

## Colorado Legislative Session

- Please see the [Bill Tracking Sheet](#)
- Updates are highlighted in yellow

## Legislation of Note

- At the end of March, Governor Jared Polis signed [HB25-1009](#), which takes effect in August. The new law lets fire protection districts create programs to clear dead or dry vegetation on private property to help prevent wildfires. If a district sets up this program, property owners may be required to remove the dry vegetation and could be fined up to \$300 per incident if they don't comply. The CO Association of REALTORS® worked to amend the bill.
- On April 10th, Polis signed [SB25-033](#), effectively halting the issuance of new Liquor Licensed Drug Store (LLDS) permits, a move aimed at protecting small, independent liquor stores. Despite signing the bill, Polis criticized it as a step backward, saying it limits consumer choice and favors existing businesses over market competition. Still, the bill passed with strong bipartisan support and backing from small business owners. The bill was opposed by the Colorado Chamber of Commerce.
- [HB25-1297](#) proposes raising fees on health insurance carriers to fund reinsurance, [OmniSalud](#), and subsidies for low-income Coloradans. Fee increase would bring in \$67million annually. The bill is scheduled in the Finance Committee on April 24th. Supporters say the bill will prevent drastic premium hikes or cuts to coverage. Opponents say it's prioritizing OmniSalud over reinsurance and small business employees will bear the cost. The bill is opposed by the Colorado Chamber of Commerce.

## Colorado Governor's Race

- U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet (D) confirmed that he is running for governor, saying he wants "to forge a better politics". All Current Candidates are:

BAISLEY, MARK	Republican	JONES, CHANTE	Unaffiliated
BENNET, MICHAEL	Democratic	LOPEZ, GREG	Republican
BOTTOMS, SCOTT	Republican	MAHANTY, RABIN	Non-Partisan
CLARK, JASON	Republican	MARTE, MARCUS	Unaffiliated
COLLAMER, WILLOW	Unaffiliated	MCBRIDE, WILLIAM "WILL"	Unaffiliated
FERNANDEZ, FATIMA	Unaffiliated	MIKESELL, JASON	Republican
GANOUE, JUSTIN	Unknown	MOSES, WILLIAM	Democratic
GARRISON, BRYCEN	Republican	MUGATU, ALEXANDER	Republican
GESS, STEVAN	Republican	RAY, JARVIS	Unaffiliated
GRAY-GINSBERG, JON	Republican	RUNDBERG, JIM	Republican
GRIFFIN, JOSHUA	Republican	WALL, BRADLEY	Unaffiliated
HAMILTON, STEPHEN	Amer Constitution	WEISER, PHILIP	Democratic

## Durango Election Results

- There was a 34% voter turnout in the April 1st Durango election. Results were certified April 15th.
- Incumbent Jessika Buell along with Shirley Gonzales and Kip Koso were elected to serve a four-year term on the Durango City Council.
- Ballot Question 2A, which provides funding to Parks and Recreation and the new Police Department/City Hall, was approved.

### **Durango Parking Update**

- The city launched the new Business Employee Permit Pilot Program starting May 1st through December 2025. Permits are \$20 per month per employee, they are valid in 91 underutilized metered locations and the 4 municipal lots, and businesses can buy as many permits as they need. More information is at [www.durangoparking.com](http://www.durangoparking.com)
- Pay By Cell is now available downtown at all parking meters and the Transit Center lot. Download the Park Mobile app to get started. While there is a .40 cent convenience charge to pay by cell, all existing payment options still apply at the meters - coin, credit card, or the prepaid meter GEM card.

### **La Plata County Manager Resigns**

- La Plata County Manager Chuck Stevens will step down on June 10 after serving in the position since 2019. Stevens has accepted a position as town manager in La Plata, Maryland.

### **La Plata County Commissioners Resolution**

- The Board of La Plata County Commissioners approved a resolution April 8th in support of public lands and raising the alarm over federal cuts to public land management. County Commissioners say staffing and funding reductions pose serious risks to the economy, safety, and environment. With public lands covering most of the county's 1,700 square miles, tourism plays a major role—accounting for 28% of the local economy. The San Juan National Forest alone sees over 1.3 million visitors each year, generating more than \$110 million in spending. Commissioners warn that cuts threaten wildfire response, trail maintenance, and the ability to handle growing crowds. They're urging federal agencies to maintain critical support for these landscapes.

### **La Plata County Sales & Lodgers Tax for Dec 2024**

- Historical Tax Collection Data Sales tax collections for December was just released. It showed an increase of \$57,757 or 2.35% in comparison to the same period in 2023. Year to date sales tax showed an increase of \$174,972 or .65% over 2023.
- Lodger's tax collections are earned Quarterly; Quarter 4 Lodgers tax increased \$24,416 or 13.15% in comparison to Quarter 4, 2023. Year to date Lodgers tax showed an increase of \$59,140 or 6.32% over 2023.

### **Planning Projects**

- The Joint La Plata County/Durango Planning Commission approved on April 3rd the Leap Properties CR 233 Retail Store Preliminary Plan. The proposal is to build an approximately 9,250 sq. ft. retail store located at 920 CR 233 along the Grandview corridor.

### **Meetings attended March 27 - April 24**

3/27 - 4 pm LAC Meeting	4/9 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
3/27 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	4/10 - 2 pm RHA Meeting
4/1 - 8:45 am BOCC Work Session with Cong Hurd	4/14 - 5 pm Zoom with Rep. Stewart
4/1 - 2:45 pm Durango City Council Study Session	4/15 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
4/2 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	4/16 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
4/3 - 6 pm LPC/Durango Joint Planning Comm.	4/22 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting
4/8 - 8 am Alliance Investor Meeting	4/23 - 7:30 am BOCC Work Session with Cong Hurd
4/8 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	4/24 - 9 am Region 9 EDD Board Meeting