Recommendation:**

Adoption of a resolution to approve the 2021 Legislative Principles, which describes Arapahoe County's underlying interest on specific issues. These principles will serve as a consistent guide for the county in developing positions on federal and state legislation, rulemaking, and proactive issue advocacy

**Background:**

Arapahoe County is committed to fulfilling its mission of enhancing quality of life through exceptional delivery of services and efficient use of public funds.

As a constitutional subdivision of Colorado state government, Arapahoe County can only exercise those powers specifically expressed in statute or in the constitution. Generally, counties are responsible for law enforcement, including the court system, district attorney and jail facilities; the provision of social services on behalf of the state; the construction, maintenance, and repair of roads and bridges; health departments; and general control of land use in unincorporated areas. The Board of County Commissioners is the primary policy-making body for the county and is responsible for the county's administrative and budgetary functions. Other county elected officers include the clerk and recorder, assessor, treasurer, sheriff, and coroner, elected to four-year terms under the state constitution. These officials have specific powers and duties prescribed by law, and they function independently from each other and from the board of county commissioners. However, the county commissioners approve the budgets for all county departments and elected offices.

The Board of County Commissioners evaluates policy positions through the lens of fiscal and operational impacts to Arapahoe County, consistent with its stated mission, values and statutory requirements.

Exhibit A describes the County's underlying interest on specific issues. These principles serve as a consistent guide for the county in developing positions on federal and state legislation, rulemaking, and proactive issue advocacy.

The Board of County Commissioners revised these principles during their Dec. 7, 2020, study session.

**Discussion:**

Exhibit A also serves as a reference for elected representatives when considering legislation that may impact Arapahoe County. The Board of County Commissioners may revisit the county's legislative priorities

throughout the year. Strategic, targeted, and/or abbreviated versions of the information contained in this document also will be created throughout the year for use in further legislative communications.

Arapahoe County contracts with Romberg & Associates for state advocacy activities and the director of human services, the county attorney, the director of community resources, director of public works and the director of communication and administrative services serve as staff liaisons for federal and state government relations.

As a member of Colorado Counties, Inc. and the National Association of Counties, Arapahoe County relies on those organization's advocacy team to provide reliable information on legislative issues and their impact on Colorado's counties and their residents. The county also relies on regional associations and other national organizations to advocate for specific issues of local interest.

**Alternatives:**

The Board could choose not to adopt the principles document.

**Fiscal Impact:**

N/A

**Reviewed By:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Resolution

Exhibit A