

Did you know that both La Plata County and the City of Durango
are Considering Raising Taxes on Marijuana?

Some Facts You Should Know about the Current Taxation of Marijuana:

- Currently, retail marijuana sales are taxed at a rate of 20%
 - 15% is a state special sales tax (of which 15% goes to the local licensing authority, i.e. Durango/La Plata County)
 - 3% is Durango's sales tax
 - 2% is La Plata's sales tax

Alcohol is taxed at a rate of only 7.9% (which is remarkable considering the Colorado Constitutional Amendment states that marijuana shall be "TAXED IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO ALCOHOL".

(source: <http://www.fcgov.com/mmj/pdf/amendment64.pdf>)

Marijuana has an excise tax (i.e. wholesale tax) rate of 15%. Alcohol has an excise tax rate, which depends on the type of alcohol, but is much lower. For example, beer: 8 cents per gallon.

(source: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/revenue/colorado-liquor-excise-taxes>)

Legalized marijuana has *not* increased crime rates (source: <https://coloradopolitics.com/despite-claims-data-show-legalized-marijuana-not-increased-crime-rates/>)

In fact, a Colorado Department of Public Safety report showed a 6 percent decrease in the violent crime rate statewide from 2009 to 2014 (source: <http://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2016-SB13-283-Rpt.pdf>)

In April 2017 alone (the most recent month of published information), retail marijuana sales generated the following tax revenue:

- from the 2.9% state sales tax: \$3,511,986
- from the 10% special sales tax: \$8,186,608
- from the 15% excise tax: \$5,699,916
- from all taxes, fees and licenses: \$18,563,939

(source: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/revenue/colorado-marijuana-tax-data>)

From January to May 2017, the City of Durango has collected **\$321, 369** of sales tax from marijuana sales alone. (source: <http://www.durangogov.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/286>)

ON TOP of its 3% sales tax, Durango has received the following amounts through May 2017 from the special sales tax:

- \$26,322 in January
- \$27, 021 in February
- \$32,463 in March
- \$31, 680 in April

(source: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/revenue/colorado-marijuana-tax-data>)

There are currently approximately 40 marijuana licenses in La Plata County/Durango.
The industry as a whole employs hundreds of people