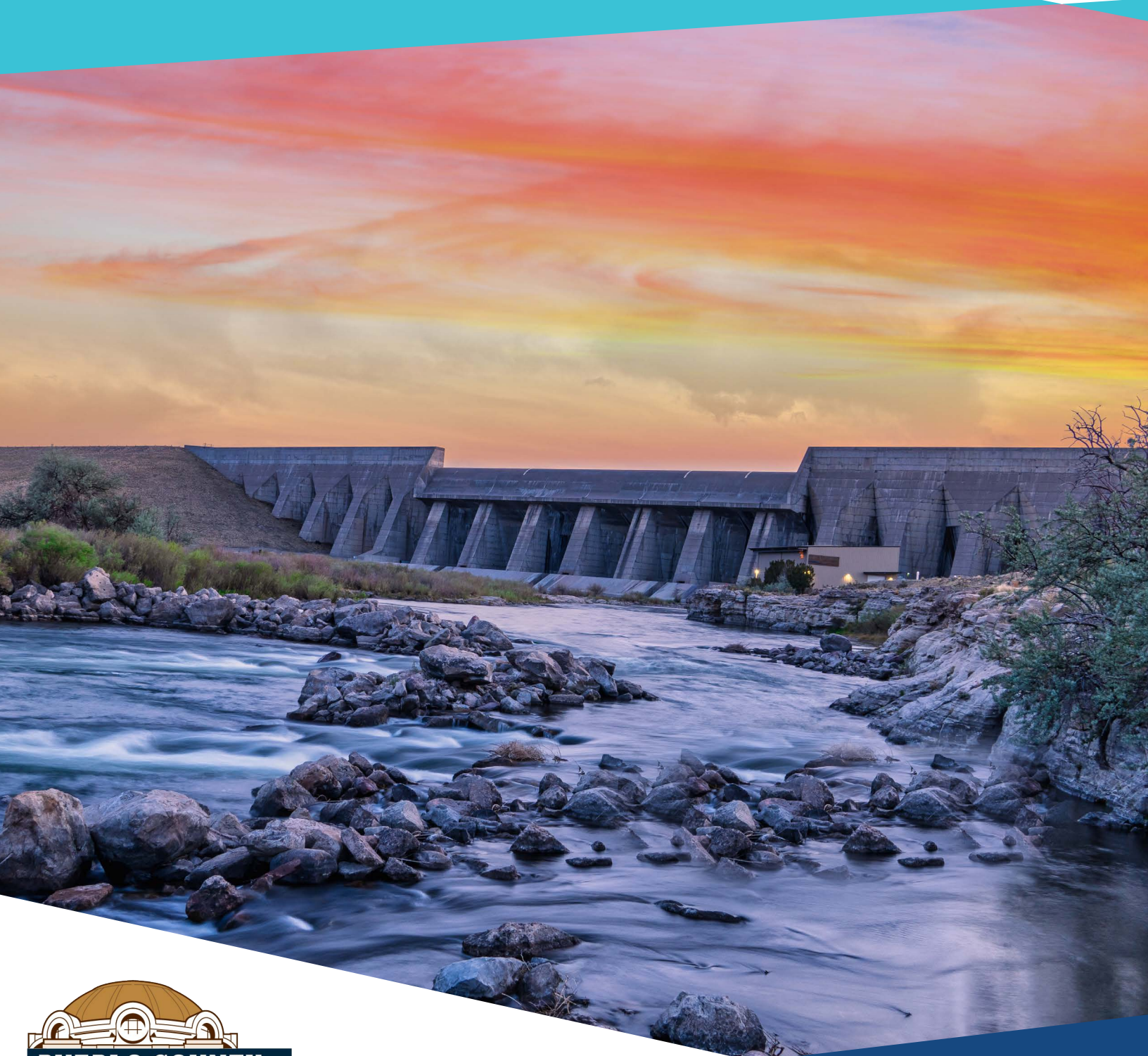


# COUNTY BRIEFING 2023



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# PUEBLO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pueblo County Commissioners are responsible for balancing a budget of more than \$200 million. Commissioner Garrison M. Ortiz, chair of the board, along with Commissioner Eppie Griego, chair pro tem, and Commissioner Zach Swearingen work hard to adhere to the highest level of transparency in government for Pueblo County employees and taxpayers.

## ABOUT THE PUEBLO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pueblo County Commissioner Garrison M. Ortiz was sworn into his second four-year term on January 12, 2021. He was named chair of the Board of County Commissioners on January 8, 2019 and represents Pueblo County on several boards and commissions. He created and served on the Pueblo County Jail Task Force and the City-County Trash Task Force. In 2017, he was named Outstanding Professional of the Year by the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo and received the Pueblo County Sheriff's Commendation for Outstanding Service, Dedication and Professionalism. He was named the Top 25 Most Influential Young Professionals in Colorado Business in 2018. In 2019, he was a recipient of the 40 Under 40 Emerging Leaders by the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo.

Commissioner Eppie Griego was sworn into his first four-year term on January 12, 2021. He is a lifelong Pueblo resident who is a hard working family man and fights for the best interest of all Pueblo County residents. As a dedicated public servant, Commissioner Griego served on the Pueblo County Planning and Zoning Commission for 11 years, most recently as the commission's chair. He is excited to serve his hometown as Pueblo County enters a crucial phase in economic recovery and development. Commissioner Griego continues to make Pueblo a great place to raise, educate, and grow a family.

Pueblo County Commissioner Zach Swearingen was sworn into his first four-year term on January 10, 2023. He was born and raised in Pueblo County, grew up west of City Park, moved to Pueblo West and attended Centennial High School. He graduated from CSU Pueblo and enlisted in the United States Navy, and held leadership positions in the SEAL Teams. Upon his return to Pueblo, Commissioner Swearingen launched several successful small business, served as the vice chair of the Pueblo County Planning Commission, and on the boards for Pueblo Diversified Industries and Home of Heroes.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

Pueblo Board of County Commissioner (BOCC) meetings are open to the public and are held in person and virtually every **Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m.** at the Pueblo County Courthouse, located at **215 W. 10th Street** in Downtown Pueblo. Meetings are streamed live on Pueblo County's Facebook page [facebook.com/PuebloCounty](https://facebook.com/PuebloCounty). Public comments are accepted during BOCC meetings. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Written public comment is accepted and will be read out loud by the County's Public Information Officer if citizens are not able to attend BOCC meetings. Public comment should be emailed to [uhernik@pueblocounty.us](mailto:uhernik@pueblocounty.us) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

We encourage you to explore [county.pueblo.org](https://county.pueblo.org), as well as this booklet, to learn more about Pueblo County Government, our community, and the programs and services we offer. Please remember you can access all public documents, meeting agendas, minutes and more online. If you have any questions about our community or the services we provide, call the main switchboard at (719)583-6000 to be directed to the appropriate department or email us at [citizensupport@pueblocounty.us](mailto:citizensupport@pueblocounty.us).



**EPPIE GRIEGO**  
COMMISSIONER  
CHAIR PRO TEM



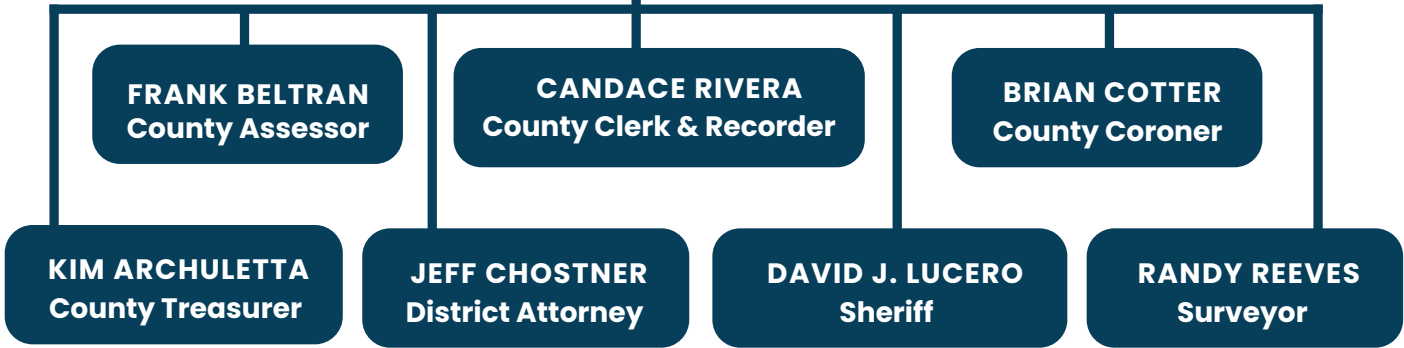
**GARRISON M. ORTIZ**  
COMMISSIONER  
CHAIR



**ZACH SWEARINGEN**  
COMMISSIONER

**CITIZENS OF PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO**

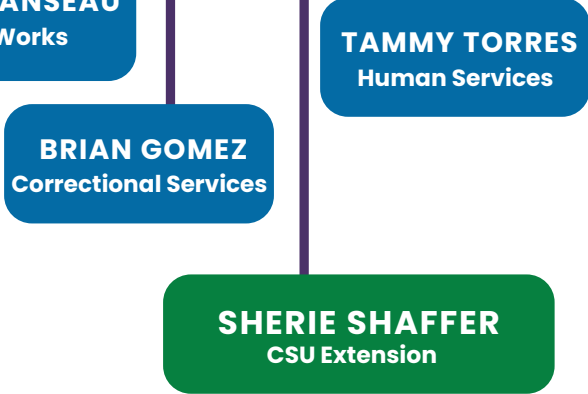
**ELECTED OFFICIALS**



**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT**



**COMMUNITY SERVICES**



**LEGEND**

- ELECTED OFFICIALS
- EXECUTIVE TEAM
- DEPARTMENTS
- RETIREMENT BOARD
- BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
- CSU STATE OFFICE
- DIVISIONS

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

CITIZENS OF PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**EPPIE GRIEGO**  
County Commissioner  
District 1

**GARRISON ORTIZ**  
County Commissioner  
District 2

**ZACH SWEARINGEN**  
County Commissioner  
District 3

**ADAM UHERNIK**  
Public Information  
Officer

**SABINA GENESIO**  
County Manager

**CYNTHIA MITCHELL**  
County Attorney

## ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

**ASHLEY HUGGINS**  
Budget & Finance

**PATSY CRESSWELL**  
Talent & People  
Services

**ED MARTINEZ**  
Information  
Technology Systems

**BRANDON MATHEWS**  
Workplace Policy & Compliance

**TERRY ROBINSON**  
Purchasing

**JOEL THOMPSON**  
Administration

**BOARDS &  
COMMISSIONS**

# WHAT WE DO

Pueblo County is governed by the Pueblo County Board of Commissioners, who are elected by the voters to represent the county. The board serves as the administrative and policy-setting authority of Pueblo County and provides services outlined in the Colorado State Constitution. They are responsible for approving an annual balanced budget, overseeing the provision of government services, land use management, engineering, fleet, housing and human services, and veteran affairs.

## MEET THE NEW ELECTED OFFICIALS



**CANDACE RIVERA**  
County Clerk & Recorder

County Clerk & Recorder Candace Rivera has been an advocate in Pueblo County across several areas. She was a business owner for 20 years and an advocate with the sheriff's office for A Community Organization for Victim Assistance (ACOVA.) She worked as a paralegal and in the District Attorney's Office advocating for victims' rights. She also kept up to date with changes in legislation and Colorado Revised Statutes. Rivera is dedicated to public service and is honored to serve as Pueblo County Clerk.



**DAVID J. LUCERO**  
Sheriff

Sheriff David J. Lucero is a 22-year-veteran law enforcement officer starting his career with the Lamar, CO, Police Department. Sheriff Lucero came to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office in 2004 and served in many roles from patrol deputy to undersheriff. He served as vice president and president of the Colorado Jail Association and as a technical resource provider for the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections. He also serves as a special deputy U.S. Marshal assigned to the U.S. Marshals Colorado Violent Offender Task Force.



**KIM ARCHULETTA**  
Treasurer

Pueblo County Treasurer Kim Archuletta, a Pueblo native, graduated from East High School and earned her BSBA in Business Administration from CSU Pueblo, making her a first-generation college graduate. She is the proud mother of two children and is dedicated to public service. As Pueblo County Treasurer, she will utilize her knowledge, experience, and education to serve the place she proudly calls home.

# ELECTED OFFICIALS



## **FRANK BELTRAN | ASSESSOR**

beltran@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6597

The assessor is responsible for all administrative and appraisal functions pursuant to Colorado law pertaining to real and personal property valuations for property tax purposes as well and maintains, keeps, and gathers all property records in Pueblo County (ownership, legals, lot sizes, etc).



## **CANDACE RIVERA | CLERK & RECORDER**

riverac@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6507

The clerk and recorder is responsible for recording deeds, registering automobiles, issuing marriage licenses, registering voters, administering elections, and maintaining records for the Board of County Commissioners.



## **BRIAN COTTER | CORONER**

cotterb@pueblounty.us | 719-583-4673

The Pueblo County Coroner's Office conducts specialized death investigations, toxic chemical and HAZMAT training. Death notifications are made in person, unless out-of-area mutual aid is required.



## **DAVID J. LUCERO | PUEBLO COUNTY SHERIFF**

lucerod@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6125

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office is composed of professionals whose commitment is to control crime, problem solve, reduce the perception of fear, and ultimately improve the quality of life by working in partnership with local citizens.



## **RANDY REEVES | SURVEYOR**

reevesr@pueblounty.us | 719-253-0874

The surveyor conducts surveys of county boundaries, accepts maps of surveys within the county for filing, and examines all maps and plats before recording them with the County Clerk and Recorder.



## **KIM ARCHULETTA | TREASURER**

archuletta@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6015

The Treasurer's Office is responsible for the collection of all real estate, personal property, manufactured housing, and state assessed taxes. The Treasurer is also the custodian of all county funds.



## **JEFF CHOSTNER | DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

chostner@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6030

The Tenth Judicial District Attorney's Office represents the people's interests in prosecuting criminal cases, seeking justice for victims, and advocating for measures to reduce criminal behavior in Pueblo County.

# LEADERSHIP PERSONNEL



## **SABINA GENESIO | COUNTY MANAGER**

genesios@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6617

The County Manager is responsible for implementing policies and priorities set by the Board of County Commissioners, and recommending improved management practices and standards for sound, effective county management. The County Manager also oversees the day-to-day operations of the county, to include supervision of the department directors and other offices.



## **CYNTHIA MITCHELL | COUNTY ATTORNEY**

mitchellc@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6630

The County Attorney's Office provides legal advice and representation to elected officials, county departments, and other agencies when authorized by the Board of County Commissioners. The office handles all civil legal matters for Pueblo County.



## **ADAM UHERNIK | PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

uhernik@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6534

The Media & Communications Office works directly with the county commissioners to convey specific messages to the public via social media and the press. The PIO coordinates all press conferences for Pueblo County Government.



## **ASHLEY HUGGINS | BUDGET & FINANCE**

huggins@pueblounty.us | 719-583-4411

The Budget & Finance Office develops an annual financial plan for Pueblo County, monitors actual performance against budget goals throughout the year, and maintains a governmental accounting and financial reporting system.



## **BRIAN GOMEZ | COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

gomezb@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6546

Community Corrections offers high-level planning and administrative services in the areas of community corrections, alternatives to incarceration and jail overcrowding relief in order to ensure the safety of the citizens of Pueblo County.



## **MICK SCHLOESSER | FLEET**

schloesser@pueblounty.us | 719-583-4764

The Fleet Department maintains nearly 300 vehicles, passenger cars, light trucks, vans, light duty utility equipment, and law enforcement vehicles. Fleet also maintains more than 250 pieces of heavy equipment trucks and other specialty equipment.



## **TAMMY TORRES | SOCIAL, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

tammy.torres@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6160

The Department of Human Services provides social, housing and human services, including protective services for children and adults, income maintenance, medical and food assistance to eligible individuals and families and self-sufficiency services to assistance recipients.





**JENNIFER WAGONER | PUEBLO MEANS BUSINESS**

wagonerj@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6535

Pueblo Means Business provides customer-first processes including a streamlined virtual permitting platform that improves coordination and reduces delays between utilities, city, regional, and county agencies.



**PATSY CRESSWELL | TALENT & PEOPLE SERVICES**

cresswell@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6500

Talent & People Services provides personnel and benefits services to county employees including recruitment, selection and orientation, compensation and benefits, position classification, training, employee recognition, and other employee-related programs.



**SHERIE SHAFFER | CSU EXTENSION**

shaffers@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6566

The CSU Extension provides assistance and programs for citizens in five main areas: agriculture, horticulture, family and consumer science, natural resources, and 4-H youth programs.



**ED MARTINEZ | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**

martineze@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6031

The ITS Department provides technology tools and services that directly support and augment the services delivery of the elected offices and other mandated county functions and duties.



**CARMEN HOWARD | PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

howardca@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6100

The Planning and Development Department is responsible for current and long range planning activities, as well as zoning activities including liquor and marijuana licensing and compliance.



**TERRY ROBINSON | PURCHASING**

robinson@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6095

The Purchasing Division establishes consistent, fair, and equitable procedures within Pueblo County. The department is mandated by Colorado state statutes for the Board of County Commissioners.



**TANIS MANSEAU | ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS**

manseaut@pueblounty.us | 719-583-6004

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining and improving the County's transportation infrastructure, parks, buildings, grounds, and facilities.



**BRANDON MATHEWS | WORKPLACE POLICY & COMPLIANCE**

mathewsb@pueblounty.us | 719-583-4207

The Workplace Policy & Compliance Department serves Pueblo County employees in the hiring process, onboarding, personnel policies and issues.

# BUDGET & FINANCE

Pueblo County's Budget & Finance Office works with the elected officials and department directors to develop an annual financial plan for Pueblo County. The office monitors actual performance against budget goals throughout the year and maintains a governmental accounting and financial reporting system.

The annual financial plan depicts and measures anticipated revenues and expenditures to support the county's objectives, maintain financial stability and comply with statutory requirements. Throughout the year, accurate, useful, and timely financial information is made available to both external users and internal management. The office also maintains an adequate system of internal controls to protect the county's assets and to monitor the receipt and disbursement of public funds in compliance with statutory requirements.



**TOP LEFT:** Melissa Spengler, Dona Skaggs, Meg Scarlett, Patty Kroll  
**BOTTOM LEFT:** Sherri Crow, Ashley Huggins, Cheryl Anderson  
Not pictured Lora Diaz

## BUDGET TIMELINE

Budget & Finance Office works to finalize 2022 financial information and to prepare the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - which identifies available reserves going forward.

### JANUARY-AUGUST 2022

Base budgets established for county departments based on trends, current revenue forecasts, staffing, contracts and obligations.

Departmental budgets open for requests - requests above base budgets must be justified to be considered for funding.

County Assessor provides a preliminary certification of assessed values letter and Budget & Finance updates property tax projections.

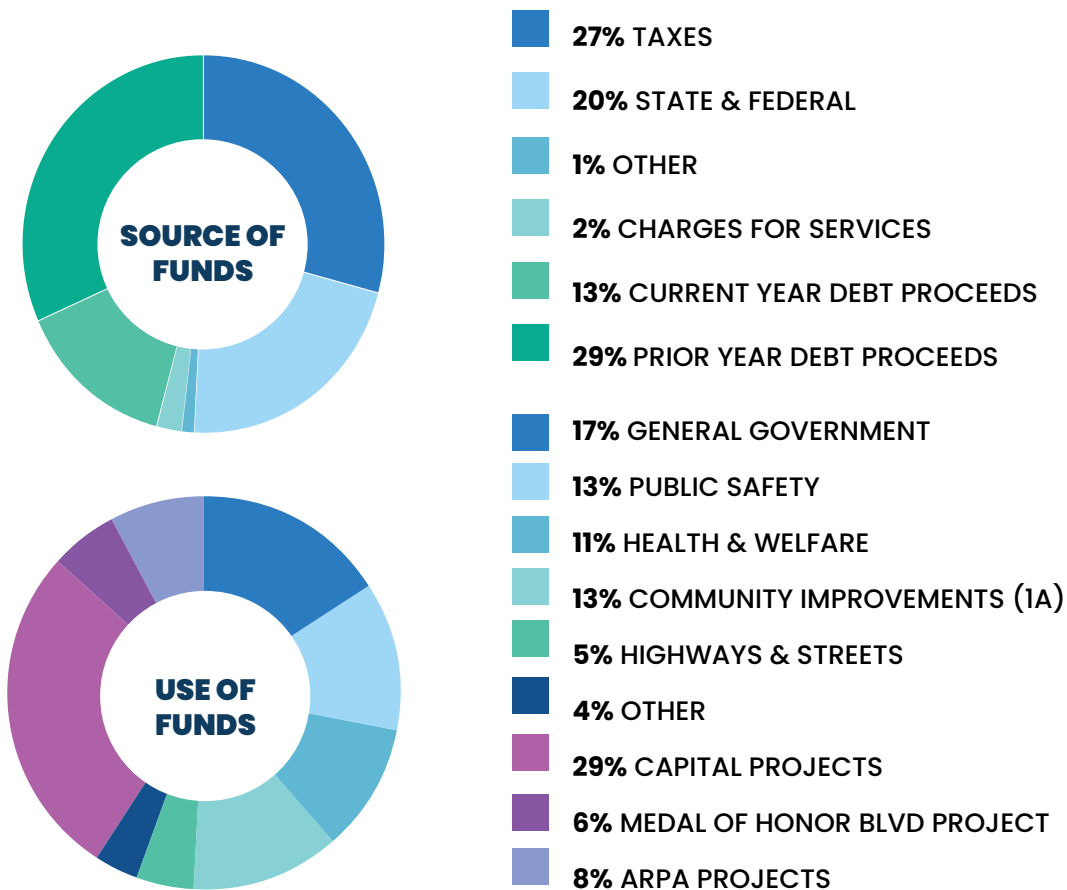
SEPTEMBER 2022

AUGUST 25, 2022

# PUEBLO COUNTY ADOPTS BALANCED BUDGET

Pueblo County adopted a balanced budget totaling \$433 million for 2023. The large increase over previous years mostly relates to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and anticipated capital projects. The budget is supported by \$117 million in property, sales and specific ownership taxes to operate county departments and programs. \$85 million in state and federal dollars supports social programs for underprivileged residents of the community. \$15 million in other revenues are for fees and direct charges that assist in funding specific programs. \$180 million will be supported by debt issuances for the jail and Medal of Honor Blvd projects as well as 1A voter approved projects. The remainder of funding comes from reserves and balancing transfers between funds made up of revenues collected in previous budget years.

View the full 2023 Pueblo County Budget: [COUNTY.PUEBLO.ORG/GOVERNMENT/COUNTY/DEPARTMENT/COUNTY-BUDGET](https://COUNTY.PUEBLO.ORG/GOVERNMENT/COUNTY/DEPARTMENT/COUNTY-BUDGET)



Budget & Finance reviews departmental requests above base budgets and works with the county manager on priorities and preliminary recommended funding levels.

**OCTOBER 2022**

Departmental budget work sessions occur with the Board of County Commissioners – last scheduled work session to be spent on final revisions.

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 2022**

2023 Budget adopted by BOCC during public hearing – budget is appropriated by fund and elected official within the general fund.

**DECEMBER 1, 2022**

Preliminary recommended budget made available for public inspection.

**OCTOBER 15, 2022**

Budget & Finance prepares final recommended budget revisions and changes.

## ADDITIONAL DATES OF INTEREST:

**December 10** – Final assessed values completed by county assessor.

**December 15** – County budget approval deadline for 2023.

# RETAIL MARIJUANA SALES & EXCISE TAXES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Each year, millions of dollars in retail marijuana sales and excise taxes are collected by Pueblo County Government. The money must be spent in certain ways approved by the citizens. In order to ensure funding is spent appropriately, a Retail Marijuana Sales and Excise Taxes Oversight Committee was formed. The purpose of the committee is to foster a transparent and objective review of Pueblo County’s retail marijuana sales and excise tax revenues and expenditures, and to ensure the monies are spent in accordance with the purposes described in Resolution Nos. 13-186 and 15-203, respectively. The committee meets quarterly to review and monitor revenue receipts and expenditures of Pueblo County’s retail marijuana sales and excise taxes. They provide an independent report to the BOCC that includes the revenues received and identifies how the retail marijuana sales and excise taxes were spent.

## MARIJUANA TAX DEFINITIONS

### PUEBLO COUNTY 6% SALES TAX

Pueblo County charges a 6% sales tax on retail marijuana purchases. The tax is collected by the retailer at the time of sale and is paid to Pueblo County by the retailer. Pursuant to ballot issue 1B passed by voters, the collection of marijuana retail sales tax increased from 3.5% to 6%. The county collects the City of Pueblo’s share of the revenue. Under a new agreement the City of Pueblo allows Pueblo County to keep a portion of its sales tax. The money is kept outside of the general fund for public safety initiatives.

#### 15% ALLOCATION OF STATE OF COLORADO 10% TAX

Colorado charges a 15% sales tax on retail marijuana purchases. The tax is collected by the retailer at the time of sale and is paid to the state of Colorado by the retailer. The state of Colorado, on a monthly basis, shares back 10% of the state’s 15% sales tax to local governments.

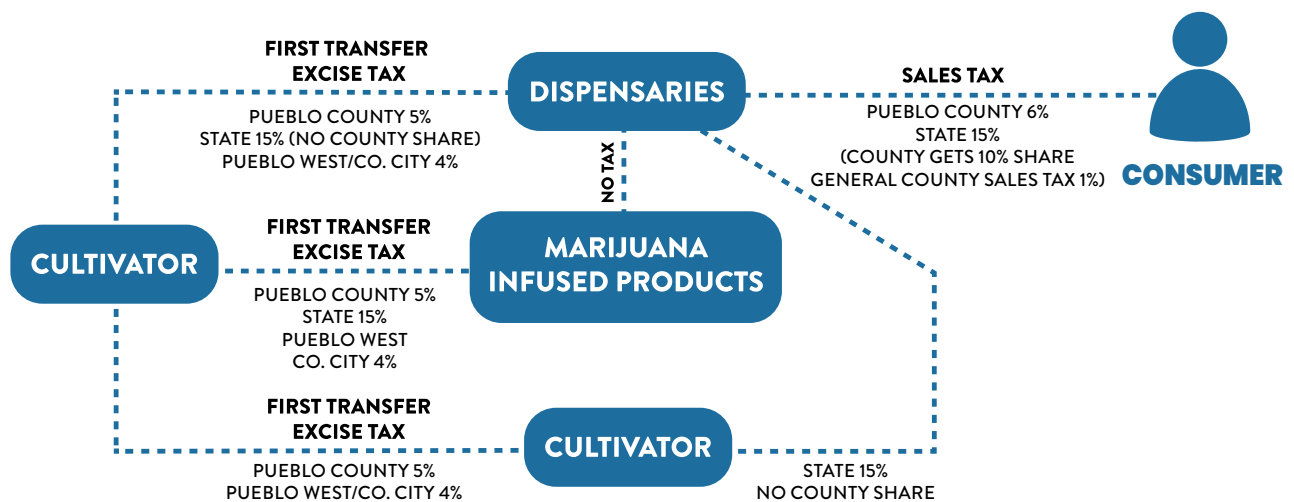
The share each local government receives is based on the percentage of total statewide retail marijuana sales occurring within its borders.

#### 1% STATE COLLECTED MEDICAL & RETAIL MARIJUANA SALES TAX

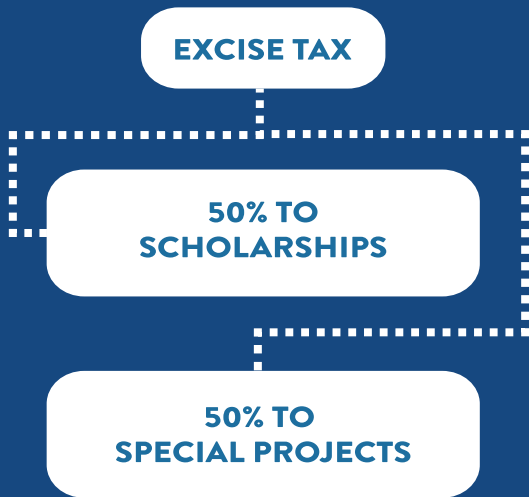
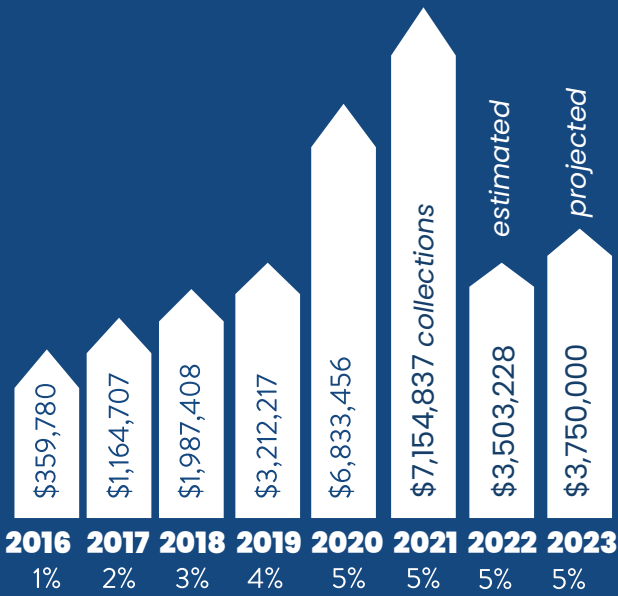
Pueblo County levies a 1% general sales tax (not specific to marijuana) which is collected by the state on its behalf. Because medical and retail marijuana are sold within Pueblo County, the sales are subject to the general 1% sales tax, just like a pair of jeans or a new TV.

#### PUEBLO COUNTY MARIJUANA EXCISE TAX

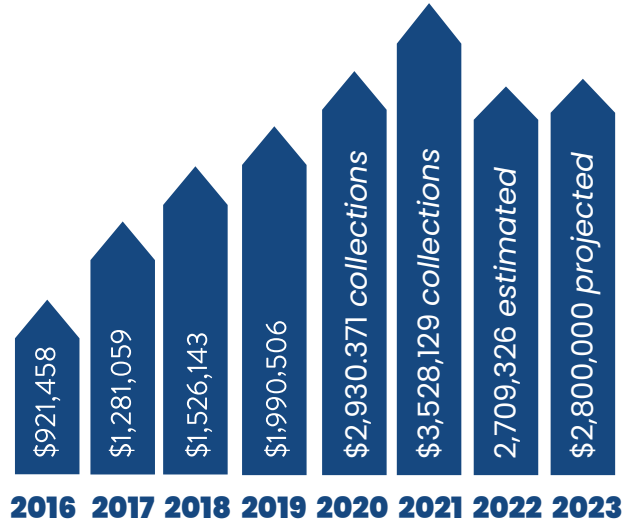
Excise tax is collected on the first sale of wholesale retail marijuana grown in Pueblo County. The tax is paid by the retail marijuana grower to Pueblo County on a monthly basis. The rate in 2023 is 5%.



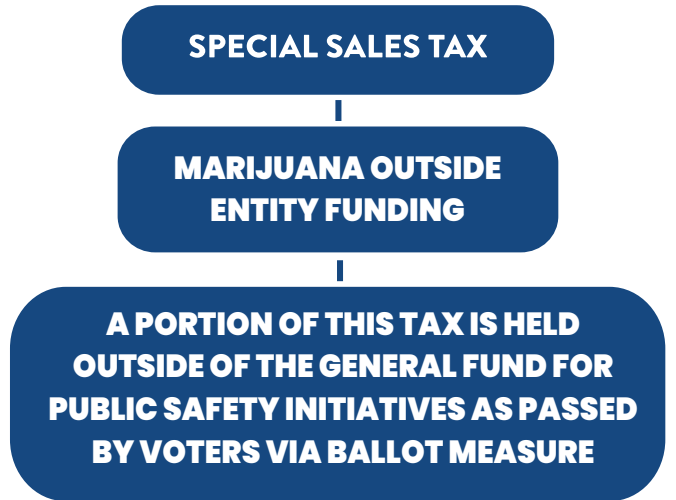
# PUEBLO COUNTY MARIJUANA EXCISE TAX



# PUEBLO COUNTY MARIJUANA RETAIL GENERAL FUND



A marijuana oversight committee was formed to foster a transparent and effective review of the incoming marijuana taxes and how money is spent.



The amounts above reflect the sales tax held in the general fund

# PUEBLO COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In 2022, Pueblo County awarded an estimated \$2,931,202 in scholarships to local students using marijuana excise tax money including \$295,571 to the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation (PHEF). PHEF uses Pueblo County Scholarship dollars to access grants from the Colorado Department of Higher Education – Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. State grants added approximately \$295,571 to the scholarship fund for local students.

A ballot issue passed in 2015 by Pueblo County voters stipulates the first 50% of marijuana excise tax dollars are required to go toward scholarships. The second half must go to capital infrastructure projects. The hope is to serve as many students as possible through the scholarship program. Organizations are able to apply for scholarship funds in the first quarter of the year with the county, and students apply with agencies providing scholarships. Candidates are considered for scholarship awards based upon several criteria including GPA, financial need, essay, and community service.

# MARIJUANA SALES & EXCISE TAX

**There are two types of taxes collected from marijuana dispensaries in Pueblo County including retail sales and excise tax.**

## **FUNDS ARE ALSO USED TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES AND PROJECTS**

- Medal of Honor Convention
- Gang Alternative Program
- CSU Pueblo Fountain Creek Study
- SRDA CDOT FTA
- Sangre de Cristo Arts Center
- Latino Chamber of Commerce
- PEDCO
- Pueblo Zoological Society
- Harp Authority
- Human Relations Commission
- Bessemer Historic Society
- YMCA
- Rye Fire Department
- Animal Control
- Pueblo City/County Health Department
- Pueblo West Metropolitan District

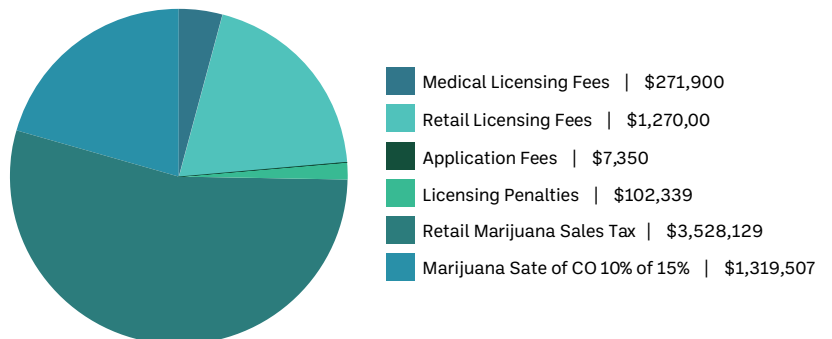
## **SALES TAX**

Pueblo County's retail marijuana sales tax was originally 3.5% then raised to 6% in 2020. These taxes are based on purchase price and collected from the consumer at the point-of-sale.

Legal obligations of sales tax – original 3.5% is used to underwrite salaries of the county employees who work on marijuana business and to pay any administrative costs incurred by this county department. A portion of these taxes are shared with the City of Pueblo for dispensaries located within the city limits.

The additional 2.5% the County began collecting in 2020, is designated for public safety projects including the new construction of the Pueblo County Detention Facility. Once this project is complete, the county commissioners will fund other public safety related projects. The City of Pueblo has allowed the county to retain 100% of city retail sales tax above 3.5% to be used for public safety projects. The County shares a portion of sales taxes generated in Pueblo West with the Pueblo West Metro District and is reflected as an expense on the left of this page.

## **2021 GENERAL FUND MARIJUANA RELATED REVENUE**



# EXCISE TAX

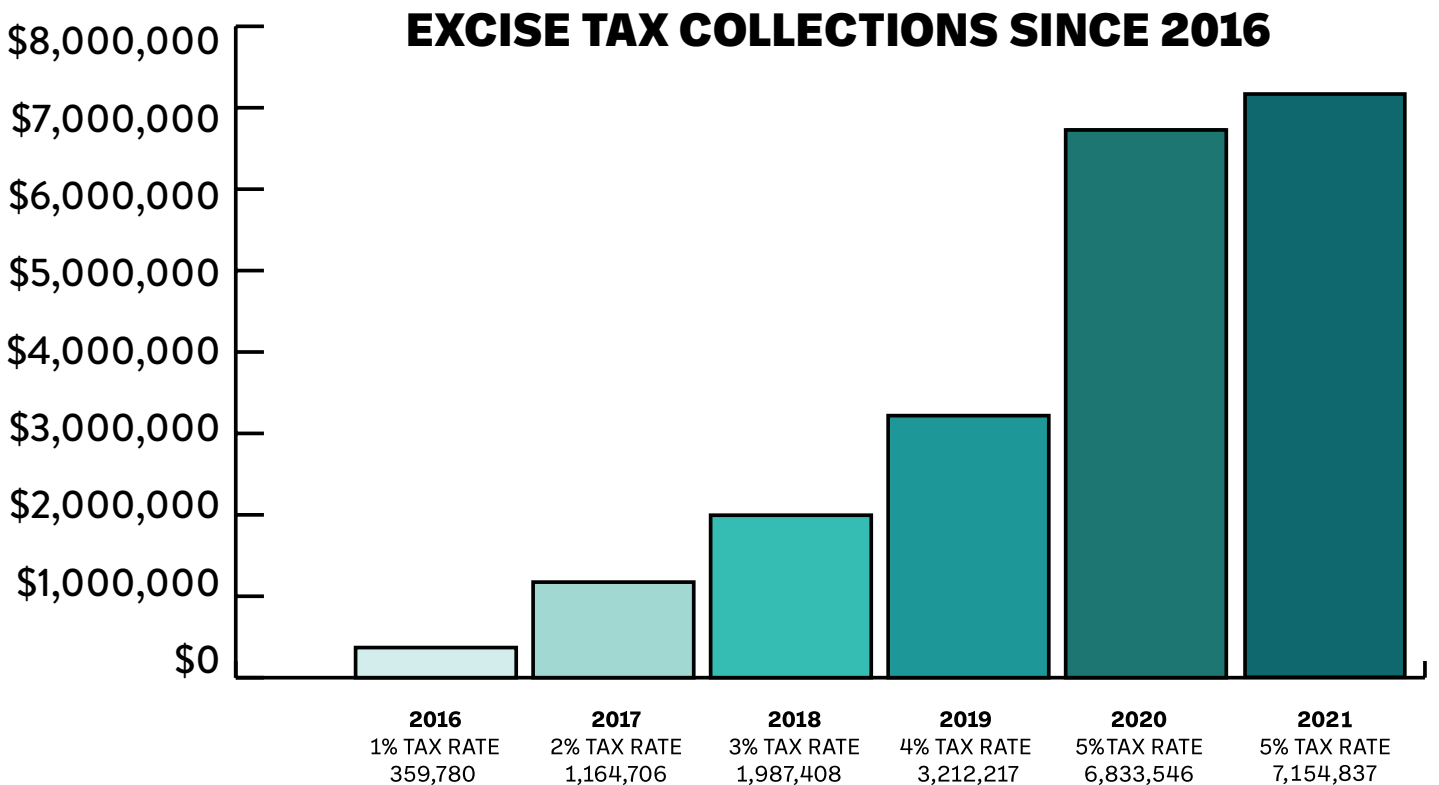
Pueblo County is able to levy, collect and enforce a county excise tax on the first sale, or transfer of unprocessed retail marijuana. The excise tax rate was designed to increase by 1% each year, with an initial 2016 rate of 1% and a final phased-in rate of 5% in 2020 going forward. The 5% is calculated based on the contract rate of the product. The tax is collected after harvest when the product is taken to the next phase of its cycle. This tax is collected even if the grow facility and dispensary are part of the same organization.

At least 50% of the collected funds are directly used to fund scholarships for Pueblo County residents. The remaining 50% has been spent on a series of projects voted on by taxpayers.

Once these projects are complete, Pueblo County Commissioners will determine which projects to fund. The projects must provide a community benefit.

## TAX PAYER VOTED PROJECTS

- Safe Routes to School
- Pueblo County Marijuana Impact Study
- Passenger Rail Feasibility Study
- Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center – Planning
- Golf Carts for Desert Hawk Golf Course
- Zinno Subdivision Water Project
- Beulah School Playground
- State Fairgrounds Streetscape
- River Trail Master Plan Update
- Confluence Park
- Pueblo West Trails to School



# NEW JAIL & MEDAL OF HONOR BLVD EXTENSION



## Detention Center Benefits

- ➡ Improves public safety.
- ➡ Decreases energy consumption as the first net zero energy jail in US.
- ➡ Lowers legal exposure.
- ➡ Expandable footprint for future growth needs.





# \$180 MILLION CAPITAL FUNDING



## Detention Center Funding Plan

**\$140 Million Project Total**

**Certificates of Participation**  
\$126,335,000

**HWIP Funds**  
\$4,500,000

**Marijuana Retail Sales Tax  
Passed 2019 Rate**  
3.5-6%

**Available Cash Balance**  
\$5,000,000

**VOTER APPROVED INCREASE**

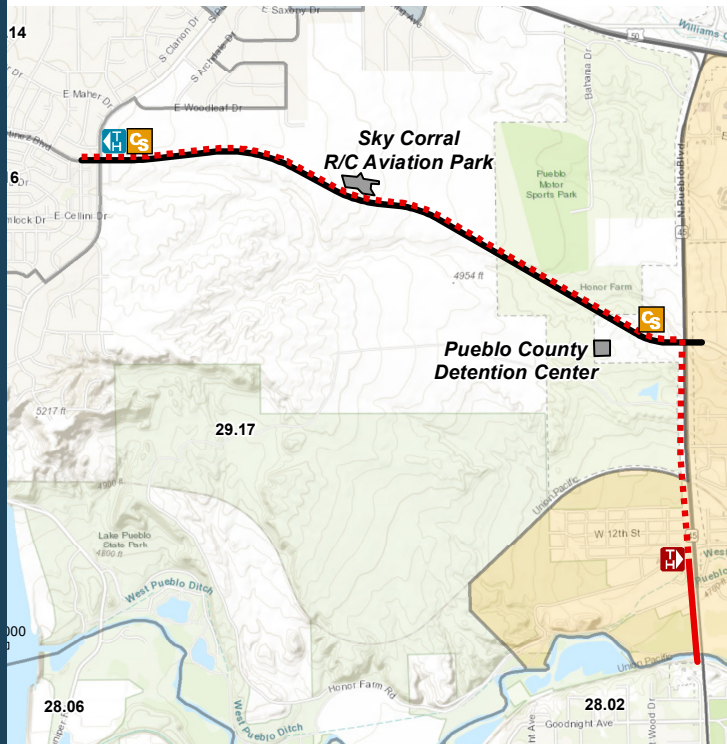
**Portion of Debt Refinancing  
Cost Savings**

**PURA St. Charles TIF Bonds**  
\$8,500,000

*The Marijuana Retail Sales Tax over 3.5%, a portion of the debt refinancing savings along with expiring current debts will help pay for the Certificates of Participation. Detention Facility Funding Plan does not use any accumulated or future County Marijuana Excise Tax revenues or use any accumulated or future 1A property tax revenues.*



Proposed Road Alignment



Proposed Bike Path

# Boulevard Extension Benefits

- 
**THE COMMUTER:**  
 Four lanes improve traffic flows between Pueblo & Pueblo West.
- 
 Stroll or bike on the new trails.
- 
**THE ENVIRONMENT:**  
 Featuring two electric vehicle (EV) charging plazas.
- 
 The longest road in the world made from recycled plastic bags.

**\$180 MILLION CAPITAL FUNDING**



# Boulevard Extension Funding Plan

**\$40 Million Project Total**

**2016 1A Funds**

**TOP RANKING PRIORITY BY VOTERS  
ON THE 2015 BALLOT FOR 1A FUNDING**

**Potential for State  
& Federal Grants**

**Future TIF Revenue:  
West Pueblo Urban  
Renewal Area**

# PUEBLO WEST ROADS MAINTENANCE



In January 2023, Pueblo County Government officially took over maintenance of the roads in the Pueblo West Metropolitan District.

Pueblo County and Pueblo West road crews are currently collaborating to improve, repair, and maintain roads in Pueblo West, as well as associated drainage and stormwater infrastructure for the citizens of Pueblo West.

Pueblo West staff ultimately will transition to Pueblo County's workforce. The road maintenance initiative is funded through ballot measure 6C that passed during the general election in November 2022.

The ballot initiative creates a 1% sales tax to fund road maintenance in Pueblo West. The additional tax is expected to generate up to \$5 million per year. The ballot measure stipulates the additional collection of tax will only be collected in Pueblo West; and, the money generated will only be spent in Pueblo West for road improvements.

The ballot measure also requires the creation of an independent oversight committee to ensure accountability, and provide an annual review of revenues collected from the 1% sales tax. The oversight committee will be comprised of Pueblo West residents.

Pueblo West residents who have questions or would like to report a road issue may call Pueblo County Public Works at (719)583-6040.

# COUNTY OVERVIEW

## COMMUNITY PROFILE & DEMOGRAPHICS



**1861**

DATE OF  
INCORPORATION

**2,398**

TOTAL SQUARE  
MILES

**64,314**

HOUSEHOLDS

**5.1%**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

**85.2/100**

COST OF LIVING

**\$260,000**

MEDIAN VALUE OF  
OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING

**\$46,783**

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD  
INCOME

**\$1,247**

MEDIAN MONTHLY  
MORTGAGE

**\$829**

2021 CERTIFIED ASSESSED  
TAXABLE PROPERTY  
VALUATION

**169,622**

TOTAL PUEBLO COUNTY  
POPULATION

112,368 PUEBLO CITY  
32,842 PUEBLO WEST  
2,200 COLORADO CITY  
1,268 BEULAH  
802 BLENDE  
588 AVONDALE  
726 SALT CREEK  
339 VINELAND  
307 BOONE  
206 RYE

MEDIAN AGE

**37**



**50.7%** **49.3%**

Data sourced from census.gov v2019



### HIGH DESERT CLIMATE

Mild winters with  
hot/dry summer days  
and cooler summer nights



ELEVATION

**4,692'**



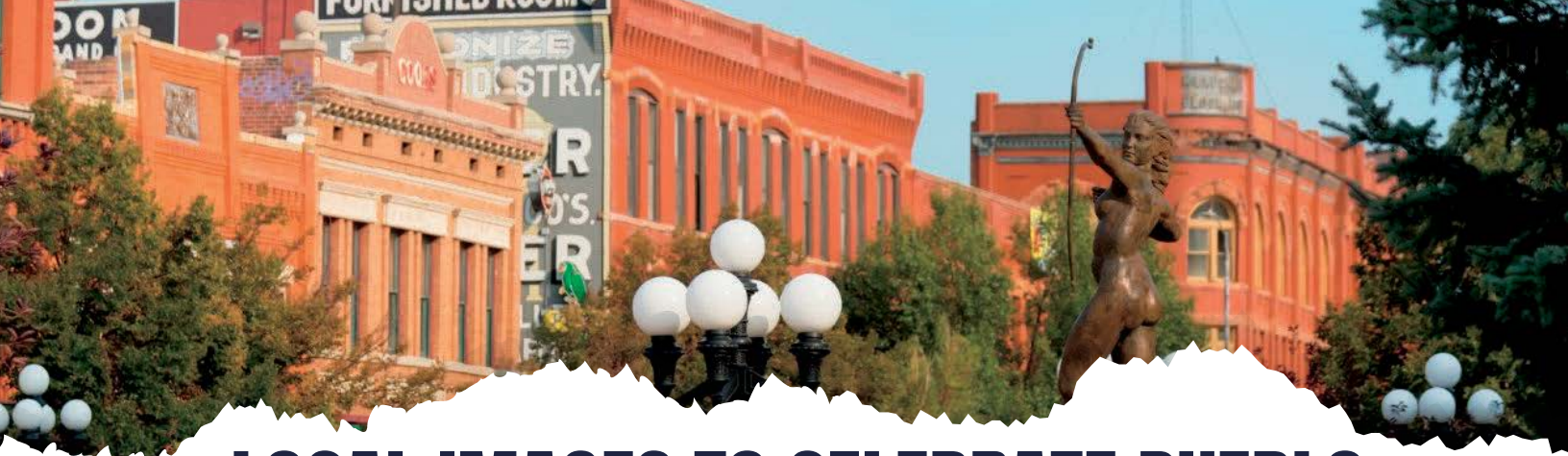
**300+**

DAYS OF SUNSHINE

### AVERAGE SEASONAL TEMPS

	<b>47°</b>	<b>66°</b>	<b>91°</b>	<b>68°</b>
	<b>16°</b>	<b>35°</b>	<b>57°</b>	<b>36°</b>

**15" Annual Rainfall**  
**25" Annual Snowfall**  
**91° July High**  
**16° January Low**



# LOCAL IMAGES TO CELEBRATE PUEBLO. 100% FREE.

The City and County of Pueblo created the Pueblo Shares partnership to share official city and county image, video assets and other Pueblo based content. This site houses a growing online content library of assets that can be used by anyone to positively promote living, investing or visiting the Pueblo region.



## Submit Content

In addition to general image and video content, we are looking for kudos, people on the move and general stories that positively tell your story and Pueblo's. Use our submission form to share your content and we'll help spread the word!



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# 1A COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In 2016, Pueblo County voters approved ballot question 1A, allowing the County to keep about \$66 million in tax revenues in exchange for building specific projects. There are 20 projects in the 1A Community Improvement Program. The “financial spout” for the \$66 million began filing county coffers in 2021. The program does not raise taxes on voters. Instead, it allows Pueblo to capture expiring tax incentives from Vestas Wind Towers, Black Hills Energy, and Grupos Cementos de Chihuahua of America Inc. Due to rapidly rising construction costs, Pueblo County Commissioners authorized a \$14 million debt issuance to start groundwork for the first round of projects. The commissioners worked hard to structure a responsible financing package.

The following projects were funded through the first funding tranche:

PROJECT	TRANCHE 1 FUNDING	ORIGINAL PROJECT ESTIMATE
St. Charles Mesa Road Improvements	\$3,187,541	\$5,500,000
HARP Expansion Design	\$957,288	\$3,000,000
Airport Improvements	\$280,000	\$280,000
Lake Minnequa Improvements	\$2,500,000	\$2,000,000
Beulah Park Improvements	\$120,000	\$120,000
Southwest Chief Study Plan	\$901,000	\$7,000,000
Colorado City Community Center	\$302,811	\$165,000
Rye Mountain Park	\$200,000	\$200,000
McCulloch Blvd. Widening-Nichols Road	\$431,000	\$3,000,000
Pueblo West Safe Routes to School	\$275,000	\$100,000
Youth Sports Complex Design-Runyon	\$195,000	\$8,000,000
Union and Main Street Improvements	\$300,000	\$3,000,000

Several rounds of tranche funding will be issued allowing for projects to launch when they are ready and breaks up bigger projects into manageable phases. A list of all the 1A projects and their descriptions is available online at [county.pueblo.org/1a-projects](https://county.pueblo.org/1a-projects).

## SOLAR ENERGY UPDATE

Pueblo County Government worked with key stakeholders on the settlement agreement that closes Comanche Power Plant 3 by January 1, 2031 while continuing to bring in tax payments from Xcel Energy for 10 years after the closure.

As a result of the recently approved settlement agreement by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Pueblo County can move forward on many of its 1A projects approved by the voters in 2016. Tax Payments from Comanche 3 are used to pay for most of those projects.

The Public Service Company of Colorado and 19 parties, including Pueblo County, the Governor’s Energy Office, Trial Staff of the PUC, Utility Consumer Advocates, the Colorado Office of Just Transitions, Solar Energy Industry, Colorado Oil and Gas, Walmart, the Cities of

Boulder, Denver and Pueblo asked the PUC to approve the settlement agreement that closes Comanche 3 in January 2031, but would also pay taxes to Pueblo County for an additional 10 years through 2044. Comanche Units 1 and 2 are already set for retirement by 2025.

PSCO agreed to spend up to \$2 million to study what innovative technologies will help the company work toward a 90% emission reduction and which sites within Pueblo could be used. The stand-alone Pueblo Just Transition Plan, due by June 30, 2024, focuses on replacement generation for Comanche 3 as well as additional generation. This is the first time a community will get the benefit of a stand alone resource acquisition plan.

# WORKING FOR PUEBLO COUNTY



Pueblo County understands that when you choose your next employer, it is a very important decision. There are many factors to consider when selecting employment. The county wants to make that decision a little easier because you are not just making a decision about your career, you are making a decision to join a family. Pueblo County employees are fortunate enough to be the recipients of many outstanding benefits that are hard to beat by other organizations. The county is committed to attracting, developing, and retaining a talented workforce by offering well paying, stable jobs and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Pueblo County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender variance, marital status, genetic information, military status, disability, or any other status protected by law or regulation. Employees receive a very generous benefit package to include four health plans as well as dental, vision, and life insurance. Pueblo County offers a Property Tax Work-Off Program that allows seniors to work as a temporary employee at various businesses throughout Pueblo County up to an amount that can help offset the cost of their property taxes. It is Pueblo County's mission to make the employee's experience before, during and after your employment with Pueblo County a very smooth one.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Full-time employees receive comprehensive health insurance. Pueblo County pays a portion of employees' monthly insurance premiums. Pueblo County employees have several health insurance plans to choose from including HMO, PPO, high and low-deductible plans. Dental, vision and supplemental retirements plans are also available.

## VACATION LEAVE ACCRUAL

Regular full-time employees accrue vacation leave according to their years of service.

## SICK LEAVE

Regular full-time employees accrue eight hours per month sick leave. Eligible employees can use sick leave for absences due to their own illness or injury or that of an immediate family member.

## BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Regular full-time employees take time off due to the death of an immediate family member defined as a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or cousin.

## RETIREMENT

Pueblo County's Defined Benefit Plan provides a fixed income stream for life. The plan has an advantage more than 401K plans in that 401K's have no guaranteed minimum or maximum benefits. Contributions to Pueblo County's retirement plan are 100% tax deferred, thus decreasing the taxable income for each of our employees. Employees contribute 8.25% of their monthly paycheck to their Defined Benefit Plan. Pueblo County contributes 12.25%. There are currently more than 600 former Pueblo County employees receiving pension benefits sponsored by Pueblo County.

## PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Regular full-time employees receive a maximum of four weeks of paid time off to be used within a four-month period for the birth, adoption or placement of a child/children in foster care. The policy is not exclusive to mothers. Pueblo County's new paid parental leave policy includes fathers, same-sex couples, adoptive and foster parents, as well as extended family taking care of newborns placed in their care.



# PUEBLO COUNTY RECREATION

## FULTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER

Fulton Heights Park is nestled in the middle of the small community of Salt Creek, east of Pueblo. The Fulton Heights Community Center is adjacent to this park and offers a gymnasium, fitness equipment and a computer lab. Visitors to Fulton Heights Park will find a playground, picnic tables, and outdoor charcoal grills.

1331 Santa Rosa St. Pueblo, CO 81006 (719) 583-4997



## RYE MOUNTAIN PARK

Residents can schedule FREE reservations for Rye Mountain Park in Rye, CO. There are three pavilions at Rye Mountain Park that require a reservation. The smaller day sites do not require a reservation. Trash receptacles are provided at each pavilion.

### PAVILION #1

This is the oldest covered pavilion and is located in the middle of the park near the creek. Two BBQ grills are provided and this pavilion has 8-10 tables that seat approximately 60 people. The restrooms are located across the street.

### PAVILION #2

This is the smallest covered pavilion and is located in the upper area of the park. Three BBQ grills are provided and this pavilion seats approximately 50 people. There are restrooms and a water pump.

### PAVILION #3

This is the largest of the pavilions and has a metal cover. Included for use with this pavilion is the playground and the ballfield. Four BBQ grills are provided and this pavilion seats approximately 70 people. Restrooms are available.



## DESERT HAWK GOLF COURSE

Desert Hawk Golf Course is a pleasure for golfers of any skill level to play. The course is challenging while providing a relaxing, picturesque backdrop. The course tests player's accuracy with fairways, water hazards, and sand traps. The goal is to provide players with a quality experience that includes exceptional service and a comfortable atmosphere.

251 S. McCulloch Blvd. 81007 (719) 547-2280  
deserthawkgolfcourse.com



## MCHARG PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

McHarg Park is located off US Hwy 50, in the small plains community of Avondale. This park is home to the McHarg Park Community Center offering residents and visitors a gymnasium, game room, fitness equipment and a computer lab.

409 2nd Street Avondale, CO 81022 (719) 947-4180

**PLEASE VISIT PUEBLO COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
WEBSITE FOR A LIST OF ALL SUMMER ACTIVITIES  
OR CALL (719) 583-2960**

# PUEBLO COUNTY PHONE DIRECTORY

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **District 1**

**Commissioner Eppie Griego**  
719-583-6549  
griegoep@pueblocounty.us

**Administrator Paul "Jake" Villegas**  
719-583-6911  
villegasj@pueblocounty.us

### **District 2**

**Commissioner Garrison M. Ortiz**  
719-583-6595  
ortizga@pueblocounty.us

**Administrator Rochelle Cruz**  
719-583-6545  
cruzro@pueblocounty.us

### **District 3**

**Commissioner Zach Swearingen**  
719-583-6536  
swearingenz@pueblocounty.us

**Administrator Amy Gillentine**  
719-583-4906  
gillentinea@pueblocounty.us

**PUEBLO COUNTY OFFICES & DEPARTMENTS**  
215 W. 10th Street Pueblo, CO 81003

**Pueblo County Courthouse Switchboard**  
719-583-6000

**County Manager**  
719-583-6535  
genesios@pueblocounty.us

**Assessor's Office**  
719-583-6597  
beltran@pueblocounty.us

**Budget & Finance**  
719-583-4411  
huggins@pueblocounty.us

**County Attorney**  
719-583-6630  
co.atty@pueblocounty.us

**Coroner**  
719-583-4673  
jensenn@pueblocounty.us

**CSU Extension**  
719-583-6566  
shaffers@pueblocounty.us

**Economic Development & GIS**  
719-583-6240  
edgis@pueblocounty.us

**Information Technology Systems**  
719-583-6031

**Parks & Recreation**  
719-583-2960  
cesara@pueblocounty.us

**Planning & Development**  
719-583-6100  
planning@pueblocounty.us

**Public Information Officer**  
719-583-6534  
uhernik@pueblocounty.us

**Public Trustee**  
719-545-0821

**Public Works**  
719-583-6040  
manseaut@pueblocounty.us

**Purchasing**  
719-583-6095  
purchasing@pueblocounty.us

**Retirement**  
719-583-6026  
thompson@pueblocounty.us

**Surveyor**  
719-253-0874  
reevesr@pueblocounty.us

**Talent & People Services**  
719-583-6500  
humanresources@pueblocounty.us

**Treasurer**  
719-583-6015  
archuletta@pueblocounty.us

**Workplace Policy & Compliance**  
719-583-4207

## **CLERK & RECORDER**

**Deputy Clerk**  
719-583-6515  
longk@pueblocounty.us

**Motor Vehicle**  
719-583-6507

**ADA Plates**  
719-583-4571

**Elections**  
719-583-6620

**Recording**  
719-583-6625  
county.pueblo.org/recording

**Marriage Licenses / Real Estate**  
719-583-6628  
county.pueblo.org/marriagelicenses

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

**Director's Office**  
719-583-6962  
320 W. 10th St.  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Adult Protection Division**  
719-583-6853  
320 W. 10th St.  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Child Welfare Division**  
719-583-6901  
405 W. 9th St.  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Assistance Payments Center**  
719-253-7850  
320 W. 10th St.  
Pueblo CO 81003

**LEAP**  
719-583-6987  
2631 E. 4th Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Long-Term Care Team**  
719-583-6900  
320 W. 10th St.  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Pueblo Area Agency on Aging**  
719-583-6120  
320 W. 10th St.  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Report Child Abuse**  
719-583-6901  
844-CO-4-KIDS

**USDA Food Programs**  
719-583-6316  
2631 E. 4th St. Pueblo CO 81003

**Veteran Services**  
719-583-4544  
320 W. 10th St.  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Weatherization**  
719-583-6313  
2631 E. 4th St.  
Pueblo CO 81003

**PUEBLO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Main Office /  
Detention Center**

719-583-6125  
909 Court Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Emergency Services Bureau**

719-583-6200  
101 W. 10th Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**SUBSTATIONS**

**CSU Pueblo**

719-549-2373  
2200 Bonforte Blvd.  
Pueblo, CO 81008

**West Substation**

719-583-4730  
320 E. Joe Martinez Blvd.  
Pueblo West, CO 81007

**South Substation**

719-676-3222  
4497 Bent Brothers Blvd.  
Colorado City, CO 81019

**COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES**

**Health Department**

719-583-4300  
101 W. 9th Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Judicial Building**

719-404-8700  
501 Elizabeth Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Municipal Court**

719-562-3810  
200 S. Main Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Driver's License**

719-543-5164  
827 W. 4th Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Pueblo City Hall**

719-553-2489  
1 City Hall Place  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Pueblo Police Dept.**

719-553-2538  
200 S. Main Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Catholic Charities**

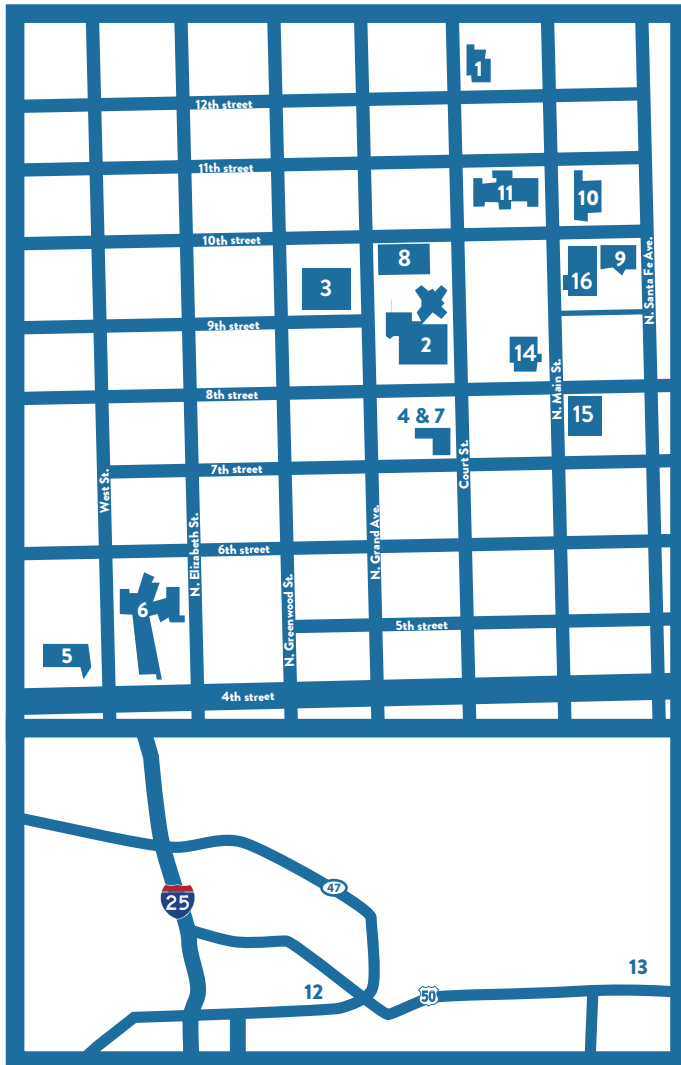
719-544-4233  
429 W. 10th Street  
Pueblo CO 81003

**Posada**

719-545-8776

**Community Soup Kitchen**

719-545-6540  
422 W. 7th Street  
Pueblo CO 81003



**COUNTY MAP**

- 1** PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
- 2** PUEBLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/JAIL
- 3** DHS FAMILY SERVICES CENTER
- 4** CSU EXTENSION
- 5** FLEET DEPARTMENT
- 6** DENNIS MAES JUDICIAL BUILDING
- 7** DISTRICT ATTORNEY
- 8** DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
- 9** HEALTH DEPARTMENT
- 10** EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU
- 11** HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
- 12** HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES
- 13** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
- 14** FORMER WELLS FARGO BUILDING
- 15** ELECTIONS
- 16** PUEBLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATIONS



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**[County.Pueblo.org](http://County.Pueblo.org)**