



La Plata County
Colorado

TIFFANY LEE • CLERK & RECORDER
679 TURNER DR., SUITE C, DURANGO, CO 81303

November 7, 2023 Coordinated Election Informational Booklet

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES/TO INCREASE DEBT/ON A CITIZEN PETITION/ON A REFERRED MEASURE

This Notice of Election was prepared in accordance with Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution and the Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992, as amended. The information contained in the Notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information. The La Plata County Clerk & Recorder does not warrant, verify, or confirm the accuracy or truth of the ballot titles, questions, text, and summaries of comments as presented, nor is the Clerk & Recorder responsible for errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation of the materials presented.

YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON ALL ISSUES CONTAINED IN THIS NOTICE.

The following information is provided by the District under the provisions of the Colorado Constitution, Article X, Section 20 (3) which requires the District to provide the following information:

(970) 382-6296

ELECTIONS@LPCGOV.ORG

WWW.LAPLATACOUNTYCLERK.ORG

Town of Bayfield

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 2A:

SHALL THE TOWN OF BAYFIELD'S TAXES BE INCREASED \$600,000.00 ANNUALLY FOR TWENTY YEARS (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE) AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY AN ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT (1%) SALES TAX, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2043; PROVIDED THAT THE ADDITIONAL SALES TAX AUTHORIZED HEREIN SHALL BE APPROVED AND PLEDGED TO THE TOWN OF BAYFIELD GENERAL FUND TERMS STATED IN TOWN OF BAYFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 494, TO BE USED SOLELY FOR PARKS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE, AND SHALL SUCH INCREASE IN REVENUES AND ANY INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON BE COLLECTED, SPENT AND RETAINED AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE NOTWITHSTANDING THE LIMITATIONS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

The following information is provided by the Town under the provisions of the Colorado Constitution, Article X, Section 20(3) which requires the District to provide the following information:			
Fiscal Information			
Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending		
2019 (Actual)	\$5,206,742		
2020 (Actual)	\$5,450,337		
2021 (Actual)	\$5,615,373		
2022 (Actual)	\$6,281,176		
2023 (Estimated)	\$6,116,317		
Overall Percentage Change from 2019 to 2023 in Fiscal Year Spending			17%
Overall Dollar Change from 2019 to 2023 in Fiscal Year Spending			\$909,575

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase	\$600,000
Estimates first full fiscal year spending without the increase	\$6,238,643

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 2A:

The Town received almost 400 comments regarding a Park Master Plan draft. The comments supported expanding current and developing new park amenities. The sales tax revenue will be allocated as follows per the community's comments:

- (1) Forty percent (40%) Expanding Joe Stephenson Park and amenities, developing a park south of Schiller Street and creating recreational access to the Los Pinos River.
- (2) Forty percent (40%) Maintaining parks and trails.
- (3) Five percent (5%) Supporting the equestrian and livestock arena improvements.
- (4) Fifteen percent (15%) Assisting with the cost of cultural and community events, enhancing senior services at the Pine River Senior Center, and supplementing the cost of youth and adult recreation.

Senior services, recreation revenue and cultural/heritage event fees do not cover expenditures of those activities and services. The funds generated from the sales tax increase proposed herein to be used solely for parks, culture and heritage; and

A sales tax measure evenly distributes the obligation to pay for parks, culture and heritage to the greater community and not solely Town residents.

Where stars shine bright at night, joy rings out among our parks during daylight. Bayfield is an attractive place to live, work, play sports, recreate and conduct commerce.

Approving the 1% sales tax now will provide a shorter window into developing the park with amenities for all ages.

Bayfield's population values their parks. Playing and recreating outdoors is important to this growing community. It is imperative that our parks are maintained to keep the Town livable and attractive

Honoring Bayfield's ranching heritage a portion of the sales tax revenue will be dedicated to the Pine River Arena uniquely Bayfield, and central to the Los Pinos River, Senior Center and Joe Stephenson Park.

If the 1% sales tax is not approved, senior services will be reduced, youth and adult recreation fees and cultural and community event fees will be raised, the quality of park maintenance will diminish and park development will be put on hold or funded at a slower pace from other resources. These cost reductions will not cover the necessary funds, and the town will also see a reduction in levels of customer service and reduction in police protection.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue No. 2A:

No comments were filed by the Constitutional deadline.

Durango Business Improvement District

BALLOT ISSUE 6A:

SHALL THERE BE AN EXTENSION UNTIL THE END OF COLLECTION YEAR 2041 OF THE TWO MILLS (2.0 MILL) OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE DISTRICT CURRENTLY LEVIED AND COLLECTED BY THE DURANGO BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE AT THE END OF COLLECTION YEAR 2026 FOR THE PURPOSE OF MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES, PROMOTING, MANAGING AND ORGANIZING EVENTS, SUPPORTING BUSINESS RECRUITMENT, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, CONSULTING WITH RESPECT TO PLANNING AND MANAGING DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING DESIGN ASSISTANCE, AND CONSTRUCTING

AND INSTALLING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY OTHER SOURCE WITHOUT FURTHER VOTER APPROVAL NOTWITHSTANDING THE LIMITATIONS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, C.R.S. § 29-1-301, OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2023 (estimated)	\$317,270
2022 (actual)	\$343,886
2021 (actual)	\$409,909
2020 (actual)	\$521,028
2019 (actual)	\$294,858

Overall percentage change from 2019 to 2023	7.6%
Overall dollar change from 2019 to 2023	\$22,412

Proposed Tax Increase:

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar
Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase
For Fiscal Year 2027 \$345,000
(the First Full Year of the Proposed Tax Increase):

District Estimate of 2027 Fiscal Year Spending
Without Proposed Tax Increase: \$0

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 6A:

As a business owner downtown, I am strongly in favor of the upcoming ballot measure to support BID's mill levy funding. Durango BID is one of the most important business organizations operating in Durango right now.

We fully support continuing the BID's current mill levy funding. We believe that this relatively small tax funds an entity that supports our businesses in a variety of ways that directly impact our bottom line.

We fully support this ballot measure and will definitely vote for approval to continue the current mill levy funding for BID. Thank you for all you do BID!

You are doing a great job. I feel it is important to continue the mill levy to keep people excited and involved in the community by supporting the many events the BID supports.

You've got my vote. You do a tremendous job!

I vote yes.

I am in favor of your ballot measure. The BID provides a great service to the community.

I am in favor and will always support the BID.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 6A:

The BID does a lot but I am really disappointed that the Executive Director supported Next Steps. The Executive Director did not represent the views of many businesses that opposed Next Steps and pay the Executive Director's salary. Our concerns were valid but the Executive Director and the planners liked the project so ignored us. I vote no.

We feel the BID caters too much to City Council and City Department heads as opposed to those of us who are supporting your organization. We need the BID to be a strong advocator for the wishes of the property owners who fund the BID. Example: Downtown's Next Step.

Upper Pine River Fire Protection District

BALLOT ISSUE 7A:

WITHOUT RAISING ADDITIONAL TAXES, SHALL THE 1.46 MILL LEVY THAT UPPER PINE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CURRENTLY ASSESSES FOR RETIRING ITS OUTSTANDING BOND DEBT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE PAID OFF IN 2024, CONTINUE TO BE ASSESSED AS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL OPERATING MILL LEVY FOR AN ADDITIONAL 20 YEARS, SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING NEEDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, SUCH ASSESSMENT TO COMMENCE IN ASSESSMENT YEAR 2024 (FOR REVENUE COLLECTION IN 2025) AND TO SUNSET IN ASSESSMENT YEAR 2044 (FOR REVENUE COLLECTION IN 2045), WITH SUCH TAX EXTENSION CONSTITUTING A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN SECTION 29-1-301 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, AND ANY OTHER LAW?

Summary of Written Comments FOR Upper Pine River Fire Protection District Ballot Issue 7A:

Question 7A Does not raise taxes and extends the current amount being collected by the Fire Protection District to fund capital improvement projects. This Mill Levy was established 20 years ago to purchase new stations and equipment throughout the Fire Protection District. These capital expenditures have provided the infrastructure for the outstanding service the District has provided over the years. Upper Pine River Fire Station 1, located at 75 South Clover Drive in Bayfield, was the original headquarters and station for the District. The station is over 40 years old and was never designed to house full-time firefighters and paramedics. When the District converted from volunteer to paid staff, the offices were converted to living quarters. While the remodel provided a serviceable facility, numerous fixes and proposals have been evaluated over the years to rectify problems of health, safety, and privacy

issues. The ultimate conclusion is the station has outlived its usefulness and needs to be replaced. The proposed Mill Levy extension will facilitate the relocation of the station. In addition to improved overall facilities and living quarters, it is anticipated that the new station will house an Urgent Care Clinic for the residents of the Pine River Valley. The urgent care will serve as a base for the Upper Pine River Fire's Community Paramedic program to be operated from. The Community Paramedic program is designed to use the clinic and telemedicine to enable the public to be treated in their home for minor emergencies or seek more cost-effective care in the Pine River Valley. Any funds collected above those needed for the new station facility will be used to replace existing depleted equipment. Finally, the Mill Levy extension will provide required matching funds for anticipated potential private, State and Federal grants for this infrastructure project. This is NOT a tax increase, but rather an extension of an existing tax. A vote of YES will not increase your taxes from the District.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Upper Pine River Fire Protection District Ballot Issue 7A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if my ballot doesn't come?

If you have not received your ballot within a week after they are mailed, call the County Clerk's office at (970) 382-6296.

What if I have moved and have not updated my registration?

You may submit a paper voter registration to the County Clerk's office or update your registration online at www.govotecolorado.gov until October 30th to receive a ballot by mail or go to a Voter Service and Polling Center to update your registration and obtain a ballot through Election Day.

I will be out of town when the ballots are mailed. How do I get a ballot?

Ballots are available on September 25 in the County Clerk's office or you may complete a [Voter Registration Application](#) to have the ballot mailed to you at the out of area location.

What if I do not vote on all the candidates or measures?

If you do not vote on all the candidates or measures, your ballot will still be counted for all voted races.

What if I make a mistake, damage or lose my ballot?

You may call the County Clerk's office and request a replacement ballot. One will be mailed to you provided the request is received no later than October 30. Otherwise, you may request a replacement ballot in person at a Voter Service and Polling Center location until 7:00pm on Election Day, November 7.

What if I did not sign my return envelope?

The County Clerk's office will contact you in writing. In order for your vote to be counted, you must respond by November 15.

When must the voted ballot be returned?

The voted ballot must be **received** in any La Plata County designated drop-off location by 7 p.m. on election night. **POSTMARKS DO NOT COUNT.**

How much postage is required to mail my ballot back?

Your voted ballot can be returned with a standard first class stamp. If you return the ballot to any designated ballot drop site or voter service and polling center location no postage is necessary.

Where may I obtain election results?

Election results are available online at www.laplatacountyclerk.org or in the County Clerk's office at 679 Turner Dr, Ste C beginning after 7 p.m. on November 7th, Election Day.

*** Attention Property Owners ***

If you are an active registered voter in the State of Colorado who does not reside in the district but owns property in the Durango Business Improvement District or the Upper Pine Fire Protection District you are eligible to vote on district ballot issues. In order to obtain a ballot please contact the La Plata County Clerk's office via:

E-mail – elections@lpcgov.org

Phone – (970) 382-6296

Important Election Information from the La Plata County Clerk

- All active registered voters will automatically receive a ballot by mail beginning the week of October 16th.
- Voter Service and Polling Center locations will be available to assist voters as needed. These locations will provide voter registration assistance, replacement ballots, ballot drop off boxes, in person voting and ADA accessible voting machines.
- You may verify and update your voter registration or register to vote by going online to www.govotecolorado.gov.
- To track your ballot visit www.laplatavotes.com.
- For more information please:

Visit www.laplatacountyclerk.org

Email elections@lpcgov.org

Call (970) 382-6296



Voter Service and Polling Centers

County Clerk's Office **679 Turner Dr, Ste C, Durango**

Monday - Friday	October 30 – November 3	8am - 5pm
Saturday	November 4	8am - noon
Monday	November 6	8am - 5pm
Tuesday, Election Day	November 7	7am - 7pm

Pine River Library **395 Bayfield Center Dr, Bayfield**

Monday	November 6	8am - 5pm
Tuesday, Election Day	November 7	7am - 7pm

Fort Lewis College Community Concert Hall **1000 Rim Dr, Durango**

Monday	November 6	8am - 5pm
Tuesday, Election Day	November 7	7am - 7pm

ADA accessible voting machines are available at any VSPC listed above.

Ballot Drop-Off Locations

October 16 – November 7

24 Hour Drop Boxes

County Clerk's Office – Drive Thru **679 Turner Dr, Ste C, Durango**

La Plata County Fairgrounds – Drive Thru **2500 Main Ave, Durango**

County Administration Building **1101 E 2nd Ave, Durango**

Fort Lewis Community Concert Hall **1000 Rim Dr, Durango**

Bayfield Town Hall **1199 Bayfield Parkway, Bayfield**

Farmer's Fresh Market **535 Goddard Ave, Ignacio**