

## Colorado Legislature Update

### Energy & Environment

- [HB 1030](#) - Railroad Safety Requirements - Senate Transportation & Energy Committee hearing April 26. **Colorado Chamber of Commerce Opposes. Colorado Competitive Council (C3) Opposes.**
- [HB 1330](#) - Air Quality Permitting - House Appropriations Committee. **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes.**
- [HB 1339](#) - Disproportionately Impact Community Air Pollution - House Committee on Energy & Environment Refer Amended to Appropriations. **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes**
- [SB 81](#) - Perfluoroalkyl & Polyfluoroalkyl Chemicals - Senate Considered House Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass. **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 wants to Amend.**
- [SB 165](#) - Air Quality Improvements - Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy Refer Amended to Finance - **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes.**
- [SB 166](#) - Air Quality Enforcement - Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy Refer Amended to Finance - **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes.**

### Governmental

- [HB 1373](#) - Alcohol Beverage Retail Licensees - House Appropriations Committee. **Co Chamber Opposes.**
- [HB 1439](#) - Financial Incentives Expand Apprenticeship Programs - House Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations. **Co Chamber Supports. C3 Supports.**
- [SB 106](#) - Right to Remedy Construction Defects - Senate Third Reading Passed with Amendments - Floor. **Co Chamber Supports. Colorado Association of Realtors (CAR) Supports.**
- [SB 112](#) - Construction Defect Action Procedures - Senate Local Government & Housing Committee hearing April 30. **C3 Supports. CAR is monitoring.**
- [SB 143](#) - Credential Quality Apprenticeship Classification - Consent Calendar to Senate Committee of the Whole. **Co Chamber Supports.**
- [SB 193](#) - Protect Tribal Lands from Unauthorized Annexation - Senate Second Reading Laid Over to 04/25/2024 - No Amendments.

### Healthcare

- 
- [HB 1075](#) - Analysis of Universal Healthcare Payment System - House Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments - Committee, Floor. **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes.**
- [SB 73](#) - Maximum Number of Employees to Qualify as Small Employer - Senate Considered House Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass. **Co Chamber Supports.**

### Housing

- [HB 1099](#) - Defendant Filing Fees in Evictions - House Third Reading Laid Over Daily - No Amendments. **CAR Supports.**
- [HB 1175](#) - Local Governments Rights to Property for Affordable Housing - Senate Local Government & Housing Committee hearing April 25. **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 wants to Amend. CAR is monitoring.**
- [HB 1230](#) - Protections for Real Property Owners - Senate Second Reading Laid Over to 04/25/2024 - No Amendments. **CAR Opposes.**

### Labor & Employment

- [HB 1008](#) - Wage Claims Construction Industry Contractors - House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments. **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes.**
- [HB 1324](#) - Attorney General Restrictive Employment Agreements - Senate Committee on Business, Labor, & Technology Refer Amended to Senate Committee of the Whole. **Co Chamber wants to Amend. C3 Opposes.**
- [SB 104](#) - Career & Technical Education & Apprenticeships - House Committee on Education Refer Unamended to Appropriations. **Co Chamber Supports.**

### Land Use

- [HB 1107](#) - Judicial Review of Local Land Use Decision - Senate Committee on Judiciary Refer Unamended to Senate Committee of the Whole. **CAR Supports.**

### Legal Reform

- [SB 130](#) - Noneconomic Damages Cap Medical Malpractice Actions - Senate Committee on Judiciary Refer Unamended to Senate Committee of the Whole. **Co Chamber Supports. C3 Supports.**

### Taxation

- [SB 111](#) - Senior Primary Residence Prop Tax Reduction - House Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations. **CAR Supports.**

#### Technology

- [HB 1129](#) - Protections for Delivery Network Company Drivers - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology for a hearing April 25. **Co Chamber Opposes. C3 Opposes.**
- [HB 1245](#) - Fair Labor Practice Requirements for Broadband Projects - House Committee on Business Affairs & Labor Refer Amended to Appropriations. **C3 Opposes.**

#### Water

- [HB 1435](#) - Colorado Water Conservation Board Projects - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources for a hearing April 25. **CAR Supports.**
- [SB 179](#) - Floodplain Management Program - House Committee on Appropriations Refer Unamended to House Committee of the Whole hearing April 25. **CAR Supports.**

#### FAILED

- [SB 33](#) - Lodging Property Tax Treatment
- [SB 62](#) - Prohibit Attorney Fees on Personal Injury Interest
- [HB 1005](#) - Health Insurers Contract with Qualified Providers
- [HB 1014](#) - Deceptive Trade Practice Significant Impact Standard
- [HB 1085](#) - Limitation on Actions against Appraisers
- [HB 1144](#) - Income Tax Credit for Mortgage Rate Buy Downs
- [HB 1151](#) - Disclose Mandatory Fees in Advertisements

#### PASSED

- [HB 1007](#) - Prohibit Residential Occupancy Limits
- [HB 1041](#) - Streamline Filing Sales & Use Tax Returns
- [SB 23](#) - Hold Harmless for Error in GIS Database Data
- [SB 24](#) - Local Lodging Tax Reporting on Sales Return
- [SB 25](#) - Update Local Government Sales & Use Tax Collection

#### Unemployment Rates

- Statewide unemployment rate was 3.4% in December 2023 and January 2024 and 3.5% in February.
- La Plata County was 2.8% in December, 3.8% in January and 4.2% in February.
- San Juan County was 3.2% in December, 3.7% in January and 3.2% in February.
- Archuleta County was 3% in December, 4% in January and 4.5% in February.
- Montezuma County was 3.9% in December, 5.7% in January and 6% in February.
- Dolores County was 2.1% in December, 3.5% in January and 4% in February.

#### Durango City Council Updates

- On April 22nd, the Durango City Council voted 4 to 1 to have City Attorney Mark Morgan give a full analysis of proposed state legislation ([SB 193](#)) that would give tribes absolute jurisdiction to approve or deny annexation requests of property located within the exterior boundaries of a reservation of a federally recognized Indian tribe. Councilor Gilda Yazzie voted no. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is pushing the legislation. In a unanimous decision, the council voted to take a 3 week pause on staff work related to the La Posta Road development, where the City is discussing annexation of private land within the reservation boundaries. In a 4 to 1 vote, they also decided to respectfully decline a meeting with Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Chairman Baker on April 24th or 25th, pending more information.
- April 2nd, Durango City Council voted to purchase a housing unit at the Animas City Park Overlook Townhomes to be used for workforce housing. The agreement with the developer of the townhomes was that four units would be deed restricted for workforce housing. The city purchased the additional townhome to be sold at the deed-restricted price.
- Also on April 2nd, the Council approved a letter of support for the La Plata Economic Development Alliance to apply for a DOLA grant to create a regional childcare investment strategy. This initiative aims to create actionable strategies to address essential childcare needs, with a focus on retaining and recruiting the essential workforce.
- City Council will consider a ballot measure to fund the new City Hall and Police Station. The question may be on the ballot for November. The city is looking at potentially asking voters to reauthorize the 2005 half-cent sales tax as a way to fund this project. Half of the 2005 tax, 1/4 cent, was used to build the library and rebuild Florida Road. The other 1/4 cent pays for the

city's parks, open space and trails efforts. The tax ends Dec. 31, 2026. Council has until mid-July to decide whether to ask voters to reauthorize the sales tax.

**Downtown Durango Next Steps**

- Some downtown Durango merchants are concerned about the impact of construction related to the Next Steps project. According to City Staff, the proposal does not include tearing up the sidewalks. The sidewalk widening proposed in the project will be utilizing new material integrated with the existing sidewalks.
- As for street construction, staff is working with Public Works to make sure all the construction in the roadway happens at one time - i.e., street improvements and utilities work.
- 60% design of Next Steps is anticipated in the fall.

**LPC Planning Process Update**

- La Plata County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the sketch plan process April 25th at the Planning Commission meeting beginning at 6 pm. The sketch plan process is the first step in obtaining a major land use permit, and may be an optional step for other types of permits. The intent of the sketch plan process is to provide an opportunity for the county, the applicant, and the public to evaluate and discuss the basic design, concept and suitability of the project and to consider if the project is capable of substantially complying with this code and in general conformance with the comprehensive plan.

**Planning Projects**

- In a 3 to 2 vote, the La Plata County Planning Commission approved the Fidelity Towers Forest Lakes Monopole Sketch Plan. The project is for a 150' telecommunications tower located at the intersection of CR 501 and 502, north of Forest Lakes. Applicant Neil Wiser said the project will provide wireless data and enhanced cell service to Forest Lakes and Vallecito. More than a dozen area residents spoke against the proposal, stating concerns over aesthetics, fire, and potential health impacts from radio frequency. The Preliminary Plan for the tower will go before the Board of County Commissioners next.
- The Joint Planning Commission approved the sketch plan for Elevation Park Phase 2. The proposal is for 3 single-family lots, construction of 2 apartment buildings containing 84 apartments, a clubhouse, and a community park on a 10.78-acre parcel located southeast of the intersection of Three Springs Blvd. and Hwy 160.

**Meetings attended March 28 - April 25**

3/28 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	4/16 - 10 am BOCC Meeting CANCELED
4/2 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	4/16 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
4/2 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	4/17 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
4/3 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	4/18 - 6 pm LPC/Durango Joint Planning Commission
4/4 - 1 pm Energy Council Operators Meeting	4/22 - 5 pm Durango Comm Dev Planning Commission
4/9 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	4/23 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
4/10 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time CANCELED	4/24 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
4/11 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission CANCELED	4/25 - 12 pm LAC Meeting