

Monitored Bills Signed by the Governor in late May and early June

- [All Passed Bills](#)
- [HB 1365](#) - Opportunity Now Grants and Tax Credit
- [SB 193](#) - Protect Tribal Lands from Unauthorized Annexation
- [HB 1036](#) - Concerning the adjustment of certain tax expenditures
- [HB 1050](#) - Simplify Processes Regarding Certain Local Government Taxes
- [HB 1175](#) - Local Governments Rights to Property for Affordable Housing
- [HB 1107](#) - Judicial Review of Local Land Use Decision

Vetoed Bills

- [HB 1008](#) - Wage Claims Construction Industry Contractors
- [HB1307](#) - Concerning HVAC infrastructure improvement projects in schools.
- [HB1080](#) - Youth Sports Personnel Requirements
- [HB 1260](#) - Prohibition Against Employee Discipline
- [SB 150](#) - Processing of Municipal Solid Waste

Unemployment Rates

- Statewide unemployment rate was 3.7% in March and in April.
- La Plata County was 3.7% in March and 3% in April..
- San Juan County was 3.3% in March and 3% in April.
- Archuleta County was 4/0% in March and 3.2% in April.
- Montezuma County was 5/3% in March and 4.1% in April.
- Dolores County was 4/1% in March and 4.2% in April.

Durango City Council Updates

- City Council voted 3 to 1 to direct staff to pursue the reauthorization of the city's 2005 ½-cent sales tax with no increase included in the draft ballot language. There is a proposed increase in the sunset period of the sales tax from 20 to 30 years. Councilor Gilda Yazzie voted against the measure and councilor Olivier Bosmans abstained.
- City Council approved the \$3 million purchase agreement for Buckley Park. The City is buying Buckley Park from the Durango 9R School District and will permanently preserve it as a public park.
- Tri-County Head Start will be moving to a city owned property near the Durango Public Library and allow for 80 – 90 children to receive early education and care. The property where Head Start moves from will become a development for new workforce housing. The public-private partnership was approved at a City Council meeting in June.

Durango Economic Development Incentive Program

- The City of Durango has launched the Economic Development Incentive program to provide local businesses with new opportunities to invest in workforce and infrastructure. The program is designed to be tailored to the needs of individual businesses that are approved through an application process.
- More information is available here: <https://www.durangoco.gov/1788/Economic-Development-Incentive-Program>

DownTown Next Steps

- A temporary pilot program for [Downtown Next Steps](#) was approved for the 600 and 700 blocks of Main Avenue and will be installed this July through October with the aim of giving citizens the feel of the proposed changes. An effort to pause the project by City Councilor Gilda Yazzie was voted down by the majority of the Council.

La Plata County Sales Tax

- Sales tax collections for February show an increase of \$19,098 or 1.02% in comparison to the same period in 2023.
- Sales tax collections for March show a decrease of -\$20,509 or -.99% in comparison to the same period in 2023.

La Plata County Lodgers Tax

- In 2022, new legislation expanded Colorado Counties’ use of Lodgers tax to include housing and childcare for tourism-related workers, seasonal workers and other workers, facilitating and enhancing visitor experiences and capital expenditures related to these purposes. But in order to reallocate Lodgers Tax for those purposes, La Plata County would have to ask voters approval. All three commissioners are in support of further discussions of the idea and are scheduled to do so at a business meeting on July 9th.

La Plata County Road and Bridge

- The County’s Long Term Finance Committee looked at a few scenarios to answer the question of how to fund the road and bridge department capital needs over the next 20 years. Committee members laid out two basic potential ways to approach funding – raising property taxes or raising sales taxes. No conclusions were drawn, nor decisions made, but La Plata County Commissioners discussed the possibility of a 3 mill increase which would raise about \$140 million over 20 years. An increase in sales tax of .42% would raise \$47 million over 20 years. Either concept would require voter approval.

La Plata County Land Use Code Changes

- The La Plata County Planning Commission recommended changes to the Land Use Code regarding traffic, which County Engineer Aaron McElvey said should make life easier for applicants and staff. The changes include raising the threshold for a project to be classified as a major project from a 5% traffic increase to a 20% increase. The changes also add flexibility related to traffic analysis, including expanding the ability to grant waivers. The Land Use Code changes must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners before they go into effect.

Planning Projects

- La Plata County Board of County Commissioners approved the Heartwood Ranch Preliminary Plat/Plan for Phase 2 of the Subdivision, which proposed to consolidate 2 parcels and add 14 single family lots.in the Bayfield area.
- The Durango City Council approved the Southfork Starbuck Preliminary Development Plan, which proposed to build a new 2200 square foot Starbucks at the southeast corner of Wilson Gulch Drive and Copper Court.

Meetings attended May 23 - June 20

5/28 - 10 am BOCC meeting CANCELED	6/11 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
5/20 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time - CANCELED	6/12 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
6/4 - 10 am BOCC meeting	6/13 - 2:pm RHA Meeting
6/4 - 2:45 pm Durango City Council Study Session	6/13 - 6 pm LPC Planning Meeting
6/4 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	6/17 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
6/5 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	6/18 - 10 am BOCC Work Session
6/10 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting	6/19 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time