

**November 2015
BALLOT QUESTION
Exemption from SB 152**

All voters within La Plata County will be asked Question 1B

Without increasing taxes, shall La Plata County be authorized to reestablish the right to provide high-speed internet services, telecommunications services, and/or cable television services to residents, businesses, schools, libraries, nonprofit entities and other users of such services, either directly or indirectly with public or private sector partners?

Voters residing in Bayfield will be asked Question 2E and La Plata County Question 1B

Without increasing taxes, shall Bayfield be authorized to reestablish the right to provide high-speed internet services, telecommunications services, and/or cable television services to residents, businesses, schools, libraries, nonprofit entities and other users of such services, either directly or indirectly with public or private sector partners?

Voters residing in Durango will be asked Question 2C and La Plata County Question 1B

Without increasing taxes, shall Durango be authorized to reestablish the right to provide high-speed internet services, telecommunications services, and/or cable television services to residents, businesses, schools, libraries, nonprofit entities and other users of such services, either directly or indirectly with public or private sector partners?

Voters residing in Ignacio will be asked Question 2E and La Plata County Question 1B

Without increasing taxes, shall the Town of Ignacio, Colorado have the legal ability to provide any or all services currently restricted by Title 29, Article 27, Part 1 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, specifically described as "advanced service," "telecommunications service," and "cable television service", as defined by the Statute, including, but not limited to, any new and improved high bandwidth services based on future technologies, utilizing community owned or other infrastructure, including but not limited to any existing fiber optic network, either directly, or indirectly, or by contract, or by sale or purchase or resale of wholesale cable television service, telecommunications service or advanced service, with public or private sector service providers, to potential subscribers that may include telecommunications service providers, advanced service providers residential users, commercial users, schools, libraries, non-profit entities, and other users of such services within the Town of Ignacio, Colorado?

Tell me more about Colorado Senate Bill 152...

Colorado Senate Bill 05-152 (SB 152) is a measure passed by the Colorado Legislature in 2005. Its intent was to limit governments from competing with the private sector. Among other provisions, it requires local governments to secure voter approval before entering into the broadband partnerships or business. Without such approval, the law limits the ability of Colorado local governments to provide a wide spectrum of services, including:

- free Internet service in city libraries, parks and community centers;
- leveraging government infrastructure and partnering with private businesses to provide affordable and high-speed Internet service throughout the entire community;
- direct provision of broadband services by municipal governments where needed.

How Can I Vote?

Ballots are mailed to voters the week of October 12.
Ballot drop-off locations are located at:

- Bayfield Town Hall
1199 Bayfield Parkway, Bayfield
- Ignacio Town Hall
540 Goddard Ave, Ignacio
- La Plata County Clerk & Recorder Office
98 Everett St, Ste C, Bodo Park, Durango
- La Plata County Fairgrounds
2500 Main Ave, Durango
- La Plata County Administration Building
1101 E 2nd Ave, Durango

Voters may also mail ballots to the La Plata County Clerk's Office (98 Everett St, Ste C, Durango 81303).

Ballots must be received by Election Day —
Tuesday, November 3.

Visit: [LPCo 2015 Coordinated Election](#)

How would an exemption from SB 152 benefit our communities?

A voter-approved exemption from SB 152 would restore local independence and ability to evaluate all possibilities for next-generation broadband services in La Plata County and our communities.

An exemption supports local choice and options, allowing citizens to make the best decisions based on the needs of our own individual communities, without raising taxes.



SOUTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

www.swccog.org
970-779-4592



La Plata County
Economic Development
ALLIANCE

www.yeslpc.com
970-259-1700

This information about SB 152 has been paid for by Southwest Colorado Council of Governments and La Plata County Economic Development Alliance. It is not intended to urge a vote for or against this item.

SB 152 exemption outcomes could include:

Better Access to high speed broadband services for residents and businesses alike.

Intensified Innovation by local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Affordable Internet Access, as Bayfield, Durango, Ignacio and La Plata County partner with internet service providers and key institutions to more efficiently expand internet service.

A Cleaner Environment, as high speed internet reduced commuting needs and promotes high tech green jobs.

More Connected Communities, with new avenues for public engagement in local decision-making and new opportunities for connected social spaces and creative networking.

Improved Quality of Life, as local residents have better access to information in work and at home, allowing more free time to enjoy all that the surrounding area has to offer.



What is fiber-optic broadband?

Fiber-optic broadband cable can run underground or in the air on existing poles. Pulses of light allow very reliable connections and can quickly carry large amounts of data over long distances. Fiber-optic cable is a dedicated internet connection and is not shared with cable services. Fiber-optic network speeds are typically 100 megabits to 10 gigabits per second, compared to 20 to 100 megabits per second for a typical cable internet connection, or 3 megabits per second or less for traditional copper phone service.

Are other Colorado cities exempt from SB 152?

Voters in nearly a dozen Colorado cities and counties have exempted themselves from SB 152, passing measures that affirm their local choice to decide how broadband services develop in these communities.

Exemptions have been approved in:

- Montrose
- Delta
- Grand Junction
- Telluride
- Fort Collins
- Boulder
- Rio Blanco County
- Garfield County

Does La Plata County or communities within the county own existing fiber?

Yes, **Bayfield** owns fiber in the ground in Town 'rights of way.' Bayfield also owns 2 miles of fiber infrastructure. **Durango** currently owns 19 miles of fiber, and additional miles of infrastructure including underground conduit that would make possible future installation of fiber-optic line. **Ignacio** owns about 1.5 miles of fiber. Meanwhile **La Plata County** has fiber, conduit and other equipment and infrastructure throughout the county related to fiber options.

This ballot item is:

If voters approve this ballot item, La Plata County and your community would be exempted from a state law that otherwise purports to limit local governments from improving broadband capabilities. With this exemption, the county or community would be permitted to establish business partnerships with private companies to increase access to high-speed broadband internet, opt to provide this service itself, or develop a combined strategy to benefit residents and business users.

This ballot item is not:

This ballot item would not prevent any private business, including existing broadband providers, from initiating or continuing to provide these services. La Plata County does not have plans to create a public broadband utility, nor do any communities within the county. Passage of this measure would allow the county and communities to explore of a variety of options to make assets available to serve the broadband needs of residents, students and businesses.