

### Special Session New Bills

- Senate Bill 23B-1: Property tax relief for Colorado homeowners: will reduce the residential assessment rate for the 2023 tax year to 6.7% from 6.765%. Also, homeowners will be able exempt \$55,000 of their home's value from taxation.
- Senate Bill 23B-2: Opting into a federal food assistance program: will provide up to \$120 to children at risk of food insecurity when school is not in session.
- Senate Bill 23B-3: Making TABOR refund checks equal for every taxpayer: all filers will get the same amount of \$800.
- House Bill 23B-1001: Providing \$30 million more for rental assistance: added \$30 million in emergency rental assistance, bringing the total amount it has invested to \$65 million. That is targeted relief for people who make up to 80% of the area median income and are at risk of eviction.
- House Bill 23B-1002: Expanding the state's earned income tax credit: doubles the state's earned income tax credit for this year. Right now, the state gives 25% of the federal benefit amount to those who qualify. Next year, the state amount will be 50% the federal amount.
- House Bill 23B-1003: Creating a task force for a long-term property tax plan: Formed a 19-member task force to study and develop potential long-term "permanent and sustainable" property tax plans to consider. The task force will include members of the Legislature, local elected officials, an assessor and members representing education, firefighting and business interests.

### House District 59 Election

- Ignacio Mayor Clark Craig (R) is running for House District 59, currently held by Barbara McLachlan (D), who is term-limited. Craig was elected Mayor of the Town of Ignacio in 2022. Before this, he served as chair of the Town of Ignacio Planning Commission. He is the Vice Chair of the La Plata County Planning Commission, President of the Ignacio Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of the Ignacio Community Library.
- Durango Resident Katie Stewart (D) is also running. Stewart is a mother of 5, a member of the Durango 9R School Board, and the organizing director of Rocky Mountain Values.

### Unemployment Rates

- The unemployment rate in La Plata County went down slightly in September to 2.7%. It was 3/0% in August.
- San Juan County was 2.2% in August and 2.4% in September.
- Archuleta County was 3.2% in August and 3% in September..
- Montezuma County was 3.8% in August and 3.4% in September..
- Dolores County was 2.8% in August and 2.5% in September.
- Statewide the rate was 3.1% in August and 3.2% in September.

### La Plata County Building and Planning Fees

- The Community Development Department has proposed to raise building and planning fees to become effective Jan. 1, 2024. The proposal would raise the cost of a building permit from \$1.40 per square foot to \$2.25 per square foot. Proposed Land use permit application fees would increase significantly as well.
- The fees, which have not been increased in 15 to 20 years, will be considered by the Board of County Commissioners in December.

### LPEA Update

- La Plata Electric Association announced the sale of FastTrack Communications as part of an on-going strategic partnership between the parties. LPEA has owned a partial share of FastTrack since 2002. The sale was for an undisclosed amount. As part of the agreement, LPEA will non-exclusively work with Clearnetworx on future broadband deployment within LPEA's service area.
- Clearnetworx is headquartered in Montrose, Colorado and has provided broadband service to communities and rural areas across the Western Slope since 2012. In 2023 Clearnetworx started full fiber-to-the-home build outs in Durango, Bayfield, and Cortez.

**Durango Land Use Development Code Updates**

- The Durango City Council approved changes to the Fair Share Program and Manual. The most significant edits involve enhancing the potential for public-private partnerships between developers and the City or other government or nonprofit entity.
- City Council also approved the creation of a Community Development Commission (CDC). This means reconfiguring the Planning Commission, the Design Review Board, and the Board of Adjustment. The CDC would have 7 members and one alternate member. The change would be implemented in February of 2024.

**Durango’s Leasing for Locals Rental Subsidy Program**

- The program intends to increase the supply of affordable rentals available to the local workforce by bridging the disparity between income and rental prices. It aims to immediately increase the number of long-term rental units available to the local workforce by offering financial assistance, in the form of a city project-based voucher, to subsidize rental rates from market rate to affordable monthly rents.
- More information is available here: <https://www.durangogov.org/1756/Leasing-for-Locals-Program-Guidelines-an>
- All [applications](#) will be reviewed and approved by Housing Solutions for the Southwest. The deadline for applications is December 18th.

**Durango Multimodal Transportation Plan**

- The draft Multimodal Transportation Plan is online here: <https://www.durangogov.org/360/Multimodal-Transportation-Plan> Feedback was taken until November 21st. The plan aims to, in part, improve safety and connectivity for all modes of transportation, design transportation system improvements to maximize safety, innovation, accessibility, and resident satisfaction, and advance community accessibility and walkability.

**Bayfield Election**

- An election of members of the Bayfield Board of Trustees is scheduled April 2, 2024. Five seats will be considered - one 4-year term Mayor position, three 4-year term Trustees and one 2-year term Trustee. The Board of Trustees meet a minimum of twice a month in addition to attending other meetings representing Bayfield.
- Nomination Petitions for Town of Bayfield Board of Trustees and Mayor will be available at Town Hall starting January 2nd, 2024 and are due 4:00 pm January 22nd.
- Electors eligible to hold municipal office must be eighteen years of age at the time of the election and must have resided in the municipality for a period of at least twelve consecutive months preceding the date of the election. Candidates for municipal office shall be nominated regardless of affiliation by petition and must be returned by the above due date and have at least ten eligible electors valid signatures, hand printed names, address and date signed and office you are seeking election too. Any questions, call Town Clerk Dustin Hayden at 970- 884-9544 extension 109 or [dhayden@bayfieldgov.org](mailto:dhayden@bayfieldgov.org).

**Meetings attended October 26 - November 30**

10/26 - 9:15 am LAC Meeting	11/14 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
10/26 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	11/15 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/31 - 10:30 am BOCC Study Session	11/15 - 3 pm Clark Craig Meet and Greet
11/1 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	11/16 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission - CANCELED
11/7 - 10 am BOCC Meeting - CANCELED	11/21 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
11/7 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	11/21 - 10:05 am BOCC Special Meeting
11/7 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	11/21 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
11/8 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	11/22 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
11/9 - 2 pm RHA Meeting	11/28 - 10 am BOCC Meeting - CANCELED
11/9 - 6pm LPC Planning Commission - CANCELED	11/29 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time - CANCELED
11/13 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting - CANCELED	11/30 - 9:30 am LAC Meeting