

2021-01-12 LAC Report

Notebook: 2021 Reports & Updates
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Legislative Advisory Coalition Update for January 12, 2021

COVID Update

- Colorado Counties are still operating under a six-color system, green, blue, yellow, orange, red and purple.
- The Governor moved La Plata County to level orange along with Archuleta, Montezuma, San Juan and Dolores Counties. This means many businesses may now operate at 25% capacity.
- La Plata County has achieved 5 Star status as well, which may allow businesses within the county that meet enhanced safety guidelines to open at greater capacity.
- To review the county levels use this site: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial-dashboard>

Durango COVID Relief

- The city of Durango awarded 218 grants totaling more than \$820,000 to businesses, sole proprietors and nonprofit organizations in La Plata County that were economically affected by the pandemic. Devon Schmidt, budget and strategic planning manager, said the city may have an opportunity to secure additional funds through the state. More information is available at <https://www.durangogov.org/1386/Durango-Business-Relief-Fund>
- City Council directed the City Manager to move forward with creating an ordinance outlining a utility bill forgiveness program. The proposed program would apply to qualifying businesses that have been financially affected by COVID-19. It would also apply to income-qualified households.

Durango Financial Update

- Sales tax was up 9.9% for October. It was down -1.2% for the year.
- Lodgers tax was down -23% for October and down -33.3% for the year.
- View the monthly Sales Tax Snapshot report here: <https://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/18824/October-2020-Sales-Tax-Snapshot-PDF>

Durango Strategic Plan

- The City of Durango has begun gathering input as it prepares a strategic plan for 2021. Business leaders at a community meeting January 5, 2021 pointed to lack of housing as one of the biggest challenges facing city leaders. Other issues raised by business leaders and community members include attracting higher paying jobs, support for public/private partnerships, streamlined planning processes, and increased water infrastructure.
- Additional study sessions on the Strategic Plan are scheduled for January 12 at 1 pm and January 13 at 1 pm.

Durango City Council Election

- The City of Durango will conduct its regular biennial election on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, to elect three (3) City Council members.
- A candidate for the Durango City Council must be:
 - a registered elector
 - eighteen (18) years old by April 6, 2021 (Election Day)
 - a resident of Durango, or a territory recently annexed to Durango, for the twelve (12) consecutive months prior to April 6, 2021.
- Candidates for City Council are nominated by petition, without regard to political party affiliation. Petitions are obtained from the City Clerk.
- Each petition must be signed in ink by at least 25 registered electors who live in the City of Durango.
- Nomination petitions may be circulated beginning Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Petitions must be returned to the City Clerk by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8.

2020 Building Permits Monthly

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Dgo	35	23	36	40	27
LPC	48	45	38	56	57
Bayf	0	6	1	3	1

Durango Projects Approved

- On January 5, 2021, Durango City Council approved a request from Twin Buttes LLC for review of a Preliminary Minor Subdivision for Parcel K in Twin Buttes Phase 1 Filing 1A. The existing lot is approximately 31,970 square feet and the subdivision would result in three lots with a single-family house planned for each.
- On January 5, 2021, City Council also approved another request from Twin Buttes LLC for review of a Preliminary Minor Subdivision for Parcel M in Twin Buttes Phase 1 Filing 1B. The existing lot is approximately six acres and the subdivision would result in three new lots, and a boundary adjustment to an existing lot, with a single-family house planned for each.

La Plata County Projects Approved

- On December 10, 2020, the LPC Planning Commission approved the Palmer Conceptual Development Plan, a proposal for a four phase conceptual development plan that is contemplated to include contractor/outdoor storage, low-intensity tourist recreational uses and public and/or quasi-public facilities, located at 876 CR 252.
- On December 15, 2020, the BOCC approved the Border Buds Retail Marijuana Dispensary Class II, a proposal for a new retail marijuana dispensary to be located at 1929 S HWY 550.

Meetings attended December 8 - January 12

12/8 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	12/15 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
12/8 - 1 pm BOCC Work Session	12/15 - 6:30 pm Dgo Council Meeting
12/8 - 3 pm Dgo Council Special Meeting	12/16 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time
12/8 - 4 pm Dgo Council Work Session	12/17 - 10 am BOCC Special Meeting
12/9 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time	12/17 - 11 am Durango COVID Forum
12/10 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	12/17 - 5:30 pm Durango COVID Forum
	1/2 - 9 am LAC Meeting