

# La Plata County Comprehensive Plan

## Visioning Process Countywide Changes Summary

Compiled September 20, 2009

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*The La Plata County Comprehensive Plan visioning outreach included 1 full day vision summit, 6 open houses in locations throughout the county, a youth survey, and a community survey. All participants in the vision process answered the same four questions.*

- *What do you treasure about La Plata County that you do not want to see change?*
- *What concerns do you have about La Plata County for the future?*
- *What would you like to see different or change in La Plata County in the future?*
- *What do you want La Plata County to be like in 20 years?*

*The comments are a synthesis of all of the comments for Changes and organized by Comprehensive Plan elements.*

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## CHANGES

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### **ECONOMIC VITALITY**

#### ***Recognize economic drivers/tensions:***

- Sprawl vs planning vs property rights
- Money for preserving open space
- Second home impacts
- Regardless of planning process, SUIT lands a wildcard
- We do not know what will happen to the SUIT lands
- People who think that economic growth & development (housing, etc.) is sustainable

#### ***Plan for Economic Development, Better Jobs***

- Investment of local financial assets in local economy
- Larger companies moving here to provide jobs and take advantage of the people and talent Durango has to offer
- Cleanliness, energy, stabilization of the economy.
- More economic opportunities on the east side of the county. Land use regulations that are easier to decipher. Is the county trying to eliminate firewood sellers?
- Long term solutions/vision/planning
- Integrated creative solutions
- Economic development proactive
- Adaptable and flexible

- Develop our own expertise
- Regional coordination/cooperation
- Personal/self reliance/community/sustainability
- wage disparity, low wages, high cost of living
- lack of real jobs and affordable housing
- Living wages and affordable housing with having to have 2 full time jobs
- Livable wages! I only work 1 job, but it's a concern. It is huge.
- Better job opportunities
- Use stimulus package from national government here locally. More middle class jobs that are sustainable
- Economic viability
- Local economic self reliance
- Job development so local youth are able to find jobs with livable wage.

### ***Support Agricultural Operations and Develop Incentives***

- Increased importance of agriculture in the community
- Viable and sustainable farm and ranch operations.
- economic agricultural viability
- Find out how to protect and preserve agricultural business in the county
- decline of agriculture – county needs to support all ag endeavors value added
- support by government for local business and agriculture
- Financial incentives for agriculture – local development and support
- Educate and possibly subsidize local agricultural interest and uphold a cash/food economy.
- Long agricultural heritage that needs to be preserved – in past had higher productivity.
- More fair grounds. More jobs.
- More local farms
- Incentive for beginner farmers and agricultural land preservation
- (re?)developing local food systems
- Less open ditches
- Emphasis on local food production

### ***Diversify the Economy***

- Alternate economy resources besides tourism
- Need a diversified economy.
- diversity
- Support diversity
  - Agriculture
  - Energy production
  - Local agricultural economy
  - Zero waste stream
- Identify and support sustainable businesses (no boom/bust and minimal uses of natural resources).

### ***Support Local Business/New Businesses***

- Support local jobs/economy (ag, tourism, new local businesses, ranching)
- County support local/sustainable types of business
- Business incubator
- Allowances for small business, entrepreneurs-affordability. Need a commercial cul de sac or business incubator
- County needs to focus on providing business incubators help with grant assistance.
- Support local businesses
  - Lower taxes
  - Incubators, grants, incentives
- Investment of local financial assets locally
- Find a way to encourage and foster new businesses that will create a solid base of employment and the associated revenues and benefits.
- Boost the tourism areas; downtown, silverton/train, outdoor activities and isolate them so that the rest of the city can function with or without it. Let the tourism industry function but not let the city depend on it. Choose local culture first!
- Increase local/neighborhood food production
- Spend more money attracting industry, less on open space/trails/etc.
- Since this is a tourist area, I would like to see local appreciation (not just for one day) so we could all enjoy what this area has to offer
- More business and shopping incentives – make Durango the economic hub of four corner
- Keep on doing what they are doing to keep towns alive and vibrant
- A better inclusion of arts

### ***Promote Workforce Development Education***

- Review FLC curricula w.r.t. local job preparedness.

### ***Promote New Economic Development Ideas***

- An idea hub
- Community identify a strong sense of place
- Personal responsibility
- How we make decisions:
  - Long term solutions
  - Respect
  - Integrated solutions
- Establishing a strong community, what we want to be:
  - Identity: a model of sustainability
  - Idea hub/attract people/jobs
- How we want to grow
- Establish a zero waste initiative to divert waste and create local jobs
- County participation in regional recycling center, county contributes land and financial dollars
- New economic industry.
- Create viable sustainable economy (includes leakages and multiplier study and food economy)

### ***Improve Technological Infrastructure***

- High speed internet access for all county residents.
- Get better electronic infrastructure – internet
- Broadband access/incubator business development/growth

### ***Recruit New Businesses***

- Attract businesses that need educated and informed workers
- Education: attract jobs/people/expertise
- Pharmacy in Ignacio – other parts/areas of the county
- I want a bowling alley
- More shops, food along river
- Major grocery store for Bayfield
- More family style restaurants (affordability)

### ***Plan for Alternative County Revenues***

- We can live with reduced tax income from the gas fields.
- Increase real estate taxes to more than offset loss of revenue from gas and oil extraction
- What happens when we rely on gaming “casino”, oil, tourism. What happens when there is a downturn?
- Plan to replace gas and oil with local sustainable industries.
- Plan for decreasing gas revenues.
- County business license to fund economic development
- Raise property taxes on 2<sup>nd</sup> homes, part time residents
- Laws/government support for solar and wind energy
- Generate all electricity needed here from solar and wind – eventually export
- Huge government support for locals producing food for local people and animals
- Huge government support for personal and public production and use of solar and wind energy
- Promote economic diversity (and living wage ordinance)
- Lower taxes for locally owned businesses with higher taxes for big box stores and chains
- Raise property tax on second homes/part time residents
- Create trust fund for schools and economic development.
- Mill levy.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Land Use**

#### ***Gather Additional Information to Inform Decisions***

- Define growth and sustainability
- Long term planning view - actual projections
- Create realistic projection of how much growth is sustainable
- Quality data on how much water and how allocated
- Research and document: how much water does each user need/use and will each user need/use. Includes: people, manufacturing, mining, commercial, agriculture.
- Refine limits or boundaries for growth capacity.
- We have a limited carrying capacity: water, land, natural resources, soils, oil and gas, trees.

- Carry out leakage and multiplier study to guide economic planning.
- How can the county actually control growth and greed?

### ***Plan and Manage Growth***

- Infrastructure planning. Master plan for entire county including towns.
- Plan for a 21<sup>st</sup> century conditions and beyond/sustainability/energy requirements.
- Planning for the big picture. Institute a plan that can weather political whims.  
Plan for 21<sup>st</sup> century conditions (7 generations)
- Planning – long term for local sustainability
- Planning local based on actual water and diversity of uses.
- Decisions made based on long view for sustainability of the local area.
- Plumb the county in appropriate areas.
- I would like growth to be managed through a fair and equitable process!
- Carefully managed growth
- Sustainable growth
- Better planning
- Control sprawl
- We need to be willing to share the space deemed necessary to house the growing population
- urban planning to prevent sprawl
- More restrictions on homesite acreages
- More stringent limits for developer – not pro-development.
- I like seeing it grow out rather than up
- An option for private subdivisions with HOA (lack of) participation to pay for county maintenance/ improvement of roads and better snowplowing.
- No high rise buildings

### ***A New Comprehensive Plan and Development Code***

- Cogent and effective planning tools to avert ruin!
- Land use decisions based upon established comprehensive plan and associated policies
- County policies that support sustainable practices both in the organization and county wide
- County land use codes, building codes, and long term development plan.
- Complete and adopt the comprehensive plan.
- Plan adopted.
- Zoning for the county
- Zoning in La Plata County
- Develop zoning.
- Zone the county with reasonable densities
- Zoning with sustainable focus
- Better planning for land use. What goes where. Zoning.
- Update within the next year new county codes that represent and protect the wants and needs of the community.
- I would like to see a comp plan that dictates land use code that dictates decision making about property/zoning.

- Similar codes as city, but that meet the rural farm and ranching lifestyle

***Develop Land Use Policies that Accomplish:***

- Enforce (or at least respect) conservation easement and neighborhood covenant stipulations
- Rebuild before building new with subsidies, tax breaks, easy
- Rebuild before building new.
- County junk ordinances.
- Ordinance against junk cars/dumping on private lands.
- Historic preservation.
- Developed interpretations and understanding of the county's history.
- Would like "lines" between unincorporated county and incorporated to be more transparent.
- Forbid covenants that ban: clotheslines, solar panels, wind power, community gardens, vegetable gardens
- Color codes for out of city homes to earth tones only!
- Implement strict color codes for future building on the mountain sides, require only earth tones (brown and green) buildings which would blend with the scenery and not clutter....no red, white or blue
- Strict codes concerning trash and debris on properties bordering HWY 550. The million dollar highway shouldn't have these shameful sights. Along these same lines, trailer parks should be required to have a shrubbery screen between them and the highway.
- Limit the size of trophy homes out of city to 50000 sq. ft. We have one on the lot next to us recently completed at 15,000 sq ft – where is the need and what is the impact on energy and the environment??
- More flowers (planters) downtown. Trees down camino.
- Any building should be of the highest quality and aesthetics – not governed by cheap, profit, turnaround. All building should have a built in % for public art and open space and other sustainability and green products. There should be an arts district near the historic district to support cultural tourism.
- DODO needs to be beautiful. Community context mixed use!
- I'd like to see a focus on utilizing the river (Animas) as a focal point of town (ie San Antonio River Walk). More trail development in open space around town.
- Beautification of riverfront. What we have now is pretty much an eyesore and not good use of a valuable resource.
- The riverfront needs to be developed and alternate sources of tax revenue (other than oil and gas) need to be considered – such as attracting sustainable business.
- Ridgeline protection ordinance.
- No more ridge top buildings!

***Encourages Development of Real Communities/Nodes***

- Planned development in nodes.
- Too keep the towns, infill rather than sprawl
- Have growth near Durango, Bayfield, Ignacio

- Growth directed towards existing towns/villages
- Change the code to encourage the concentration of growth in the county to development nodes (define nodes)
- Growth node requirements
- Focused areas of development.
- Clustered planned development close together keeping open space!!!
- Sidewalks/walkers
- Priorities established based on what is best for a human, not the automobile
- Need to build “complete communities”, including parks, mass transit, pedestrian, and bicycle trails, etc. By changing the way development is approved in the county.
- Bike pedestrian friendly subdivisions
- Mixed land uses, balance jobs and housing
- Redevelopment/infill/closer to downtown/city limits.
- Smart growth nodal development. Mixed uses.
- Residential development focused on nodes served by public transportation.
- Higher density around urban areas.
- Stop sub-dividing of land and require the “total development” of land with proper resources and design.
- Plan for growth centers (to include affordable housing).

### ***Less Growth and Development***

- Don't become Aspen
- Less growth, we are trying to be too much too fast
- No more condos/town homes
- No more building
- Not so much growth closer to town
- Limit growth of housing
- No more big townhomes subdivisions.
- No more developments on forest service land.
- Slow down subdivisions proliferation
- Slow growth
- Overgrowth
- Less impact (change) from the large increase in people, they are coming, but I hope we can maintain the rural atmosphere
- Less growth – want to improve and enrich what we have. Tourist are important, but keep it low key.
- Stop building subdivisions, selling water. No one asks the folks who think they know it all come and live here and change history
- Overuse of land and water
- Less change, less growth

### ***Like It The Way It Is***

- People moving into area need to understand rural culture

- Great place to live
- Keeping things the way they are. The county needs more say than the city does.
- Preservation and maintenance of older neighborhoods.
- Stay small
- Growth will still take place, but want Durango the small, friendly feel it has now
- Keep sense of community, celebrate history with respect.
- Much the same
- Keep everything small because we are a small town
- Not much. I like it pretty much like it is now.
- nothing
- I'm a traditionalist-don't like to see much change.
- Nothing – we love it!

#### ***Less/No Population Growth***

- Now that I am here (31 yrs) it would be terrific if people would stop moving here – (not going to happen).
- Would like to see some control of population growth
- 60% of the people would go back to where they came from.
- More attention to local and native people's needs

#### ***Less Regulatory Control***

- Less government and controls
- Less restrictions/covenants
- I would like to see less government control on buildings and land use.

#### **Water**

##### ***Link Water and Land Use***

###### *Promote awareness of water as limited resource*

- Pretty darn happy here – we are afraid western slope is going to dry up
- An awareness of the finite water supply and a concrete understanding of how many people that will support (including growing food)
- Water resources
- Water resource is finite and could dwindle with climate change
- Supports all aspects of economy, planning, and development
- Recognize water is a ultimate requirement for life
- What do we do if the drought persists and the population grows exponentially?
- Agriculture water is economy
- Coordination

##### ***Determine carrying capacity for water and different water uses***

- Development based on carrying capacity
- Development based on watersheds
- Better matching of available water with development

- Change the land use code so development is based on water carrying capacity
- Calculate carrying capacity based on water – all users taken into account using accurate data and modeling – use results in decisions
- Calculate carrying capacity of county based on water
- Calculate carrying capacity of county based on water using different food security scenarios
- Sewer, infrastructure, etc.
- Domestic water
- Recreational water (skiing and rafting)
- Recreational water
- Rural water district to establish areas for development
- Build out numbers based on water for domestic and agriculture use

#### ***Promotes Water Conservation***

- Water planning – conservation for the future
- Water harvesting
- Water – capture rain water
- Water conservation – new codes and education of the public
- A conservation/recycling/collection
- Promote water awareness: recycling, collection, xeriscaping

#### ***Advocate for Changes in State Water Policy***

- Change CO gray water law to favor collection by local owner
- Charge gray water laws to allow everyone to collect gray water
- Work to change CO gray water laws
- Change grey water laws/recycling/local control
- State policy ends 35 acre well exemption
- County should rely on local statute not state
- Reevaluate water law state and region wide to be more equitable
- Water laws to support our area to sustain agriculture and urban

### **Agriculture**

#### ***Preserved Agricultural Lands and Agricultural Viability***

- Incentives for agricultural lands.
- Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)
- Encourage preservation of agricultural lands through TDR program and receiving zone-nodes
- Provide funding for agricultural easements
- A fairgrounds that supports the fair and other agricultural activities. The county should support agriculture and sustainability of the county as well as tourist dollars. (*comments added YES! X 2*)
- Presentation of ag lands and water rights.

### **Energy**

#### ***Plan for Energy and Energy Efficiency***

- Incentives for renewable.
- More alternative energy
- Expand transit, not just bus

- Planning regulations for smaller greener buildings
- Plan for higher energy costs
- Incentive for green/energy efficient buildings.
- Long term energy supplies
- Impacts of peak oil/higher fuel prices
- Solar based energy for entire community.
- More solar/alternative energy.
- Climate change
- More distributed renewable energy produced
- Promote or incentivize solar, wind, geothermal and energy conservation.
- More economic incentives for energy independence.

### ***Recycling***

- Improved recycling system and buy in from population.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### ***Bike and Pedestrian Paths***

- Main street pedestrian only
- Pedestrian/bike/driver safety
- Pedestrian walkways
- Bike paths to hospital, at least, or Bayfield
- Updated cycling outlets that pertain to the current/future cycling markets.
- Bike lanes in the county – CR 250/CR 203 Ignacio Loop
- Traditional town development that is pedestrian and bike friendly
- Continue river trail
- River trail connected to downtown “smart 160”
- Foot/bike paths in Ignacio
- Easier to walk/bike in Ignacio
- Trail
- Expanded bike path
- I would like to see a bridle path alongside the bike path and an extension of the bike path north.
- A safe way to get to historic downtown from bike path.
- Transit between Durango and NM and airport
- More bike accommodations (covered)
- Accelerate river, bike, trail from downtown Durango to Three Springs
- Bike lanes
- True bike lanes on all main roads, not bike paths shared by walkers.
- To be platinum rated county for transit and bike paths/trails.
- More bike lanes and incentive to ride instead of drive.
- Slow change, build the roads we now have with wide shoulders. That would provide safety for our bikes riders and improve the looks and quality of life on our county roads.

### **Public Transit**

- Mass transit
- Bus to airport
- Transit
- Land use decisions support transportation options
- Create transit and multimodal corridors countywide
- Pedestrian friendly, multimodal (walk, cars, bike, bus) downtown
- Reduce traffic noise in downtown Ignacio.
- Improved public transportation would happen if people would use the buses
- Improve transportation through a multi model interconnected system.
- Stop accommodating more and faster traffic, shift modes of travel instead.
- Multimodal transportation everywhere in county.
- Plan today for future public transportation.
- Transit, regional transportation (rural) (*4 checkmarks following comment*)
- Good traffic management or find alternative transportation - public
- More widespread public transport.
- County sharing in costs to extend the T loop – Durango West, Edgemont, Elmore’s Corner, etc.
- Long term vision for transportation – public, bike, trails
- Frequent transit service in LPC outside Durango.
- Public transportation into county via clean energy as possible
- Good mass transit in county
- Public transportation in county
- Community transportation systems (multimodal /public/bike).
- More buzz buses (they save lives). Life is more important than tickets.
- Better public transportation.
- Look into Durango, Farmington transit system.

### **Safe/Roads**

- Away to cross Camino del Rio w/o risking your life!
- Paving some of the more used county roads.
- I would like to see road all the way up La Plata Canyon
- An easier way to get from Farmington Hill to North Durango.
- No more highways.
- Minimize traffic congestion
- I would like to see more our County roads black topped and paid for by the Oil and Gas Companies.
- I dislike the change on 160 – the divided road – the poor animals and cold feeling
- A four line highway between Hermosa and Durango. This heavily traveled road is dangerous as is.
- roads
- More roads
- More access to mountains
- More road planning

- Less traffic!
- County road 502 paved
- New fairground with more parking

### ***Bridge to Nowhere***

- No more construction (or put money towards repairing county roads, not bridges to nowhere)
- Get rid of that bridge to nowhere ... makes me feel like I am in a big city! What a waste of money!

### ***Road Design***

- Complete streets
- Greenway medians on major thoroughfares (N. Main, HWY 550, south of Durango)
- Please get rid of the horrible car/truck/bus lot on Wildcat Canyon Road

### ***Energy Efficiency***

- Energy efficient travel (driving electric golf carts to run errands)
- Energy efficient travel.

## **HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

### ***Reduce Pollution and Improve Air and Water Quality***

- Pollution
- Pollution/sustainable environment
- Cumulative effect of non-energy efficient and toxic- buildings
- Protect LPC air quality from internal and external sources (coal plants)
- Less train smoke. Technology is there?
- Cleaner air- less ozone and mercury.
- Address air pollution, water sources outside the county.
- Regulate oil and gas to preserve environmental and public health
- Unregulated use of chemicals by oil and gas industry hurts environmental and public health
- Oil and gas and mining regulations and pollution laws. Need property owner rights.
- Limit future wells. Use directional drilling. Monitor water quality especially as it related to fracking.
- Monitor water, air quality. Protect water and air.
- More strict guidelines on environmental pollutants.
- Protect all water from pollution
- Pollution of air quality and water quality
- Work to end contamination by fracking and chemicals
- Water pollutants mitigation
- Water
- Mineral extraction should be monitored and all measures taken to assure the safety and protection of water, air, and surface.
- I am considering moving b/c of the air quality and gas industry domination.

- Oil and gas industry regulated more stringently
- Somewhat concerned about oil and gas fracking. Governor Ritter in May required revealing what chemicals are used to drill.
- Regulations on energy industry with teeth in them

### ***Manage Ecosystem Health***

- Protect all water from pollution, from being used for sprawl, from being overused and not left for wildlife and river health
- Continued activities that conserve resources.
- Ecosystem services valued higher.
- Land health and weeds
- Weeds
- Better weed control.
- Public health implications of development on both public and private land.
- Wildlife protection/conservation
- Reduce human/wildlife conflicts (bears)
- more open space and wildlife corridors
- Less condos, more deer/elk
- Habitat loss
- Peak water, oil, and soil
- Fire hazard
- Increase environmental education and money to protect and promote
- CO2

### ***Maintain Resources that Contribute to Quality of Life***

- Keep quality of life e.g. dark skies, clean air, clean water, public health, community infrastructure.
- Land Noise and light pollution

## **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING**

### **Public Health**

#### ***Provide for health care***

- More health care access – particularly for those on medicare or those uninsured.
- Lack of affordable, accessible, quality health care
- Health care
- County participation in affordable, accessible, quality health care system
- National health care
- Attract more primary care physicians
- Community growth development and health care
- Health care

### **Affordable Housing**

### ***Provide More Affordable Housing***

- Decrease in real estate prices
- More affordable housing for our workforce.
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing so my children and grandchildren can live here without paying \$1000 a month in rent.
- Availability of good quality affordable housing.
- More affordable housing.
- More affordable homes for the working people
- Rent/sell second homes
- Increased stock of smaller homes on market.
- Increase affordable housing choices.
- Lack of affordable housing
- More affordable housing
- Inclusionary zoning for affordable housing
- Homebuilders and development interest rule the county's land use decisions. Need to change so that all community interest are taken into account.
- Infill housing/MIL legal
- Market driven solutions to our shortage of affordable housing
- Better organized partnerships. FLC, city, county, district, SCCC, businesses, etc.
- Tax structure for 2<sup>nd</sup> homes fund affordable housing.
- County takes active role/leadership in affordable housing.
- Achieve balance of live/work here.
- Change from "smart growth" aka unaffordable housing to "dumb growth" f/k/a reasonably priced housing products.

### **Youth and Families**

#### ***Support and Maintain Families and Youth***

- Add on the community center downtown for more kids.
- Attention given to increasing numbers of families living in poverty.
- Greater effort to attract young families.
- Childcare is widely available/affordable.
- Affordable child care
- More and better child care.
- Collectively promote developmental assets, character attributes CYFMP
- Youth to become the county torchbearers
- Youth involvement (e.g. in visioning)
- Increased involvement of American and Latino voices in civic life.
- Diversity community.
- Implement recommendations from the Children, Youth, and Families Master Plan.
- Bowling alley – stuff for kids to do. Hanging out at the mall is not constructive.
- More opportunities for young people to stay in the communities that they grew up in. It is a shame that they have to leave and then come back later in life.

- Length of summer vaca for 9 R
- Youth 12-18 yrs activities and increased diversity.
- Focus on education
- Collaborative innovative integrative educational practices.
- Education includes community involvement.
- Funding for education

### **Open Space and Recreation**

#### ***Create More County Open Space and Recreation Opportunities***

- Enlarge the fairground move to a more suitable location. More space for the fair and the events.
- Better county fair
- No more restrictions for camping, fishing, hiking, etc.
- County parks/open space
- County has parks and open space and bike trails on 203 and 205.
- Establish County Parks and Recreation
- Have scenic and recreational assets that are valuable to our community.
- Bayfield recreation area with pool
- More recreation for growth in Ignacio.
- Decrease ATV, tourism, money for consumption, MV/ATV's/motor boats
- Establish a scenic corridor
- More mountain bike trails, downhill only and freeride trails
- Continue the river trail.
- Id' love to see an open space park in Bayfield with trails for biking, hiking, and horse travel.
- Protect the trails
- Bike lanes on county roads where possible
- Maintenance of open space
- County parks and recreation opportunities!
- More concern about maintaining open space.

### **Public Safety**

- Support law/fire/search and rescue
- Less police officers

## **ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

### ***City/County Integration/Integrated Plan/Better Government***

- I would also like to see a change in how the different public entities interact e.g. local government, tribal government, etc. It sure seems like there are some collaborative opportunities that are missed.
- Integration of all community/government services (schools, social services, economic development, etc.) into comprehensive plan.
- Establish centralized emergency dispatch between all agencies

- More cooperation between the county and city, especially with regard to regional civic projects.
- Better working relations/coordination with the city
- County government to get involved.
- Consolidate local and state planning resources and programs. And develop a private-public partnership for development of the whole county.
- City of Durango either committed for development outside the city (existing) limits or constrained to existing boundary.
- County commission lead public participation in special improvement districts for infrastructure on mesa and Grandview.
- County planning becomes infrastructure planning engineer.
- Needs big picture planning long term perspective and accurate data and more interagency collaboration.
- Reorganize and re-manage county government for fiscal responsibility, transparency, community responsiveness, accountability.
- Cooperation between county and city/towns.
- Integrated plan with integrated enforcement.
- Annoit a czar with power to assure comp implemented.
- See community values and rights placed above individual private economic development rights (BoCC needs to recognize this)
- Hold County accountable no matter who gets elected.
- Less talk, more action.
- Fewer studies more action
- Updated La Plata-Durango IGA that avoids passing cost of development to the taxpayer.
- Smart IGO completed!!
- Government officials quit bickering and get the job done
- I think the county is doing a great job at keeping up with the growth. Your state health department needs to enforce their sewer regulations!! Existing Durango sewer plant is 20+ years old with no expansion planned. How can that be with all this population increase?
- Home rule
- Share with others as a nation like we do in our native

### **County Tax Policy**

- Decrease property taxation or provide more service like road maintenance that we already pay for. Also 4WD emergency equipment paid for by North County should reside in the North County.
- Less tax for ranchers
- Increased taxes for part time second home owners
- Down size government. Spend less and therefore tax less. We need to support development of affordable housing, low impact manufacturing jobs, and a better living wage for younger families.
- The unjust, ignorant, and abusive management of tax dollars that make themselves look like they are doing their job. (unreadable) pulled bills from AP and taxpayers are being screwed!
- I would like to see the county impose an excess use tax on large residences (e.g. greater than 5,000 sq ft)

- Tax structure is sustainable. County leads new structure.

#### ***Increase Civic engagement and Community Capacity***

- Continue planning groups and input – this survey is a good idea.
- More public shaping of where and how development occurs
- Civic engagement needs to include diverse perspectives in planning
- Difficulty in bringing people together on a vision/plan
- Involve people in land use planning, not just special interest groups
- Collective awareness that there may be a greater good
- Education/forums to teach people systems thinking, 7 generation decision making
- Non-duplication of efforts. Collaboration among organizations.
- A collective awareness that there is a greater good, no matter what that may do to personal property rights/values.
- Convene forums for community to discuss the common good.
- Educate people about 7<sup>th</sup> generation decision making
- Educate public officials, county staff and communicate members in systems thinking.
- Make decisions based upon multiple benefits (win/win) systems approach.
- Whole systems thinking regarding growth (economy, environmental, health, wildlife).
- Economic and monetary incentive for choices/decisions that are better for the community.
- Moderation of all things
- La Plata County tends to mean Durango. There is more to our county.

#### **UNCLASSIFIED**

- Quality of life – health care, transportation, pollution
- I would like to move out of the city and live in the rural parts of the county. It's the quiet calm beauty
- It feels like a downtown bubble surrounded by exploitation.
- Balance of schools, populations, business progression without being too hectic
- Out migration
- When we came to fair on Friday Aug 7 2009, I was told I could not park in the handicap area. I told the man directing traffic I was disabled and had a card. I was directed to DHS parking lot. This was a hardship on me to and from the fair area. The handicap area was all empty when I walked to the entrance and full when I left.