

Election Information

Election day is November 8th.

- La Plata County Commissioner Candidates
 - Jack Turner (U) Contributions \$37,364.07, Expenditures \$40,697.03
 - Brad Blake (R) Contributions \$59,199.01, Expenditures \$16,558.09
 - Clyde Church (D), incumbent - Contributions \$10,950.00, Expenditures \$14,549.68
- La Plata County Treasurer Candidates
 - Allison Aichele (D) Contributions \$500, Expenditures \$0
 - Erin Hutchins (U) Contributions \$11,301.29, Expenditures \$10,843.61
- State Representative District 59 Candidates
 - Barbara McLachlan (D), incumbent Contributions \$163,468.93, Expenditures \$113,078.60
 - Shelli Shaw (R) Contributions \$79,802.69, Expenditures \$22,768.40
- Secretary of State Candidates
 - Pam Anderson (R) Contributions \$265,082.35, Expenditures \$272,428.87
 - Jena Griswold (D) Contributions \$4,115,887.70, Expenditures \$3,834,333.22
 - Gary Swing (Unity)
 - Jan Kok (Approval Voting)
 - Amanda Campbell (American Constitution)
 - Bennett Rutledge (Libertarian) Contributions \$996.43, Expenditures \$2,727.35
- Congressional House District 3 Candidates
 - Lauren Boebert (R) incumbent - Contributions \$6,320,410.32, Expenditures \$4,752,862.68
 - Adam Frisch (D) Contributions \$4,333,494.53, Expenditures \$3,571,884.81
- U.S. Senator Candidates
 - Michael Bennet (D) Contributions \$19,856,502.75, Expenditures \$16,668,765.32
 - Joe O’Dea (R) Contributions \$6,569,191.54, Expenditures \$5,856,923.82
 - TJ Cole (Unity)
 - Brian Peotter (Libertarian)
 - Frank Atwood (Approval Voting)

Unemployment Update

- La Plata County unemployment rate for August was 2.9%, down from 3% in July.
- San Juan County’s rate was 1.6% in August, down from 1.8% in July.
- Montezuma County’s rate was 3.4% in August, down from 3.5% in July.
- Archuleta County’s rate was 3% in August, down from 3.2% in July.
- Dolores County’s rate was 2.8% in August, up from 2.7% in July.

La Plata County Sales & Lodgers Tax Update

- Sales tax collections for June show an increase of \$118,067 or 5.14% in comparison to the same period in 2021. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$846,301 or 7.40% as compared to the same period in 2021.
- Lodger’s tax collections are earned Quarterly; Quarter 2 Lodgers tax decreased \$15,662 or -7.88% in comparison to Quarter 2, 2021. Year to date collections for Lodger’s tax are \$431,916 or -.01% as compared to the same period for 2021.

Chapter 90 Update

- Attorney Sheryl Rogers said Jeff Robbins from the COGCC will be at a Board of County Commissioners special meeting scheduled for Nov 4th at 3pm. There will be no opportunity for public comment at the November 4 meeting as the time will be used for the COGCC presentation. Robbins and his staff will explain the following:
 1. Colorado's orphan well program.
 2. How wells are placed and prioritized on the State's Comprehensive Orphan Wells and Orphaned Sites List.
 3. How the orphan well mitigation fee enterprise fund operates.
 4. How the State intends to use its annual mitigation fee and funds received from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
 5. Information on the availability of contractors to perform plugging and abandoning work in La Plata County.
 6. Explanation of the COGCC's process set forth in Rule 604.b relating to setbacks for Residential Building Units and High Occupancy Building Units (as those terms are defined in COGCC rules).

La Plata County Fire Impact Fees

- The Board of La Plata County Commissioners adopted an intergovernmental agreement and resolution establishing the collection of fire impact fees in unincorporated La Plata County.
- The fees apply to new development in the amount of \$1317 per Residential dwelling unit and \$2.32 per square foot of new non-residential space.
- The fees must be used to defray the cost of development and may only be used to fund capital facilities. There are exemptions for rehab or remodel projects that don't include new dwelling units or commercial square footage. There are also exemptions for affordable housing. The fees would be collected by the Building Department at the time of permit.

City Attorney Update

- Durango City Council appointed Tony Maestas as interim city attorney. Maestas was recently hired as assistant city attorney and comes to the City of Durango from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. He'll be filling in for Dirk Nelson who resigned suddenly. Staff will work with an executive search firm to fill the position permanently.

Downtown Durango Update

- Durango City Council voted 4 to 1 to approve a 5-year pilot program that allows seasonal bump outs with design standard updates, enhanced compliance, and a per square foot fee of \$6.30.
 - Some updates to the program include meeting Americans with Disabilities Act standards, preserving the line of sight, prohibiting signage and advertising on the bump outs and staff inspections.
- Council also approved the taking of a phased approach to the Downtown Next Steps project. In a 4 to 1 vote, Council agreed to conducting the full traffic study, inventorying the corridor, and fully designing a few downtown blocks.

Plastic Bag Ban

- Earlier this month, Sustainability Program Manager Mary Pool explained to Durango City Councilors HB 21-1162, which includes a bag fee, a bag ban, and a polystyrene ban.
- Starting in 2023, certain stores will be required to charge 10 cents per single use bag. In 2024, single use bags and polystyrene will be banned.
- Restaurants are excluded, as are some small businesses.

Project Approvals

- Durango City Council approved the preliminary plan for BLD Apartments, 492 units to be built in two phases, with completion planned by 2027 or 2028. The project is for market rate rental units but the City is negotiating for 25 of them to be “affordable” for 30 years. In return, BLD would receive contributions in the form of fee offsets or infrastructure costs. Details are still being negotiated.
- The City Council also approved a U-Haul storage facility. The project includes two 3-story buildings to be located on the south side of Wilson Gulch Dr.
- LPC Planning Commission approved Black Bear Townhomes Phase 2 Sketch Plan, which subdivides one lot into 5 townhome lots in DMR Tacoma Village.
- The BOCC approved the Villas at Tacoma Preliminary Plan. The project is for an 11 unit apartment building in DMR Tacoma Village.
- The BOCC approved Edgemont Meadows Phase 3 subdivision preliminary plat, which creates 18 lots, picnic grounds and open space south of CR 240 in Edgemont Highlands.

Meetings attended October 6 - November 3

10/6 - 3 pm LAC Meeting	10/19 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/11 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	10/20 - 4:15 pm Durango Council Special Meeting
10/12 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	10/22 - 8:30 am Lauren Boebert
10/13 - 2 pm BOCC/Durango Joint Sales Tax Meeting	10/24 - 5 pm Durango Planning Commission
10/13 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	10/25 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
10/17 - 2 pm BOCC Oil and Gas Hearing	10/26 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/18 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	10/27 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
10/18 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	11/1 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
10/18 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	11/1 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session
	11/1 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting