

**Colorado bills to watch - [View Joan's Bill Sheet here](#)**

C3 = Colorado Competitive Council

CATEGORY	BILL	TITLE	LATEST ACTION	POSITION
Agriculture	<a href="#">HB26-1031</a>	Protections for Agricultural Products Grown in Colorado	2026-01-14- Introduced In House - Assigned to Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources	C3 Support
Business & Economic Dev	<a href="#">HB26-1012</a>	Consumer Protections to Promote Fair Market Pricing	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary	C3 Oppose
Business & Economic Dev	<a href="#">HB26-1003</a>	Small Business Recovery Modifications	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs & Labor	
Business & Taxation	<a href="#">HB26-1048</a>	Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance	
Business & Taxation	<a href="#">HB26-1014</a>	Extend Colorado Job Growth Incentive Tax Credit	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance	C3 Support
Child Care	<a href="#">HB26-1004</a>	Continuation of Child Care Contribution Tax Credit	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance	
Energy & Environment	<a href="#">SB26-022</a>	Challenges Meeting 2030 Emissions Reduction Goals	2026-01-14 - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Transportation & Energy	
Energy & Environment	<a href="#">HB26-1007</a>	Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Energy & Environment	
Energy & Environment	<a href="#">SB26-028</a>	Removal of Wind Energy from State Energy Goals	2026-01-14 - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Transportation & Energy	
Health Care	<a href="#">SB26-008</a>	Mental Health Access	2026-01-14 - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Health & Human Services	C3 Amend
Health Care	<a href="#">SB26-029</a>	Health Savings Account Tax Credit	2026-01-14 - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs	
Housing	<a href="#">HB26-1036</a>	Local Taxes on Vacant Residential Property	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance	C3 Oppose
Housing	<a href="#">HB26-1045</a>	Disabilities Housing Protections	House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee Hearing January 27	

Housing	<a href="#">HB26-1061</a>	Community Integration Housing Tax Credits	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Transportation, Housing & Local Government	
Housing	<a href="#">HB26-1065</a>	Transit and Housing Investment Zones	2026-01-21 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance	
Housing	<a href="#">HB26-1066</a>	Tax Exemptions Low Income Rental Property Development	2026-01-21 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance	
Housing	<a href="#">HB26-1001</a>	Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties	House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee Hearing Feb 3 at 1:30 pm	
Housing	<a href="#">SB26-001</a>	Workforce Housing & Housing Tax Credit	2026-01-14 - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Local Government & Housing	C3 Support
Labor	<a href="#">HB26-1054</a>	Protections for Worker Safety	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs & Labor	C3 Oppose
Labor	<a href="#">HB26-1010</a>	Older Adult Support & Representation in Workforce	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs & Labor	
Labor	<a href="#">HB26-1005</a>	Worker Protection Collective Bargaining	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs & Labor	C3 Oppose
Law Enforcement	<a href="#">SB26-011</a>	Search Warrants Provided to Covered Platforms	2026-01-14 - Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Judiciary	C3 Amend
Landlord/Tenant	<a href="#">HB26-1047</a>	Protections for residential tenants	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary	
Landlord/Tenant	<a href="#">HB26-1013</a>	Ratio Utility Billing Systems	2026-01-14 - Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs & Labor	

**Colorado Business Update**

- Business confidence is improving but still negative in Colorado, according to the [Leeds Business Confidence Index](#).
- Expectations for key economic areas increased this quarter. National and state outlooks, sales, profits, hiring, and capital expenditures all improved compared with the prior quarter, though they are still generally negative year-over-year.
- Sales and profit expectations saw the biggest improvements within the index, with optimism stronger looking forward to Q2 2026.
- Colorado personal income grew around 5% year-over-year and employment increased modestly. Job growth ranks in the middle nationally.

**Airport Update**

- Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO) reached its busiest year on record in 2025, welcoming 563,009 passengers — a 13% increase over the previous high set in 2024. United and American Airlines both expanded service, with United introducing daily summer flights to Houston and increasing aircraft size, while American boosted capacity on the Dallas-Fort Worth route. Strong passenger growth highlights regional demand and economic momentum, with the final phase of DRO’s terminal expansion on track for completion in 2026.

**La Posta Road Area Update**

- La Plata County Commissioners unanimously agreed to invest \$10,000 in an effort by the Economic Alliance for a consultant to conduct a Fiscal and Economic Impact Study on the Animas Air Park and La Posta Road area. The goal is to bring light industrial to the La Posta Road area. Elizabeth Philbrick said the study will give commissioners a better understanding of whether the area can be developed and how much it will cost.

**Durango Mall Development Update**

- At January’s Durango Renewal Partnership (URA) meeting, it was announced that the contract between Kensington Development Group and the Durango Mall has been terminated. A conceptual proposal submitted by Kensington would have redeveloped the site with an organic grocery store and approximately 230–270 apartment units. Now the purchase and sale agreement is off.

**BESS in La Plata County**

- The moratorium for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) is now over and the Board of La Plata County Commissioners has approved related language for the county’s [Land Use Code](#) for BESS and 1041 Powers (activities of state interest).

**LPC Community Development Department Update**

- LPC Director of Community Development Lynn Hyde gave an overview of statistics for the Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement divisions to the Board of County Commissioners on 1/21/26. Metrics show that the time to go through the Development Review Process has been steadily improving since 2023, now closer to the time it took in 2022 when the Planning Department was last fully staffed. There were 157 active planning permits in process as of January 20th, with only 7 awaiting assignment to a planner. 212 projects were submitted in 2025, up 6% from 2024. 280 projects submittals were concluded in 2025, up 8.5% from 2024.
- In the Building division, permits and valuation trended down in 2025. 143 Single Family Resident permits were issued. The review time for permits has been reduced thanks to improved processes and often building inspections are frequently scheduled as soon as next day.
- 104 Code Enforcement cases were closed in 2025, and 106 parcel research requests were completed.

**La Plata County Vacancy Fees**

- On January 14 at Board Discussion Time, County Commissioner Elizabeth Philbrick raised the discussion of vacancy fees to help offset the impact of homes that could be occupied. Marsha Porter Norton said the county also has to address short term rentals. The Board of County Commissioners plans to discuss this further at the next board retreat.

**Bayfield Election Update**

- Four of Bayfield’s town trustees are facing the end of their terms in 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Alexis Hartz and trustees Brenna Morlan, Kat Katsos and Lori Zazzaro are all up for reelection. That represents an opening of three 4-year terms and one 2-year term. No word yet on who may seek to retain their seat.
- Town Trustee Nomination Petition Packets are due back to the Town Clerk no later than 4:00 pm January 26, 2026. Contact the Town Clerk with questions at 970-884-9544 ext. 109 or [dhayden@bayfieldgov.org](mailto:dhayden@bayfieldgov.org).

**Development Projects**

- The Durango City Council approved a three-story, 108,000 square foot U-Haul facility in South Fork, and they adopted an ordinance to annex 1720 County Road 240 (Florida Road) where Reynolds, Ash & Associates is planning an infill project of 17 townhomes to be sold at below market rate.
- The LPC Planning Commission recommended approval of a 150 foot telecommunications tower on a 1,000-plus acre parcel along US Highway 160 east of Bayfield. The tower will help to fill in about 8 miles of a 20-mile gap between Bayfield and Pagosa Springs.

**Meetings attended December 17 - January 22**

12/18 - 11:30 am BOCC Special Business Meeting	1/12 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting
12/22 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting	1/13 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
12/22 - 2:30 pm BOCC Special Planning Meeting	1/14 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
1/6 - 8 am FLC Economic Outlook	1/14 - 9 am CAR Economic Summit
1/6 - 2 pm Durango City Council Study Session	1/15 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission
1/6 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	1/20 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting
1/7 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	1/20 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
1/8 - 1 pm Energy Council Operator Meeting	1/21 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
1/8 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	1/21 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
1/9 - 9 am RHA Board Meeting	