LA PLATA COUNTY ELECTION DAY IS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2000

THE OFFICES OF THE LA PLATA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER WILL BE HOLDING A GENERAL ELECTION

EARLY VOTING WILL BE OCTOBER 23RD THRU NOVEMBER 3RD, 2000 WITHIN THE OFFICES OF THE LA PLATA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER LOCATED AT 1060 EAST 2ND AVE ROOM 134 AND SHALL BE OPEN DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS FROM 8:00 AM TO 5:00. EARLY VOTING IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE BRANCH OFFICE IN BAYFIELD AT 455 EAST COLORADO AVENUE BAYFIELD, COLORADO, AND SHALL BE OPEN FROM 8:AM TO 12:30 AND 1:30 TO 5:00 PM.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH NOVEMBER 3RD, 2000 AT THE CLERK & RECORDERS OFFICE IN DURANGO AND THE BAYFIELD MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE IN BAYFIELD.BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BACK IN OUR OFFICE BY 7:00 PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2000.

ON ELECTION DAY, THE CLERK & RECORDERS OFFICE AND THE BAYFIELD OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM FOR RECEIVING BALLOTS AND ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS.

Linda Daley, Designated Election Official
Durango 382-6296

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, THE FOLLOWING NOTICE IS GIVEN WHICH INCLUDES THE ISSUES, IF SUBMITTED. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIES WERE PREPARED FROM MATERIAL FILED BY PERSONS REQUIRED BY LAW TO PROVIDE SUMMARIES OF BALLOT ISSUES AND FISCAL INFORMATION.

Any State Ballot issues and comments will be sent and published by the Secretary of State's office.

YOU MAY OR MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON ALL ISSUES PRESENTED

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT !!

"MEASURES REFERRED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION ARE LISTED BY LETTER, AND MEASURES INDICATED BY THE PEOPLE ARE LISTED NUMERICALLY. A 'YES' VOTE ON ANY MEASURE IS A VOTE IN FAVOR OF CHANGING CONSTITUTIONAL OR STATUTORY LAW, AND A 'NO' VOTE ON ANY MEASURE IS A VOTE AGAINST CHANGING CONSTITUTIONAL OR STATUTORY LAW.

REFERENDUM 1A

SHALL LA PLATA COUNTY TAXES INCREASE $3.13 MILLION ANNUALLY (ESTIMATED REVENUES IN THE YEAR 2001) AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RECEIVED THEREAFTER FROM THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAXES AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED 2.66 MILLS BEGINNING IN TAX COLLECTION YEAR 2001 AND ENDING AFTER THE TAX COLLECTIONS IN 2020 FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

PAYING COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING A NEW COUNTY JAIL TO BE LOCATED ON COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE CURRENT COUNTY JAIL;

AND SHALL THE COUNTY BE PERMITTED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND EXPEND SUCH TAXES AND INCOME THEREON AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND PROPERTY TAX REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND TO EXCEED THE 5.5% PROPERTY TAX REVENUE GROWTH LIMITATION CONTAINED IN SECTION 29-1-301 COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, AND ANY OTHER REVENUE LIMITATION CONTAINED IN THE LAWS OF THE STATE?

YES _____ NO _____

FISCAL YEAR SPENDING

Total County Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year	
2000 (estimated)	$30,783,702 Includes $10.6 million in road and bridge capital projects, equipment and facilities.
1999 (actual)	$24,561,536 Includes $6.6 million in road and bridge capital projects, equipment and facilities.
1998 (actual)	$19,955,679
1997 (actual)	$20,830,786
1996 (actual)	$19,138,689
Overall percentage change from 1996 to 2000	61%
Overall dollar change from 1996 to 2000	$11,645,013

Proposed Tax Increase

County Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2001 (the First Full Year of the Proposed Tax Increase):

QUESTION NO. 1A: $ 3,130,000

County Estimate of 2001 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increase: $31.464,220
Includes $10.1 million in road and bridge capital projects, equipment and facilities expenditures.

Summary of Written Comments FOR Question No. 1A:

Question 1A requests permission from La Plata County voters to increase the property tax mill levy by 2.66 mills to fund the construction of a 222-bed detention facility adjacent to the existing jail and a portion of the increased operational cost. For comparative purposes, the resulting tax increase on a property owner with a home valued at $150,000 would be approximately $3.24 per month. In 20 years, after the jail construction costs are paid, the entire 2.66 mill levy increase will be eliminated.

Building a new county jail is a must:

- **The existing jail, a former rifle scope factory, was retrofit to become the county jail in 1987. Due to the limitations of the original structure, the jail was inefficiently designed, and the poor lines of sight place deputies at risk performing even routine functions.**
- **Since opening, the jail has been plagued with chronic structural, mechanical and electrical problems that are labor intensive and increasingly costly to maintain.**
- **The jail was originally designed to house 88 inmates. Over time has been remodeled to create more bed space; yet it is consistently overcrowded. In fact, the average daily population has increased 116% from 1992 to 2000, from 51 inmates per day to 110 inmates per day.**
- **To keep the jail population in check, numerous alternatives to incarceration are employed for certain non-violent offenders who do not pose a threat to public safety and are likely to appear in court. Despite these proactive efforts, the jail population continues to climb.**
- **The increased jail population reflects the "get tough" attitude on the part of citizens towards persons convicted of serious crimes, mandatory sentencing guidelines, increased bonds requirements and penalties for certain types of crimes, and local population growth.**
- **Crowded conditions cause friction and direct conflict amount inmates, creating a difficult and unsafe environment for deputies. These conditions, coupled with poor facility design and infrastructure deficiencies, create a potential liability for the county and its taxpayers and a threat to officer safety that would be irresponsible to ignore.**

The proposed detention facility is a no-frills, constitutionally compliant and efficiently designed facility that will meet the county's detention facility needs through 2020. The facility is expandable to 333 beds without additional construction or staffing increases by simply adding additional beds in certain cell units.

The total project cost is $24.6 million, and $21 million will be financed with the proposed mill levy increase. The county does not have adequate revenues to absorb the proposed jail costs. Consequently, if the county cannot generate new revenue to pay for the facility, the costs will need to be paid from existing revenue streams, directly impacting present services that citizens have come to expect and enjoy, and curtailing other capital improvements projects.

By voting "yes" and investing in a new jail, taxpayers will avoid the rick of costly litigation, prevent a federal court mandate to build a new jail, ensure that deputies work in a safe, secure environment, and preserve public safety.

Summary of written comments against the proposal:

THERE WERE NO COMMENTS FILED AGAINST THE ISSUE BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEADLINE

BALLOT QUESTION 4A

SHALL THE IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT OF LA PLATA COUNTY COLORADO BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, EXPEND OR RETAIN THE FULL AMOUNT OF ANY REVENUE RECEIVED AFTER JANUARY 1, 2001 FROM ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING NON-FEDERAL GRANTS, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY RESTRICTION ON REVENUE OR SPENDING, INCLUDING THE REVENUE GROWTH LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN C.R.S. 29-1-302, AND IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT ONE), SUCH APPROVAL TO CONSTITUTE A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE?

YES _____ NO _____

BALLOT QUESTION 4B

SHALL THE IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT'S TAXES BE INCREASED SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS ($64,000.00) ANNUALLY (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE) AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY AN ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX LEVY OF .657 MILLS, WHICH INCREASE WOULD CAUSE THE DISTRICT'S TOTAL MILL LEVY TO BE 1.000 MILLS, AND SHALL SUCH INCREASE IN REVENUES AND ANY INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE-RAISING OR OTHER LIMITATION OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW; AND SHALL THE REVENUE FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON ALSO BE APPROVED FOR 2001 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER AS AN INCREASED LEVY UNDER THE REVENUE GROWTH LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN C.R.S. 29-1-302?

YES _____ NO _____

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

FISCAL YEAR SPENDING

YEAR	SPENDING	%CHANGE	DOLLAR CHANGE
2000-estimated	$32,265.00	(24.6%)	($10,514.00)
1999	$42,779.00	6.4%	$ 2.587.00
1998	$40,192.00	15.5%	$ 5,398.00
1997	$34,794.00	(21.2%)	($9,371.00)
1996	$44,165.00	N/A	N/A
ESTIMATED 2001 SPENDING WITHOUT TAX INCREASE:		$34,524.00	
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM 2001 TAX INCREASE IF APPROVED:		$64,000.00	

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS **FOR** THE BALLOT ISSUE:

Increased revenue is necessary to enable the library to return to the previous hours and services. An increase to the level requested will allow the library to be open seven days a week, with two full time employees, increasing services to the public.

Library resources will be more readily available with the increase in hours.

A budgetary increase will allow the library to purchase materials to meet the demand of the public, thus requiring fewer interlibrary referrals and loans.

Increased hours and services will attract more users.

Property tax is the only funding source available to the library, and those revenues are falling far short of the amounts needed to keep pace with the demand of the library users.

Library services have always been free of charge to users, but even if fees were charged, they would not begin to cover the costs of needed services, and would only be a hardship to the users.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS **AGAINST** THE BALLOT ISSUE:

No comments were filed by the Constitutional deadline.

GENERAL VOTER INFORMATION

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION. AS SHOWN ON THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION RECORD:

AN ACTIVE VOTER IS ONE WHO EITHER:

1. VOTED IN THE NOVEMBER 5, 1996 ELECTION
2. REGISTERED TO VOTE BEFORE OCTOBER 10, 2000
3. ADDRESS OR OTHER CHANGE WAS MADE ON THEIR VOTER RECORD BEFORE OCTOBER 10, 2000 MAKING THEIR REGISTRATION ACTIVE.

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 10, 2000 TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION

F YOU HAVE MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS SINCE THE LAST ELECTION, AND HAVE NOT REGISTERED THAT CHANGE WITH OUR OFFICE, YOU MUST DO SO 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION!

)URING EARLY VOTING BETWEEN OCTOBER 23 THRU NOVEMBER 3RD, 2000 THE BALLOT WILL BE GIVEN ONLY TO THE /OTER THAT IS REGISTERED. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO RECEIVE ANOTHER PERSON'S BALLOT.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST FROM NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 3RD. APPLYING AS SOON AS 'OSSIBLE WILL ENSURE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT. BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED IN THE RETURN 'ERIFICATION ENVELOPE THAT IS PROVIDED, BY NOVEMBER 7, 2000.

'HE RETURN VERIFICATION ENVELOPES WILL NOT BE OPENED OR COUNTED UNLESS THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE OBSERVED:

. SIGNATURE AND BIRTHDAY MUST BE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE AS INDICATED.

. ONLY ONE VOTER BALLOT PER VERIFICATION ENVELOPE PLEASE.

'ROPERTY OWNERS: REGISTERED VOTERS RESIDING ELSEWHERE BUT OWNING PROPERTY WITHIN A SPECIAL DISTRICT N LA PLATA COUNTY AS SHOWN BY THE RECORDS OF THE LA PLATA COUNTY ASSESSOR ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE ON THAT PECIAL DISTRICT'S BALLOT QUESTION (S).

F ***YOU QUALIFY***, YOU MAY REQUEST A SPECIAL PROPERTY OWNER'S BALLOT FOR THAT SPECIAL DISTRICT QUESTION (S) BY OING TO THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, OR BY MAILED REQUEST. (1060 EAST 2ND AVENUE, DURANGO, CO 81301)

QUALIFICATIONS ARE:

1. THE OWNER OF TAXABLE REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT,
2. OR THE SPOUSE OF A PERSON WHO IS THE OWNER OF TAXABLE REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT, OR
3. A PERSON WHO IS OBLIGATED TO PAY TAXES UNDER A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT.