

Colorado Legislature Update

Business Affairs/Labor

- [HB 1001](#) - Reauthorization of the Rural Jump-Start Program. House Business Affairs and Labor. **CO Competitive Council (C3) Supports.**
- [HB 1008](#) - Wage Claims Construction Industry Contractors - Concerning measures to expand general contractor accountability for wage claims involving contractors in the construction industry. Assigned to House Business Affairs & Labor. **CO Chamber of Commerce Opposes. C3 Opposes.**
- [HB 1014](#) - Deceptive Trade Practice Significant Impact Standard - The bill establishes that evidence that a person has engaged in an unfair or deceptive trade practice constitutes a significant impact to the public. House Judiciary Committee. **Colorado Association of Realtors (CAR) Opposes. C3 Opposes.**

Health/Human Services

- [HB 1005](#) - Health Insurers Contract with Qualified Providers. Concerning contract requirements between primary care providers and other health-care organizations. Assigned to Health & Human Services. **CO Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes.**
- [HB 1075](#) - Analysis of Universal Health-Care Payment System. Concerning consideration of a statewide universal health-care payment system, and, in connection therewith, creating an advisory task force for the purpose of advising the Colorado school of public health in conducting an analysis of draft model legislation concerning a statewide universal health-care payment system. House Health and Human Services Committee. **CO Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes.**

Taxation

- [HB 1036](#) - Adjusting Certain Tax Expenditures - The bill repeals some infrequently used tax expenditures and modifies several tax others. Assigned to Finance. **CO Chamber wants to amend**
- [HB 1041](#) - Streamline Filing Certain Tax Returns. Assigned to Finance. **CO Chamber Supports**
- [HB 1050](#) - Simplify Processes Regarding Certain Local Government Taxes - House Finance Committee. **CO Chamber Supports.**
- [HB 1056](#) - Issuance of Treasurer's Deeds - Concerning property subject to a property tax lien, and, in connection therewith, modernizing statutes related to the issuance of a treasurer's deed for property subject to a property tax lien to align with a federal supreme court decision. House Finance Committee. **CAR Supports**
- [HB 1065](#) - Reduction of State Income Tax - the bill reduces both the individual and the corporate state income tax rates from 4.40% to 4.0%. To House Finance Committee.
- [SB 002](#) - Local Government Property Tax Credits Rebates - The bill would allow local governments to implement programs offering property tax credits and rebates to incentivize certain uses of property, such as converting short-term rentals to long-term rentals or opening childcare centers. To Senate Local Government & Housing Committee for a hearing 1/30. **CAR Supports**
- [SB 023](#) - Hold Harmless for Error in GIS Database Data - Concerning the requirement that local taxing jurisdictions hold harmless vendors that rely on erroneous data in certain electronic systems related to sales and use tax that are managed by the department of revenue. Senate Finance Committee for a hearing 1/30. **CO Chamber Supports.**
- [SB 025](#) - Update Local Government Sales & Use Tax Collection - Concerning local government sales and use taxes administered by the department of revenue, and, in connection therewith, revising, modernizing, and harmonizing various state statutes relating to the state-administration of local sales and use tax into one uniform statute. Senate Finance Committee. Hearing on 1/30. **CO Chamber wants to amend.**
- [SB 033](#) - Lodging Property Tax Treatment - The bill proposes to increase the property tax of short-term rentals from a residential taxation rate (approximately 6.7% assessment) to a commercial rate (approximately 27.9% assessment) for any unit rented more than 90 days in a calendar year. To Senate Finance Committee. **CAR Opposes. C3 Opposes.**

Housing

- [HB 1011](#) - Mortgage Servicers Disburse Insurance Proceeds - The bill requires a mortgage servicer to disclose certain information to a borrower concerning the disbursement of insurance proceeds to the borrower in the event that a residential property that is subject to a mortgage is damaged or destroyed and an insurance company pays a claim associated with such damage or destruction. To House Business Affairs and Labor Committee for a hearing 1/25.
- [HB 1057](#) - Prohibit Algorithmic Devices Used for Rent Setting - Concerning prohibiting the use of an algorithmic device by a landlord for the purpose of determining the amount of rent to charge a residential tenant, and, in connection therewith, declaring that such use is an unfair or deceptive trade practice under the "Colorado Consumer Protection Act". To House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee for a hearing on 1/31.

- [HB 1098](#) - Cause Required for Eviction of Residential Tenant - Concerning protections for residential tenants, and, in connection therewith, requiring cause for the eviction of a residential tenant.
- [SB 094](#) - Safe Housing for Residential Tenants - The bill modifies existing warranty of habitability laws by clarifying actions that constitute a breach of the warranty of habitability (breach) and procedures for both landlords and tenants when a warranty of habitability claim (claim) is alleged by the tenant. Senate Local Government & Housing Committee.
- [SB 097](#) - Property Tax Distraint Sale Mobile Home - Concerning the distraint sale of a mobile home to collect delinquent property taxes, and, in connection therewith, modifying the provision for payment of any surplus proceeds to align with a federal supreme court decision and extending the redemption period for certain mobile home owners from one to two years.

Local Government

- [SB 92](#) - Concerning cost effective energy codes. The bill requires any provision of any energy code adopted by a county or municipality on or after January 1, 2026, to be cost effective. "Cost effective" means, using the existing energy efficiency standards and requirements as a base of comparison, that the economic benefits of the proposed energy efficiency standards and requirements will exceed the economic costs of those standards and requirements based upon an incremental multi-year analysis. Senate Local Government & Housing Committee.

Property Rights

- [SB 058](#) - Landowner Liability Recreational Use Warning Signs - Concerning landowner liability under the Colorado recreational use statute - To Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing 1/29.

Transportation

- [SB 032](#) - Methods to Increase the Use of Transit - the bill creates the statewide transit pass exploratory committee (committee) within the department of transportation (department) to produce a viable proposal for the creation, implementation, and administration of a statewide transit pass. Senate Transportation & Energy Committee.

Broadband

- [SB 091](#) - Rights-of-Way Permits for Broadband Deployment - The bill creates an alternative method for entities that want to access rights-of-way for the deployment of broadband, whereby the department may issue a permit and impose a permit fee for access to rights-of-way for the deployment of broadband. Senate Transportation & Energy Committee.

Senate District 6 Election

- Vivian Smotherman (D) of Durango announced her candidacy for the Colorado Senate District 6 seat held by Sen. Cleave Simpson. Smotherman is a farmer, a veteran and has spent over 2 decades working in oil and gas. JOANN@VOTEVIVIAN.ORG Contributions and expenditures not reported.
- Sen. Cleave Simpson (R) of Alamosa has already said he will seek reelection. SIMPSONFORCOLORADO@GMAIL.COM Total Contributions \$36,629.98, Expenditures \$12,380.71

Air Quality Rule Making

- County attorney Sheryl Rogers told La Plata County Commissioners that there are two rulemakings at the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) taking place. One is related to cumulative impacts on air quality. Draft rules were released on Jan. 17 and hearings will be held April 22-26. The draft rules particularly ask well operators to forecast and limit the intensity of nitrous oxide (NOx) and greenhouse-gas emissions. Rogers said at first glance, it doesn't look like there will need to be any changes made to the county's oil and gas regulations.

Durango/La Plata County Housing/Economic Development

- At a joint meeting with Durango City Councilors and the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners, Durango Community Development Director Scott Shine gave an update on three projects that he said won't happen without city/county alignment – La Posta Road, Three Springs, and Durango Crossing.
 - The City of Durango has received a letter from La Posta Road area property owners about proceeding with annexation. Landowners are organized and are gathering documentation needed for annexation. Shine said a joint resolution would be a great next step. La Plata County Commissioners have an interest in seeing La Posta Road development, and Commissioner Matt Salka said a master road agreement would be crucial.
 - Village 2 is the next large development entitled at Three Springs. City staff have work with the Growth Fund on the terms of a new development agreement, which Shine said is a major milestone. The agreement will be reviewed by staff and then will go to City Council.

- Durango Crossing is at the intersection of Florida Road and CR 250. The development will be for 149 residential units – a mix of condos, townhomes, and apartments. 50% will be deed restricted and half of those will be ownership opportunities. The next step is annexation

Airport Update

- United Airlines in May will bring back its summer nonstop service between George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) in Houston, Texas, and Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO).

Broadband Update

- Governor Polis announced in January Capital Projects Funds totaling over \$18 million for broadband infrastructure in La Plata County. According to La Plata County Commissioner Matt Salka, \$8.8 million will affect Wildcat Canyon, CR 141 and Hwy 140. \$10.3 million will benefit more than 2300 properties north of Bayfield, CR 501 and Forest Lakes. Additional CPF went to Archuleta County, Montezuma County and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.
- Bayfield officials held a ribbon cutting January 12th to celebrate over 30 miles of fiber optic conduit laid in Bayfield by Clearnetworx. The network is designed to serve more than 1,400 homes and businesses in the Bayfield area.

Unemployment Update

- The statewide unemployment rate was 3.3% in October and November of 2023.
- La Plata County’s rate in October was 2.6% and 2.8% in November.
- San Juan County’s rate was 2.5% in October and 3.7% in November.
- Archuleta County’s rate was 2.9% in October and 3.1% in November.
- Montezuma County’s rate was 3.2% in October and 3.6% in November.
- Dolores County’s rate was 2.4% in October and 3% in November.

Planning Projects

- The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners approved a proposal for a preliminary development plan to subdivide 50.53 acres into 19 single-family residential lots at the Glacier Club.
- Durango City Council approved a zoning change in the Future Land Use Map that was requested by Tree Farm Village. The applicants needed the change in order to get city water to a proposed 310 manufactured home community in Grandview. Tree Farm will propose to fund and extend City water along CR 233 for the Village.

Meetings attended December 28 - January 25

12/28 - 9:30 am - LAC meeting	1/16 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting
1/2 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	1/16 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
1/3 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	1/17 - 8 am BOCC Special Business Meeting
1/9 - 8:30 am SW CO Economic Summit	1/17 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
1/9 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting	1/23 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting
1/9 - 1:30 pm Durango Special City Council Meeting	1/23 - 2 pm Joint BOCC/Durango Council Study Session
1/10 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	1/24 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time