

Election Information

- General Election is November 5th, 2024
- [Register to vote online in Colorado](#) up to 8 days before election
- You can vote early in Colorado from 15 days before the election, right up to election day.
- Register to vote in person at the County Clerk's office up to and including election day.

House District 59

- Ignacio Mayor Clark Craig (R) Total Contributions: \$21,268.37, expenditures \$17,228.95
- Durango school board member Katie Stewart (D) Total Contributions: \$39,463.08, expenditures \$6,988.52
- The Chamber of Commerce will host a Candidate Forum on September 26th from 8am to 10:30 am at the Doubletree.

Senate District 6

- Incumbent Cleave Simpson (R) Total Contributions: \$63,013.38, Expenditures: \$35,394.09
- Vivian Smotherman (D): Total Contributions: \$18,940.21, Expenditures: \$15,051.92

La Plata County Commissioner District 3

- Incumbent Matt Salka (D) Total Contributions: \$7,402.58. Expenditures: \$642.79
- Paul Black (R) Total Contributions: \$19,375.00, Expenditures: \$6,241.11.
- The Chamber of Commerce and La Plata Forum will host a Candidate Forum on September 10th at 11:30 am at the Doubletree in Durango.

La Plata County Commissioner District 2

- Incumbent Marsha Porter Norton (D) is unchallenged. Total Contributions: \$4,635.00, Expenditures: \$2,209.77.

Initiative 50

- La Plata County Finance Director Adam Rogers warned that if voters pass Initiative 50, which will be on November's ballot, it would cost the county \$677 thousand. Initiative 50 would require voters to approve the retention of statewide property tax revenue that exceeds 4% over the preceding year.

County Lodgers Tax

- The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners have formally notified the County Clerk and Recorder that they plan to ask voters to reallocate the Lodger's Tax this November, but the Board has made no decisions on what that reallocation will be or what it will be for. During the public comment section of their business meeting July 9th, the Commissioners listened to more than a dozen citizens advocating for the tax reallocation to be used for childcare or for housing in La Plata County. A discussion on the language of the ballot question is expected to take place in late July or early August.

Durango 2005 ½ Cent Sales Tax

- The Durango City Council formally decided to put the question about whether to reauthorize Durango's 2005 ½ cent sales tax on the November ballot. Half the tax is earmarked for parks, open space, and trails. Currently the other half is for the renovation of the old Durango 9R Administration building into a new Police Station and City Hall. The ballot language has yet to be finalized. The Council voted 4 to 1 in favor with Olivier Bosmans voting no. Bosmans said he thought the Council never properly evaluated all the options.

DownTown Next Steps

- The City of Durango has developed a focus group to analyze responses to a survey about the Downtown Next Steps project. The group will be meeting in late July and early August.
- The preliminary results of a survey the Durango Chamber of Commerce, Local First and Business Improvement District issued recently about Downtown’s Next Step show that out of 54 responses from Downtown business owners, 55% did not favor curb extensions, which is a core part of the Downtown’s Next Step project and an important part of the pilot project that will mimic design elements in a temporary fashion on the 600 and 700 blocks of Main this summer. 83% were concerned about the impacts of construction. 50% opposed or somewhat opposed the entire project. 40% supported or somewhat supported it, and 10% were unsure.
- The Durango Chamber of Commerce, Local First and Business Improvement District will be hosting a moderated Q&A panel discussion about Next Steps this summer. It will be held on August 27th from 8 am to 10 am at the Center for Innovation for downtown property owners and business owners.

La Plata County Sales Tax

- La Plata County sales tax collections for April show an increase of \$44,307 or 2.26% in comparison to the same period in 2023.

La Plata County Land Use Code Changes

- La Plata County’s sketch plan process is designed to help developers and planners determine basically if a project is the right use in the right place without having to go through a full planning process. But public feedback has been that while it has some value, the process is taking too long and costing too much. County Community Development staff is hoping to change that and plans to develop redlines to the Land Use Code by August for Planning Commission review.

Road Impact Fees

- The County will likely consider adopting road impact fees by resolution this August. The fees are estimated to generate about a half a million dollars a year, but the need that’s been identified is \$203 million dollars for roads through 2045. The proposed impact fee for new commercial construction is approximately \$8,000 per 1,000 square feet. For new residential construction it’s about \$2,000 per 1,000 square feet or \$790 for an addition.

Planning Projects

- City Council approved the Preliminary Plan for a Hilton Home2Suites 107-room hotel with an outdoor patio and indoor pool in the Southfork area of Three Springs.

Meetings attended June 20-July 25

6/20 - 12:30 pm LAC Meeting	7/9 -10 am BOCC Meeting
6/24 - 4 pm LPC 4 pm Work Session	7/10 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
6/24 - 5 pm Durango Community Dev Comm	7/11 - 2 pm RHA Meeting
6/25 - 10 am BOCC meeting	7/11 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
6/26 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	7/16 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
6/27 - 8 am Chamber Legislative Wrap Up	7/17 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
7/2 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	7/22 - 5 pm Durango Community Dev Comm
7/2 - 2:45 pm Durango Council Study Session	7/23 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting
7/2 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	7/24 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
7/3 - 8:30 pm BOCC Discussion Time	