

The General Election is November 5, 2024.

- Voters must have submitted their ballot or be in line to vote by 7 pm November 5th for their ballot to be counted.
- [COLORADO'S BLUE BOOK](#)

House District 59

- Ignacio Mayor [Clark Craig](#) (R) Total Contributions: \$57,639.09 expenditures \$36,093.04
- Durango school board member [Katie Stewart](#) (D) Total Contributions: \$123,046.53, expenditures \$46,361.65

Senate District 6

- Incumbent [Cleave Simpson](#) (R) Total Contributions: \$154,697.38, Expenditures: \$90,400.20
 - Colorado Association of REALTORS endorses Cleave Simpson.
- [Vivian Smotherman](#) (D): Total Contributions: \$72,969.83, Expenditures: \$58,861.71

La Plata County Commissioner District 3

- Incumbent [Matt Salka](#) (D) Total Contributions: \$24,979.27. Expenditures: \$22,366.06
- [Paul Black](#) (R) Total Contributions: \$61,947.89, Expenditures: \$44,742.87.

Durango School District Bond Measure 4A

- A \$150 million bond measure that will appear on the November ballot. The proposed bond would fund deferred maintenance, building a new elementary school at Three Springs, upgrading safety and security systems, and addressing housing for staff.

County Lodgers Tax

- La Plata County Commissioners are asking voters whether to reallocate 70% of the county's lodgers' tax for child care and affordable housing efforts.
- La Plata County Commissioner Matt Salka is pushing for new legislation to give counties the authority to implement a lodging tax up to 6% as municipalities are able to do rather than being limited to the 2% as it is now. Salka notes that other states have demonstrated that the tax can be higher without impacting tourism demand. Salka suggests the money collected could be used for infrastructure, Environmental Conservation and Sustainability, Cultural and historical preservation, Public safety and emergency services. Colorado Counties Inc., one of the lobbyist organizations that La Plata is a member of, has taken it on as a legislative priority for 2025.

County Sales Tax Collection

- Sales tax collections for July show a decrease of \$10,984 or -.44% in comparison to the same period in 2023. Year to date sales tax shows an increase of \$227,699 or 1.83% over 2023, the Sales tax numbers are the same as June, due to BOCC reports being processed later and additional sales tax numbers were available.
- Sales tax collections for August show a decrease of \$10,984 or -.44% in comparison to the same period in 2023. Year to date sales tax shows an increase of \$227,699 or 1.83% over 2023, the Sales tax numbers are the same as June/July, due to the sales tax numbers being processed quicker.

Durango La Plata County Airport Update

- October 2nd, DRO broke ground on Phase 1B of its [terminal development project](#). The project will add two new airline gates and passenger hold rooms, a new and expanded TSA passenger screening checkpoint, new food and beverage concession areas, and a new and expanded baggage claim area. The entire project is preliminarily anticipated to be completed in late 2026.

- DRO is reporting its busiest summer on record with a 21% increase year-over-year in summer airport traffic. Year to date, the airport has seen a 16% increase in total passenger traffic. The airport parking lot exit volume and rental car contract days are also up, which together indicate a strong demand from both local and visiting airport users. In addition, terminal concession sales have increased noticeably.
- The airport recently completed its parking lot expansion project, adding nearly 300 paved spaces.
- United Airlines also recently added an additional daily flight between Durango and Denver, bringing the number of flights between the two airports up to six per day.

Durango Downtown Next Step Update

- The City of Durango installed temporary painted curb extensions October 8 on Main Avenue at the intersections of College Drive and 7th and 8th Street. The pilot project is funded through a Revitalize Main Street grant awarded by the Colorado Department of Transportation, to demonstrate elements of the Next Step design.
- The Next Step Design Project is designing street improvements to the 600 and 700 blocks of downtown Main Avenue. These improvements include widening sidewalks, curb extensions at the intersections, additional trees, adding accessible parking spaces, bioswales for water quality, improving trolley stops, and improving curb ramps.
- As previously reported, Durango City Council voted in September to suspend construction and construction spending on Next Step but agreed to complete the design phase so they can get an idea of construction costs.

Town of Bayfield Update

- Town Manager Katie Sickles issued her letter of resignation on October 1st, following calls for her termination by some members of the Town Board. Her final day is expected to be November 13th with remote support until about the end of the year.
- On October 15, the Board of Trustees appointed Lori Zazzaro to fill the Trustee vacancy until the April 2026 election. The vacancy was left by Cash Snooks, who resigned this summer.

Planning Projects

- La Plata County Commissioners approved the Sketch Plan for 307 Investments (aka Phoenix Recycling) to expand their existing operation at 4065 CR 307 in Ignacio to include woody biomass recovery, active composting, and additional equipment storage.
- Durango City Council approved a Resolution to Approve the Crader Apartments Preliminary Development Plan for 500 apartments west of Mercy Hospital. The project will be done in 5 phases, with 25 affordable units and amenities including walking paths, a clubhouse with gym, and pickleball courts.

Meetings attended September 26 - October 24

9/26 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	10/10 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
10/1 - 2:45 pm Durango Council Study Session	10/15 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting
10/1 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	10/15 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
10/2 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	10/16 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/4 - 3 pm BOCC Discussion Time on Budget	10/21 - 3 pm BOCC Work Session on Budget
10/7 - 2 pm Joint City/County Study Session	10/21 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting
10/8 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	10/22 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting
10/8 - 5 pm BOCC Public Hearing on Budget	10/23 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/9 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	10/24 - 4:30 pm LAC Meeting