

Election Information

- Mail-in ballots go out October 17
- Election Day is November 8
- Sample Ballots at https://www.co.laplata.co.us/services/elections/2022_election_information.php
- Blue Book 2022 https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/blue_book_2022_english_for_web.pdf
- La Plata County Commissioner Candidates
 - Jack Turner (U)
 - Contributions \$19,765, Expenditures \$14,622
 - Brad Blake (R)
 - Contributions \$23,713, Expenditures \$3,527
 - Clyde Church (D), incumbent
 - Contributions \$10,225, Expenditures \$10,319
- La Plata County Treasurer Candidates
 - Allison Aichele (D)
 - Contributions \$500, Expenditures \$0
 - Erin Hutchins (U)
 - Contributions \$6,195, Expenditures \$2,614
- State Representative District 59 Candidates
 - Barbara McLachlan (D), incumbent
 - Contributions \$113,783.04, Expenditures \$15,824.34
 - Shelli Shaw (R)
 - Contributions \$62,402.71, Expenditures \$19,995.15
- Secretary of State Candidates
 - Pam Anderson (R)
 - Contributions \$218,012.60, Expenditures \$213,376.71
 - Jena Griswold (D)
 - Contributions \$3,765,736.60, Expenditures \$3,461,667.99
 - Gary Swing (Unity)
 - Jan Kok (Approval Voting)
 - Amanda Campbell (American Constitution)
 - Bennett Rutledge (Libertarian)
 - Contributions \$916.43, Expenditures \$1,986.94
- Congressional House District 3 Candidates
 - Lauren Boebert (R) incumbent
 - Contributions \$4,913,919.31, Expenditures \$3,476,100.84
 - Adam Frisch (D)
 - Contributions \$2,645,799.14, Expenditures \$2,075,276.82
- U.S. Senator Candidates
 - Michael Bennet (D)
 - Contributions \$14,542,447.72, Expenditures \$8,192,680.20
 - Joe O’Dea (R)
 - Contributions \$3,445,236.66, Expenditures \$2,604,248.29
 - TJ Cole (Unity)
 - Brian Peotter (Libertarian)
 - Frank Atwood (Approval Voting)

Congressional Candidate Forum

- District 3 Congressional Candidate Forum will be hosted by the League of Women Voters on **Wednesday, October 12th from 6pm - 7pm**. This will be a virtual forum featuring Republican Lauren Boebert (incumbent) and Democrat Adam Frisch. More information is at <https://lwvlaplata.org/>

La Plata County Oil and Gas Regulations Update

- Under specific discussion is Chapter 90 Section 90-14, which applies to Financial Assurances.
- The Code states: The purpose of the county's financial assurance is to protect the public health, safety, welfare, environment and wildlife resources in the county by ensuring that operators are capable of performing all of their obligations under this code and any applicable permit or approval issued by the county...
- The Code calls for \$175,000 cash or bond from major operators.
- Environmentalists are asking for higher amounts, which the industry opposes.
- A meeting on the topic will take place before La Plata County Commissioners on Oct. 17th from 2pm - 4pm.

La Plata County Sales & Lodgers Tax Update

- Sales tax collections for May show an increase of \$148,203 or 7.13% in comparison to the same period in 2021. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$728,234 or 7.97% as compared to the same period in 2021.
- Lodger's tax collections are earned Quarterly; Quarter 1 Lodgers tax increased \$15,603 or 6.69% in comparison to Quarter 1, 2021. Year to date collections for Lodger's tax are \$350,498 or 61.07% as compared to the same period for 2021.

La Plata County Fire Impact Fee

- Fire Chief Hal Doughty presented results of an updated study to La Plata County Board of County Commissioners. Based on the new study, the fire impact fee proposed is about \$400 more per residence than previously proposed, or \$1317 per new residence in unincorporated La Plata County. The proposed amount for commercial development is \$2.32 per square foot of new development.
- If the proposed fire impact fee is approved, it would remain in place until a restudy is done, which would likely be at least 3 years. This is expected to be on the County Commissioner's agenda in October.

Supply Chain Issues and Electricity

- La Plata Electric Association warns that it is feeling the pinch of record-low stock and record-long wait times for key materials like wire, transformers, and electric meters. These materials are key components in extending electric service to new homes and upgrading services to existing homes and can mean delays for LPEA and its members.
- The electric utility blames multiple chokepoints in the supply chain, staffing shortages, a lack of manufacturing capacity, a shortage of raw materials, a lack of transportation resources, extreme weather events, and geopolitical conflicts.

Tribal Broadband Modernization Project Update

- The Southern Ute Tribal Broadband Modernization Project aims to create a robust network to cover 95% of the Reservation homes by 2025.
- Construction on the project is at the intersection of CO Highway 172 and CO Highway 151 working east on CO Highway 151 to mile marker 12. It began in late September and will conclude on November 23, 2022.

Project Approvals

- The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners approved the Double Diamond Phase 3 Preliminary Plat on 9/21/22. The project creates 5 single family lots on 2.45 acres at Purgatory Resort.

- The Durango City Council approved the Milton Preliminary Planned Development at 1689 Florida Rd on 9/21/22. The preliminary proposal includes 23 townhome units, to be built as 11 duplex structures and one single unit.
- The Durango Planning Commission recommended approval of a Preliminary Plan for apartments to be built in Southfork, just west of Mercy Hospital. A total of 492 apartments are planned in two phases. Construction is expected to begin in 2023. City of Durango staff is working with the developer, BLD Group, to incorporate affordable units in the project.
- The Planning Commission also recommended approval of the Mercury Village Lot 1 minor subdivision, conceptual planned development and planned development amendment at 150 Mercury Village Dr adjacent to the Durango Mall. This would divide Mercury Village Lot 1 into 3 separate parcels. One would include the existing building which would be converted to medical offices. Another lot would house a new mixed use building and the third lot would include newly constructed residential units.

Meetings attended September 1 - October 4

9/1 - 3 pm LAC Meeting	9/20 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
9/6 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	9/22 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission Ch 90 Meeting
9/6 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	9/26 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission
9/7 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	9/27 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting
9/8 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	9/28 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
9/12 - 4:30 pm Durango Renewal Partnership (URA)	9/28 - 6 pm LPC Ch 90 Technical Workshop
9/13 - 5:30 pm Durango's Parking Future Meeting	9/29 - 9 am Special Durango City Council Meeting
9/14 - 8 am Eggs and Issues	10/4 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session
9/19 - 10 am Joint City/County Meeting	10/4 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
9/20 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting	10/5 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
9/20 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	