

### **Durango City Council Election**

- A very close city council election, according to preliminary results. A recount will be required to determine who won the second seat on the council.
- Vote counts were reported as follows:
  - Gilda Yazzie (D), 2,714
  - David Woodruff (U), 2,405
  - Harrison Wendt (D), 2,399
  - Carter Rogers (R), 585
  - Douglas Snow (D), 248

### **Unemployment Rate Update**

- The unemployment rate in La Plata County was 3.2% in November, 2.9% in December of 2022 and 3.2% in January 2023..
- In San Juan County, it was 3.5% in November and 2.7% in December and 2.8% in January.
- In Archuleta County, it was 3.1% in November and 2.8% in December and 3.2% in January.
- In Montezuma County, it was 3.8% in November and 3.4% in December and 4.7% in January.
- In Dolores County, it was 3.9% in November and 2.6% in December and 2.5% in January.

### **Airport Update**

- Passenger traffic at DRO fell below pre-pandemic levels during the second half of 2022. Aviation Manager Tony Vicari said that was attributed in part to a nationwide pilot shortage. Early 2023 passenger traffic has performed strongly, exceeding the pre-pandemic baseline by 13%.
- Design is completed for the terminal expansion Phase 1A and construction groundbreaking is planned for April 25. Phase 1A includes an added gate and seating area, new restrooms, food concessions, relocating the electrical utilities, and enable solar installation on the rooflines.
- Design for Phase 1B will be happening through the duration of 2023.

### **LPC Land Use Code Update**

- The La Plata County Planning Commission (PC) recommended to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to repeal and reenact Chapter 90 (Oil and Gas Code), but with some changes. The majority of the PC recommended the Board follow the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission regulations for setbacks rather than make the stricter requirements proposed in the draft. The PC also recommended major oil and gas permits be reviewed by both the PC and the Board of County Commissioners.
- Though no final decisions were made, in a study session, the BOCC potentially agreed to allow informed consent exceptions to reduce setbacks. They accepted the recommendation for applications to be reviewed by both the PC and the BOCC.
- The next step in the process will be a public hearing on draft version 3 of Chapter 90 at 10 am on April 18th.

### **New City Attorney**

- Durango City councilors have hired Mark Morgan, who spent 14 years as the city attorney for Gretna, LA, as the new city attorney for Durango. His first day is May 1.
- Morgan brings a 25-year track record in government to the position, as well as 22 years of experience as an adjunct law professor at the Tulane School of Law. He is admitted to practice law in Colorado, Louisiana and District of Columbia.

### **Durango Housing Update**

- The Durango City Council agreed to allocate \$5.2 million toward affordable housing efforts. The money will go into the Housing Innovation Fund to support efforts to increase below market housing in Durango.
- The funding includes \$1 million from the city's remaining American Rescue Plan Act funding, \$3.2 million from the General Fund Opportunity Reserve, and \$1 million from a recently awarded grant through the Department of Local Affairs Innovative Housing Incentive Grant Program.

## Durango Mesa Park

- Durango Mesa Park Foundation and the city of Durango have announced plans to start work on a new mountain biking trail project this April. The joint effort with the City, Durango Mesa Park Foundation, Durango Trails, AJ Construction and other local builders will include five new trails and improvements to the trailhead for Horse Gulch.
- The project will include a 2.15-mile connector from Durango Mesa Park to the Horse Gulch Trailhead, three intermediate downhill trails, a beginner downhill trail, and a new connector from Durango Mesa Park to the Telegraph trail.

## Durango Civic Center

- The City of Durango is looking at the feasibility of combining Police, City Hall, River City Hall and the Carnegie Building into one centralized location – the 9R Administration building. City staff hosted a public meeting to present information, take input and answer questions on the plan.
- More information is online here: <https://www.durangogov.org/1684/City-Civic-Center>

## Meetings attended March 2 - April 6

3/2 - 3:30 pm LAC Meeting	3/15 - 12 pm Energy Council Meeting with Boebert
3/7 - 10 am BOCC Meeting CANCELED	3/21 - 2:15 pm Durango City Council Study Session
3/7 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	3/21 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
3/7 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	3/23 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission Meeting
3/8 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	3/27 - 5 pm Durango Planning Commission Meeting
3/8 - 6 pm NINA Homeless & Housing Forum	3/28 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
3/9 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	3/29 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
3/13 - 4:30pm Durango Mesa Park Open House	4/4 - 10 am BOCC Study Session
3/14 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	4/4 - 2:15 pm Durango City Council Study Session
3/14 - 5:30 Durango Civic Center Meeting	4/4 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
3/15 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	4/5 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time

## Colorado Legislature

### Business / Taxation

- [HB 1008](#) - Food Accessibility - Senate Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations
- [HB 1011](#) - Consumer Right to Repair Agricultural Equipment. - Senate Consideration of First Conference Committee Report was to Adopt Committee Report - Repass. **CO Chamber Opposes**
- [HB 1017](#) - Electronic Sales And Use Tax Simplification System - House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations.. **CO Chamber Supports**
- [SB 6](#) - Creation of the Rural Opportunity Office - House Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Refer Unamended to Appropriations - **CAR Supports**
- [SB 17](#) - Additional Uses Paid Sick Leave - House Committee on Business Affairs & Labor Refer Unamended to Appropriations - **CO Chamber wants to Amend**

### Land Use

- [SB 5](#) - Forestry And Wildfire Mitigation Workforce. Senate Appropriations Committee - **CAR Supports**
- [SB 213](#) - Land Use. Concerning state land use requirements, and, in connection therewith, establishing a process to diagnose and address housing needs across the state, addressing requirements for the regulation of accessory dwelling units, middle housing, transit-oriented areas, key corridors, and manufactured and modular homes, prohibiting certain planned unit development resolutions, prohibiting a local government from enforcing certain occupancy limits, modifying the content requirements for county and municipal master plans, prohibiting certain municipalities from imposing minimum square footage requirements for residential units, requiring entities to submit a completed and validated water loss audit report to the Colorado water conservation board, prohibiting a unit owners' association from prohibiting certain kinds of housing, requiring the transportation commission and the department of transportation to modify the state highway access code, criteria for certain grant programs, and expenditures from the multimodal transportation options fund to align with state strategic growth objectives, and making an appropriation. Assigned to Local Government & Housing - **CAR wants to Amend**

### Housing

- [HB 1115](#) - Repeal Prohibition Local Residential Rent Control - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Senate Local Government & Housing. **CO Chamber Opposes, CAR Opposes**
- [HB 1171](#) - Just Cause Requirement Eviction Of Residential Tenant. Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Senate Local Government & Housing - **CAR is Monitoring**
- [HB 1189](#) - Employer Assistance For Home Purchase Tax Credit - House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations - . **CAR Supports, CO Chamber Supports**
- [HB 1190](#) - Affordable Housing Right Of First Refusal - To Senate Committee of the Whole - **CAR wants to Amend, CO Chamber Opposes**
- [SB 1](#) - Authority Of Public-private Collaboration Unit For Housing - Senate Appropriations Committee - **CAR Supports, CO Chamber Supports**
- [SB 35](#) - Middle-income Housing Authority Act - House Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government Refer Amended to Appropriations - **CAR Monitoring**

#### Regulatory

- [HB 1039](#) - Electric Resource Adequacy Reporting - Senate Second Reading Passed - No Amendments. **CO Chamber Supports**
- [HB 1068](#) - Pet Animal Ownership In Housing - Introduced in the Senate - Assigned to Senate Local Government & Housing- **CAR wants to Amend**
- [HB 1099](#) - Portable Screening Report For Residential Leases - House Second Reading Laid over Daily - No Amendments. **CAR wants to Amend**

#### Labor/Employment

- [HB 1032](#) - Remedies Persons With Disabilities - House Second Reading Laid Over Daily - No Amendments - **CO Chamber wants to Amend**
- [HB 1078](#) - Unemployment Compensation Dependent Allowance - House Appropriations Committee. **CO Chamber Opposes**
- [HB 1192](#) - Additional Protections In Consumer Code - .Senate Committee on Judiciary Lay Over Unamended - Amendment(s) Failed - **CO Chamber wants to Amend. CAR wants to Amend.**
- [SB 172](#) - Protecting Opportunities And Workers' Rights Act - Concerning protections for Colorado workers against discriminatory employment practices. Assigned to Judiciary - **CO Chamber Opposes**

#### Energy & Environment

- [SB 16](#) - Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Measures - Senate Appropriations Committee - **CO Chamber wants to Amend**
- [SB 201](#) - Mineral Resources Property Owners' Rights - Concerning protections for property owners in the pooling of oil and gas minerals on multiple separately owned tracts.- Introduced in the Senate - Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources - **CO Chamber Opposes**
- [HB 1039](#) - Electric Resource Adequacy Reporting - Senate Committee on Appropriations Refer Unamended to Senate Committee of the Whole - **CO Chamber Supports**
- [HB 1161](#) - Environmental Standards For Appliances - House Appropriations Committee - **CAR monitoring, CO Chamber monitoring**
- [HB-1069](#) - Study Biochar In Plugging Of Oil And Gas Wells - House Appropriations Committee.
- [HB 1080](#) - Reliable Alternative Energy Sources - House Committee on Energy & Environment Postpone Indefinitely - **CAR is monitoring**
- [HB 1210](#) - Carbon Management - House Appropriations Committee

#### Sent to Governor

- [HB 1004](#) - Language Access in Insurance Documents. - House Considered Senate Amendments

#### Signed by Governor

- [SB 46](#) - Average Weekly Wage Paid Leave Benefits
- [SB 77](#) - Restrictions On Broker Engagement Contracts
- [HB 1006](#) - Employer Notice of Income Tax Credits
- [HB 1134](#) - Require Electric Options In Home Warranties