

Colorado Municipal Records Retention Schedule

SCHEDULE NO. 40

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

General Description: This schedule addresses common records that are found across the organization, such as correspondence, agreements and contracts or project records.

*No record may be destroyed under this Retention Schedule if it is pertinent to any current, pending or anticipated investigation, audit or legal proceeding. **The minimum retention periods specified in this schedule apply to the information contained within the record copy, regardless of the physical format of the record copy (paper, microfilm, electronic).*** Each municipality must decide on the physical format for each type of record, ensuring authenticity, readability and accessibility for the entire retention period. **Duplicate Copies:** Retain duplicated copies that are created for **administrative purposes** for 1 year, and retain those created for **convenience or reference purposes** until no longer needed or for 1 year, whichever is first. Duplicate copies should not be retained longer than the record copy.

40.010 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS RECORDS

Records of formal administrative proceedings conducted by staff or an administrative hearing officer (possibly subject to appeal to the governing body or the courts) to make administrative rulings or determinations regarding a variety of matters (examples: sales tax exemptions, nuisance abatement, stormwater appeals, minor personnel matters not otherwise covered by the retention manual).

Retention: 3 years after proceeding concludes, provided that all rights of appeal have expired

40.020 AFFIDAVITS OF PUBLICATION

Proof of publication provided by newspapers regarding legal publications. Affidavits of publication are also sometimes known as "legals" or "proofs."

A. Affidavits of Publication – Ordinances

Affidavits of publication of ordinances of a general or permanent nature and those imposing any fine, penalty or forfeiture.

Retention: 6 years or until ordinance is repealed or reenacted, whichever is later

B. Other Affidavits of Publication

Affidavits of publication other than those relating to ordinances.

Retention: 6 years

40.030 AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS

Agreements and contracts of various kinds that document some form of agreement that is enforceable by law, including but not limited to intergovernmental agreements, memoranda of understanding, franchise agreements, lease agreements, professional services agreements, etc. See also 40.230.A, *Activities and Events – Short-Term Agreements, Contracts and Supporting Documentation.*

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Retention: 6 years after expiration, fulfillment of all terms of agreement or contract or resolution of any disputes, whichever is later, provided that audit has been completed and agreement or contract no longer has any binding effect; *except* prior to destruction, evaluate for continuing legal, administrative or historical value

40.040 AWARDS AND HONORS

Awards and honors received from various public or private sources.

Retention: Until no longer useful

40.050 CALENDARS

Records for routine planning and scheduling of meetings, appointments and similar activities; includes calendars, appointment books, diaries and similar records with routine content.

Retention: Until no longer needed for reference

40.060 CHARTERS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

A. Charter Proceedings

Records relating to the adoption, amendment or repeal of Home Rule Charters or provisions of the Charter, including records of Charter conventions and not including Charter initiative petitions.

Retention: Permanent

B. Charters – Published

Governing documents for Home Rule Municipalities published separately or as part of the municipal code book.

Retention: Permanent [**Important Note:** Charters are considered to be essential municipal records, and the State Archives therefore recommends that the "record" copy be retained in paper format.]

40.070 CODE BOOK RECORDS

A. Codes Adopted by Reference

Includes model traffic code, uniform and international building and construction codes, fire codes and supplements to such codes, and other similar codes adopted by ordinance.

Retention: Permanent

B. Codifications/Supplements

All compilations of ordinances codified into a Municipal Code book and all supplements containing amendments to the initially adopted Code.

Retention: Permanent

40.080 COMMITTEES – INTERNAL

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Records of committees, task forces or similar groups composed of members of the staff that meet on an ongoing basis or that are set up for specific purposes. Examples include management teams, technology teams, policy teams, employee safety committees, budget strategy teams, etc.

A. Ongoing Committees

Retention: 3 years, provided that records have no enduring value

B. Special Committees

Retention: Until work of committee concludes, provided that records have no enduring value

40.090 COMPLAINTS, ROUTINE SERVICE REQUESTS AND NONBINDING PETITIONS

Communications that convey objections, dissatisfaction or disagreement with actions or positions taken or not taken; routine requests for service or information; and petitions with no legal effect that are submitted to express the opinions of the signers.

Retention: 2 years after response or action or 2 years if no response or action is required

40.100 CORRESPONDENCE AND GENERAL DOCUMENTATION

Correspondence is a written communication that is sent or received via the U.S. mail, private courier, facsimile transmission or electronic mail, including letters, postcards, memoranda, notes, telecommunications and any other form of written communications. The term *general documentation* is intended to cover a wide variety of records created in the normal course of business.

A. Enduring Long-Term Value

Documentation or correspondence, including e-mail messages, with lasting long-term administrative, policy, legal, fiscal, historical or research value; records that relate to policy issues and actions or activities in which an important precedent is set; records of historic events; and other similar records and documentation.

Retention: Permanent

B. Routine Value

Routing operating documentation or correspondence with limited administrative, legal, fiscal, historical, informational or statistical value. Includes routine e-mail messages, letters or memoranda, reading or chronological files that contain duplicates of memos or letters also filed elsewhere, routine requests for information, transmittal documents, etc.

Retention: 2 years

C. Transitory Value

General documentation or correspondence of extremely short-term value, including advertisements, drafts and worksheets, desk notes, copies of materials circulated for informational "read only" purposes, other records, including e-mail messages, with preliminary or short-term informational value.

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Retention: Until material has been read

40.110 EVENT RECORDS

Records pertaining to promotion and organization of special and historic community events or celebrations in which the municipality has a role, such as festivals, fairs, rodeos, 4th of July celebrations, pioneer days, holiday display lighting, etc.

Retention: 2 years after event concludes

40.120 EXTERNAL GROUPS AND AGENCIES

Records such as meeting agendas and minutes, studies and reports and other material provided for courtesy or informational purposes from associations, organizations, groups and agencies that are not part of the municipal organization but which have some form of association or relationship with the municipality.

Retention: Until no longer needed

40.130 FORMS – BLANK

Blank forms are not considered to be records and should be separated from the records. However, a master forms file may be maintained to track the evolution of the form and instructions regarding use of the form.

Retention: Until superseded, *except* retain 1 copy permanently if master forms file is maintained

40.140 HOUSEKEEPING FILES

Records of a general housekeeping nature that do not relate directly to the primary program responsibility of the office. Includes records such as charity fund drives, office parties, copies of custodial service requests, parking space assignments, telephone and fax logs, etc.

Retention: Until no longer needed for reference

40.150 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RECORDS

Records relating to copyrights, trademarks, service marks, seals, logos, taglines and other similar intellectual property.

Retention: Permanent

40.160 LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY ACTIONS – EXTERNAL

Records such as review copies of proposed or adopted state or federal bills, legislation or regulations; notices of proposed rulemaking by federal or state agencies, etc.

Retention: Until no longer needed for reference

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40.170 MAILING AND DISTRIBUTION RECORDS

A. Envelopes

Envelopes that contained communications.

Retention: Dispose of immediately, unless needed as documentation of mailing and receipt dates

B. Mailing Record

Documentation of mailing dates, content of mailings, mailing and distribution lists for specific mailings; certified or registered mail return receipts; etc.

Retention: 2 years

C. Meeting Notification Lists

Listings of persons who, within the previous 2 years, have requested advance notification of all meetings or meetings with specific content. [CRS 24-6-402(7)]

Retention: Until updated

D. Undeliverable Mailings

Mailings (excluding mailed ballots) returned as undeliverable.

Retention: 1 year after matter referenced in mailing is concluded

40.180 MAPS, DRAWINGS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Final versions of architectural, cartographic or other visual representations, such as maps, drawings, renderings, charts, photomaps, field survey notes, architectural and engineering drawings; "as built" drawings of facilities; plats and plans; boundary maps, zoning district maps; USGS topographical maps of the area; other similar documents; and indexes or other finding aids.

Retention: Permanent

40.190 MAPS – INFORMATIONAL

Maps that are acquired from external sources and are used for reference and informational purposes, such as county maps. Retention: Until superseded or no longer needed for reference

40.200 OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Formal requests for records submitted in accordance with state law and supporting documentation relating to the response to or denial of the request.

Retention: 2 years after request is answered

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40.210 ORGANIZATION FILES

Records that document the incorporation of the municipal corporation or statutory or home rule status and those that contain organization charts, reorganization studies and similar information about organizational structure or legal status.

Retention: Permanent [**Important Note:** Incorporation papers are considered to be essential municipal records, and the State Archives therefore recommends that the "record" copy be retained in paper format.]

40.220 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DOCUMENTATION

Written directives, instructions, rules and guidelines documenting policies and procedures, including departmental or organization-wide directives or orders, policy or operations manuals, instruction manuals, handbooks and memoranda setting out responsibilities and guidelines or outlining policies and procedures.

A. Clerical or Other Routine Manuals

Retention: 2 years after superseded or obsolete

B. Policies and Procedures and Supporting Documentation

Documentation, including written materials such as personnel policy manuals and standard operating procedures, that have long-term value in determining current and past policies or procedures in liability cases, personnel disputes and other circumstances; includes supporting documentation relating to the development, formulation, establishment, rationale, approval and implementation of such policies and procedures.

Retention: Permanent

40.230 PROGRAM RECORDS

Records pertaining to program development and ongoing or special events or activities held at facilities.

A. Activities and Events – Short-Term Agreements, Contracts and Supporting Documentation

Contracts, agreements and supporting documentation relating to entertainment, sporting events, performances, shows, displays of artwork, vendors and concessions, facility or park usage, room rentals, equipment rentals and similar activities and events that have a duration of less than one (1) year.

Retention: 2 years after activity or event, provided that audit has been completed

B. Facility and Program Use Records

Records relating to registration and admission to programs, annual or seasonal passes for recreational programs, program and event descriptions, etc.

Retention: 2 years after use, provided that audit has been completed

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C. Liability Waivers

Forms signed by program participants to release the municipality from any liability related to various activities.

Retention: 3 years

D. Incident Reports

Reports of incidents that may happen during the course of programs, events, activities, etc., that are exceptions to the normal course of business, such as rescue, accident or injury incident reports.

Retention: 3 years

E. Program Development Records

Records with long-term value documenting the establishment, evolution and rationale for programs. Examples of "programs" include transmission line undergrounding program, neighborhood watch program, energy efficiency program, graffiti removal program, spring clean-up program, pothole patrol program, sister city program and similar coordinated activities.

Retention: Permanent

40.240 PROJECT FILES

A. Capital Project Files

Records of capital projects, professional services relating to capital improvements and projects relating to the design, engineering, construction, major repair, renovation or demolition of structures, buildings, facilities, bridges, streets and roadways, utility system features, public works, parks, stormwater and storm drainage facilities, dams and reservoirs, other water projects, fiber optics and communication structures and other infrastructure. Project files may include documentation such as final project reports, specifications and contract documents, certificates of insurance, project-related permits and licenses issued by other entities, notices to proceed and of final settlement, project pay estimates, change orders and correspondence and general documentation. [General Reference: CRS 24-16-105; project cost records are to be retained for 6 years after project completion.]

Retention: 6 years after replacement, demolition or transfer of the improvement to another entity, *except* that routine material may be purged when eligible for destruction under this Retention Schedule and *except* that, prior to destruction, records must be evaluated for continuing legal, administrative or historical value

B. Project Bonds

1. Labor and Materials Bonds

Surety or other types of bonds received from contractors to guarantee payment by the contractor to workers, subcontractors and suppliers.

Retention: 6 years after expiration or project completion, whichever is later

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2. Performance and Payment Bonds

Surety or other types of bonds received from contractors to guarantee performance and payments for projects.

Retention: 2 years after expiration of warranty period or project completion, whichever is later

C. Project Control Files

Contain routine memoranda, preliminary reports and other general documentation and records documenting assignments and the progress of projects. Note: Does not include *final* reports, which are to be retained as part of the project file (see above).

Retention: 1 year after project is closed

40.250 PUBLIC RELATIONS RECORDS

A. Lobbying Records

Records of official positions and lobbying efforts with regard to state or federal legislation or ballot measures, lobbyist registrations, municipality's written reviews, analyses or positions regarding legislation or regulations, etc.

Retention: 4 years, *except* that resolutions adopting legislative positions are permanent

B. News Releases

1. Releases – Policy or Historical Value

Prepared statements or announcements issued to the news media announcing events, new programs, program changes or termination, major shifts in policy and changes in officials or senior administrative personnel.

Retention: Permanent

2. Releases – Routine

Prepared statements or announcements of routine events, activities, etc.

Retention: 3 years

C. Speeches and Public Comments

Recorded speeches, addresses, and comments of public officials representing the municipality at public venues, such as state of the city addresses. Includes only those with significant historical value, in any format, including paper, videotape, motion picture or tape recordings.

Retention: Permanent

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40.260 PUBLICATIONS

Material that has long-term historical or research value produced for wide internal or external distribution, including annual reports, brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, newsletters, instructional materials and similar materials.

Retention: Permanent

40.270 RECORDS FINDING AIDS

Manual or automated indexes, lists, registers and other finding aids designed to make it easier to locate pertinent files or information.

Retention: Life of the record for which the finding aid is designed to facilitate use and retrieval

40.280 REFERENCE FILES

Non-record copies of articles, periodicals, reports, studies, vendor catalogs and similar materials that are needed for reference and information but are not considered part of the office's records.

Retention: Until no longer needed for reference

40.290 REPORTS

Written reports regarding operations or activities.

A. Annual Reports

Summary annual reports on primary activities and accomplishments for the previous year; may include statistics, narrative reports, graphs and diagrams.

Retention: Permanent

B. Daily Reports

Reports documenting daily activities.

Retention: 2 years

C. Monthly Reports

Reports on activities and accomplishments for the previous month.

Retention: 2 years

D. Quarterly Reports

Reports on activities and accomplishments for the previous three months.

Retention: 3 years

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E. Weekly Reports

Reports on activities and accomplishments for the previous week.

Retention: 2 years

40.300 RETENTION SCHEDULES AND COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATES

Authorizations for the retention or disposition of records issued by the Colorado State Archives and certificates or other records of authorized destruction of records.

Retention: Permanent

40.310 RULES, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

Documentation of rules, regulations, standards and similar guidelines and requirements. Examples include building regulations and standards, subdivision and zoning regulations, cemetery rules and regulations, streetscape standards, street and sidewalk construction standards, water and sewer line installation standards, mobile home standards, etc.

Retention: Permanent

40.320 SPECIAL DISTRICT RECORDS

Records pertaining to water, sanitation, flood control, urban drainage, metropolitan, airport, library, museum, fire, ambulance and other special districts that provide services, including service area plans, boundary maps, service agreements, intergovernmental agreements, memoranda of understanding, other agreements and contracts, and supporting documentation.

Retention: 6 years after agreement no longer has any binding effect, then evaluate for continuing value prior to destruction

40.330 STUDIES, PLANS AND REPORTS

Documents providing detailed examinations of specific topics of interest to the municipality. Examples include feasibility studies, planning and land use studies, basin plans, capital projects reports, transportation system plans, master street plans and similar documents that have long-term reference or historical value. Studies, plans and reports prepared by or on behalf of other entities, and which include information of interest to the municipality, should be evaluated for long-term reference or historical value.

Retention: Permanent

40.340 SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY MUNICIPALITIES

A. Compilations

Retention: Permanent

B. Survey Responses

Retention: 2 years after compilation is complete

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40.350 WORKSHEETS, DRAFTS AND OTHER PRELIMINARY WORKING MATERIAL

Documents such as rough notes, calculations or drafts assembled or created and used to prepare or analyze other documents; records of a preliminary or working nature which do not represent significant steps in the preparation of the final version of documents; draft or working material relating to a matter that is never completed; includes informal notes, preliminary drafts of letters, memoranda, reports, computer or printer output used to verify information entered into a computer and not considered to be a final copy, etc.

Retention: Until no longer needed

Cross References

- Electronic records – 55.040, Electronic Records in General
- Information technology projects – 55.060, Project Records – Information Technology and Communication Systems
- Licenses and permits – Schedule 75, Licenses and Permits
- Minutes – 20.060, Minutes and Supporting Documentation; 45.090, Minutes and Supporting Documentation
- News clippings – 50.050, Newspapers and News Clippings – Local; 50.080, Scrapbooks