

Colorado Legislature Update on Passed Bills

- [All passed bills](#)
- Polis has until June 7 to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature.

Energy & Environment

- [SB24-214](#): Implement State Climate Goals - Concerning the implementation of state climate goals, and, in connection therewith, making and reducing an appropriation.
- [SB24-229](#): Ozone Mitigation Measures - Concerning measures to mitigate ozone pollution in the state, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.
- [SB24-230](#): Oil & Gas Production Fees -Concerning support for statewide remediation services that positively impact the environment.
- [HB24-1338](#): Cumulative Impacts & Environmental Justice - Concerning measures to advance environmental justice by reducing cumulative impacts of air pollution, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Taxation

- [SB24-228](#): TABOR refund mechanisms - Concerning mechanisms to refund excess state revenues, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.
- [SB24-233](#): Property tax - Concerning property tax, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Housing

- [SB24-134](#): Operation of Home-based Based Businesses - Concerning the operation of a home-based business in a common interest community.
- [HB24-1098](#): 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.

Business

- [SB24-020](#): Alcohol Beverage Delivery & Takeout - Concerning authorization for certain persons licensed to sell alcohol beverages at retail to sell alcohol beverages for consumption off the licensed premises.

Election Information

- Primary Ballots go out June 3rd; State Primary Election is June 25th
- General Election is November 5th, 2024
- La Plata County Primary Election FAQ:
<https://cms9files.revize.com/laplatacounty/Primary%20Election%20FAQ%20June%202024.pdf>

House District 59

- Ignacio Mayor Clark Craig (R) Total Contributions: \$13,496.98
- Durango resident and school board member Katie Stewart (D) Total Contributions: \$25,187.20

Senate District 6

- Incumbent Cleave Simpson (R) Total Contributions: \$52,312.88, Total Expenditures: \$29,770.30
- Vivian Smotherman (D): Total Contributions: \$7,423.00, Total Expenditures: \$7,856.51
- Frederick Williams (L): No financial information available.

La Plata County Commissioner

- Incumbent Matt Salka (D) will seek to retain his District 3 seat against challenger Paul Black (R).
- Incumbent Marsha Porter Norton (D) is unchallenged for her District 2 seat.

La Plata County Treasurer

- Moni Grushkin (U) is unchallenged to retain her seat as Treasurer.

Unemployment Rates

- Statewide unemployment rate was 3.5% in February and 3.7% in March.
- La Plata County was 4.2% in February and 3.7% in March..
- San Juan County was 3.2% in February and 3.3% in March.
- Archuleta County was 4.5% in February and 4/0% in March.
- Montezuma County was 6% in February and 5/3% in March.
- Dolores County was 4% in February and 4/1% in March.

Durango City Council Updates

- May 7th was the first reading of an ordinance to update the Land Use and Development Code regarding the Fair Share (Inclusionary Zoning) Program. Key objectives include:
 - Extending the program to include rental developments
 - Incentivizing developers to construct units rather than paying the fee in lieu
 - Simplifying the program
- Durango City Council approved a resolution adopting a new schedule for Building Permit Fees. Under the 2023 Valuation approved, the fees collected are projected to increase 40%.
- City Council adopted an Economic Development Incentive policy for Durango that would be used to strategically drive sustainable growth, bridge market gaps, bolster local enterprises, retain growing businesses, create jobs, and establish a resilient economic foundation capable of withstanding challenges. City staff said the economic incentives will be used judiciously, selectively, and by exception as supplementary measures.
- City Council also approved Durango’s participation in the state of Colorado’s Rural Jump-Start Zone program. The program was passed in 2015 as a tax relief program for out-of-state relocating businesses and new hires who locate into rural areas. If a business is approved, the program offers benefits for companies starting up or relocating into Colorado that include help with start-up costs and tax reliefs.

Housing Update

- Durango Community Development Director Scott Shine said the Residences at Durango hotel conversion project is ahead of schedule and will be offering affordable housing opportunities by the end of this year. Renovation and remodeling of the former hotel will bring a mix of studios, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments by the fourth quarter of this year, while additional new construction will be completed likely in the first quarter of 2025.

La Plata County Road Impact Fee

- La Plata County is collecting input on a proposed road impact fee on new development in the unincorporated county. Under the proposal, a 901 to 1500 square feet dwelling unit would have a fee of \$2,000. 1000 square feet of commercial development would have a fee of \$8,000. It’s estimated the fees will raise about a half a million dollars per year towards the county’s nearly \$203 million estimated needs through 2045.

Economic Development Alliance Update

- La Plata Economic Development Alliance Executive Director Mike French will be transitioning out of his position over the next couple of months, while Deputy Director Sarah Tober will begin taking over. Tober will become the Executive Director officially as of July 1, 2024.

Durango Chamber of Commerce Update

- Chamber of Commerce CEO Jack Llewelyn has stepped down after 17 years of service. COO Kim Oyler will act as Interim CEO as a national search is underway.

Meetings attended April 25-May 23

4/25 - 12 pm LAC Meeting	5/14 - 8 am Economic Alliance Meeting
4/25 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	5/14 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
4/30 - 9 am RHA Housing Summit	5/15 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
5/1 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	5/16 - 9 am LAC Strategic Planning Meeting
5/2 - 2 pm LPC Road Impact Fee Meeting	5/16 - 6 pm Joint Planning Meeting CANCELED
5/7 - 2 pm Durango City Council Study Session	5/21 - 10 am BOCC Meeting CANCELED
5/7 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	5/21 - 3:45 pm Durango City Council Study Session
5/8 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	5/21 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
5/9 - 6 pm LPC Planning Meeting CANCELED	5/22 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
5/13 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting CANCELED	5/23 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission CANCELED