

Special District Association of Colorado

SDA NEWS

APRIL 2025

Supporting Community-Based Government

Election Judges and Watchers

Who are They
and What Can
They Do?

50
YEARS

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Designed by Emmett Jordan

2025 SDA Annual Regional Workshops Headed to a Town Near You!

SDA and the law firm of Collins Cole Winn & Ulmer, PLLC are pleased to be hitting the road in June to bring you these lively and educational trainings. And this will be the perfect time right after the May elections!

These workshops apply to all types of districts and are sure to provide a wealth of valuable information for your district. We will cover a wide variety of important topics such as minutes, meeting formats, open meetings, conflicts of interests, public records, and CSD Pool programs to help your district be safer, just to name a few. On top of all this, we will give you the scoop on this year's legislative changes and how they affect your district. And, there will of course be plenty of time to answer all your questions, big or small.

Whether you are a Board member or district employee, a seasoned professional or brand new to your position, we will have something for everyone (don't forget these workshops are for all district types, not just Title 32 districts). Plus, this is a great way for any newly elected or appointed Board members to dive right into the special district world.

Did we mention that every attendee will also receive a copy of the 2025 SDA Board Member Manual and the legislative update for 2025?

Having this many pertinent and timely issues discussed all in one place is an opportunity you can't afford to miss!

Registration will be opening soon so make sure to watch your emails and the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for all the details. The cost is \$40 per person.

We can't wait to see you in June!



Parker | Tuesday, June 10

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Parker Water and Sanitation District

Northglenn | Wednesday, June 11

8:00 am-12:30 pm

North Metro Fire Rescue District

Kersey | Thursday, June 12

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Platte Valley Fire Protection District

Fountain | Friday, June 13

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Fountain Sanitation District

Evergreen | Wednesday, June 18

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Evergreen Fire Protection District

Durango | Friday, June 20

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Durango Fire Protection District

Salida | Monday, June 23

8:00 am-12:30 pm

The SteamPlant Event Center
Riverside Annex

Clifton | Tuesday, June 24

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Clifton Water District

Vail | Wednesday, June 25

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Vail Recreation District
Golf and Nordic Clubhouse

Granby | Thursday, June 26

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Grand Fire Protection District

A note from SDA CEO Ann Terry: We are once again featuring a front-page article, this time from March 1993, for our stroll down memory lane feature this month. This article discusses Amendment One, also known as the TABOR Amendment, which at that time had just recently passed. Also check out the Spring Workshop information from that year (we now call them the Annual Regional Workshops)!

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

225 E. 16th Avenue, Suite 1120 / Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303/863-1733 / Fax: 303/863-1765 / Toll Free: 800/886-1733



MARCH, 1993

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

Theodore Roosevelt

AMENDMENT ONE

The professed objective of the recently passed TABOR Amendment (Amendment One), was to "allow the taxpayers to vote on taxes." As we learn more about the terms and impacts of the Amendment, one thing becomes increasingly clear. Governmental entities are going to be forced into regular "ballot issue" elections.

Even the best of planning and management will eventually be rewarded by the need to seek voter approval, whether for a mill levy increase, an increase in spending limits or revenue limits, a request to be able to keep excess revenue received because of some extraordinary increase in collection of fees or taxes, or a request of the voters to suspend some of the provisions of Amendment One for up to four years. Because of the so-called "ratchet-down effect", not only special districts, but cities, counties and school districts will all face the scrutiny of the taxpaying public through review and approval of existing as well as new services or expanded levels of service.

By adopting Amendment One, the voters asked to become the decision makers in all substantial governmental needs. The interest, willingness and ability of the voting public to make all the decisions they are going to be asked to make will depend upon the trust the voters have in their governments, and their understanding of government operation, costs, goals, and direction.

It appears that in most cases, taxpayers currently have neither the trust, knowledge, nor the interest to work effectively with all the various levels of government that affect their lives. Elections are going to become more frequent, more complex, more costly, and inevitably more frustrating. In working with election officials from cities, counties, school districts and state offices, the logistics of the coordinated elections called for under Amendment One will be horrendous.

The successful operation of special districts will become increasingly dependent upon the development of a strong partnership with the voters in the district. This means that the days of board members being elected for life, and making decisions for years with little or no citizen input unless the water stops flowing or the toilet backs up, are probably over.



The elements of a strong partnership with voters consist of the following:

1. Knowledge and understanding of the operation and financing of the district. Voters are unlikely to vote for a spending increase unless they understand what it is for and why it is necessary.
2. A sense of involvement. Much of the animosity between voters and "government" today reflects an "us versus them" attitude, with many people having the attitude that government is the enemy. Nowhere is this attitude more wrong than in special districts, but the attitude is far too prevalent.
3. Trust of governmental bodies by voters. If districts are going to prevail in elections to continue or expand services, the voters must have confidence that they are being told the truth. This implies openness, truthfulness, and regular effective communication to the voters. Unfortunately, a frequent lament of district boards and administrators is that voters don't care to know about the details of the operation of the district until a problem arises. But the ability of a district to succeed in its relations with its voters may well depend upon its ability to communicate on a regular basis before the crisis develops.

In light of the above, the SDA Annual Workshops in June will concentrate on the issues of elections and taxpayer relations. Not only will it be important to understand all the new developments in election laws, but also to develop greater skills in voter relations and communication.

1993 SDA SPRING WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

The SDA Spring Workshops for all Board Members are scheduled for:

Pueblo - June 22 ■ Fort Collins - June 23 ■ Denver - June 24
Durango - June 28 ■ Grand Junction - June 29

Workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. Registration and program information will be mailed early in May. Please refer to future newsletter articles for more information.

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***A note from SDA CEO Ann Terry:** This News from Around the State information was also from the March 1993 newsletter and features some interesting tidbits from different districts as well as a new member update.*

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

The Parker Fire Protection District and the Miller Lifesafety Center recently held a class to teach parents the skills their children may need to know to handle medical or fire emergencies. The class provided parents age-appropriate life saving skills which they can teach their children in the event they are called on to handle a life-threatening emergency and have to call for help.

The Clifton Water District will be retiring their \$2,300,000 general obligation bond issue which was approved by the voters of the Clifton Water District in 1977. The bonds were retired four years earlier than scheduled at a savings of about \$215,000 in interest payments.

The West Adams County Fire Protection District has learned that six brands of the battery-powered smoke detectors are being recalled because they may not sound an alarm during a fire or smoke situation.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, anyone who purchased one of the detection devices after July 10, 1992, should check the unit immediately to see if it is being recalled. The detectors are made by the Seatt Corp.

Owners of Black and Decker detectors should call 1-800-952-1331 or return the unit to a Black and Decker service center. Owners of other detection devices should call 1-800-492-4949.

For more information, call the West Adams County Fire Protection District, Fire Prevention Division at 452-9910.

NEW MEMBER UPDATE



SDA welcomes the following new districts: **Frederick Area Fire District; Plum Creek Wastewater Authority District; Steamboat Lake Sanitation District and Steamboat Lake Water District.** New associate members are as follows: **Anderson Services, Inc.**, providing services for T.V. inspection of pipelines, cleaning of pipelines, vacuum truck service for pipelines, basins, structures, etc. and **Black & Veatch**, providing complete environmental engineering and management services.

Election Corner ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

From now through the May election, please look here for reminders of important dates to keep in mind for election items for the month. Below are the items to keep in mind for April. And, don't forget to watch your emails and the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for information on additional election training and resources.

May 6, 2025 Regular Mail Ballot Election Calendar		
Date	Action	Authority
4-4-25	Last day for County Clerk and Recorder to certify initial list of registered voters and County Assessor shall certify initial list of property owners (no later than 30 days prior to election). NOTE: These lists should be requested to be received prior to this date since the TABOR Notice must also be mailed this date. Designated Election Official shall have available printed ballots (at least 30 days prior to election). Mail TABOR Notice to each household where an active registered elector of the District resides (at least 30 days before the election).	1-13.5-203(1)(a) 1-13.5-204(2) 1-13.5-1105(2)(a) 1-13.5-902(1)(a) Article X, Section 20(3) (b), Colorado Constitution
4-14-25	Designated Election Official may begin mailing to each eligible elector, who is an active registered elector, a mail ballot package, including property owners who are active registered electors, but may not reside within the District. Mail ballots shall be made available at the office of the Designated Election Official, or the office designated in the mail ballot plan, for eligible electors who are not listed on the voter registration or property owners lists, but who are authorized to vote (not sooner than 22 days prior to election).	1-13.5-1105(4)(a) 1-13.5-1105(4)(d)
4-15-25	FCPA NOTE: File Candidate Committee or Issues Committee Report of Contributions and Expenditures pursuant to the Fair Campaign Practices Act with the Secretary of State (21st day before the election).	1-45-108(2)(a)(II)
4-16-25	Last day to publish Notice of the election once (at least 20 days before the election). Post Notice in the office of the Designated Election Official. Mail a copy of the Notice to the County Clerk and Recorder of each county in which the special district is located. DEBT OR OTHER FINANCIAL OBLIGATION election. Post notice of additional financial information on District's website, or if no website, in the chief administrative office of the District (no later than 20 days before the election). County Clerk and Recorder shall supply supplemental list of registered voters and County Assessor shall supply supplemental list of property owners (no later than 20 days prior to election).	1-13.5-502(1) 1-13.5-502(2) 1-13.5-1105(2)(d) 1-13.5-503(2) 1-7-908(1)(a) 1-13.5-203(1)(a) 1-13.5-204(2) 1-13.5-1105(2)(b)
4-21-25	Last day to mail the ballot packages (no later than 15 days before the election).	1-13.5-1105(4)(a)
4-21-25	Designated Election Official shall appoint election judges (at least 15 days prior to election). Designated Election Official shall mail certificates of appointment and acceptance forms to each person appointed. Each election judge shall file an acceptance of appointment with the Designated Election Official within seven (7) days after certificate of appointment and acceptance forms were mailed. Designated Election Official shall appoint at least one member of the special district Board and at least one eligible elector of the special district who is not a member of such Board to serve with the Designated Election Official as the Canvass Board for the election (at least 15 days prior to election). Election Judges may receive and prepare mail ballots for tabulation. Counting of the mail ballots may begin fifteen (15) days prior to the election and continue until counting is completed.	1-13.5-401(1) 1-13.5-403 1-13.5-404 1-13.5-1301(1) 1-13.5-1107

May 6, 2025 Regular Polling Place Election Calendar		
Date	Action	Authority
4-4-25	If requested, County Clerk and Recorder shall certify initial list of registered voters and County Assessor shall certify initial list of property owners (no later than 30 days prior to election). Designated Election Official shall have available printed ballots (at least 30 days prior to election).	1-13.5-203(1)(a) 1-13.5-204(2) 1-13.5-902(1)(a)
4-7-25	Mail absentee voter's ballot to each of those eligible electors on the list of permanent absentee voters or those eligible electors who have applied for an absentee ballot (not more than 72 hours after the blank ballots have been received).	1-13.5-1002(2)(b)
4-15-25	FCPA NOTE: File Candidate Committee or Issues Committee Report of Contributions and Expenditures pursuant to the Fair Campaign Practices Act with the Secretary of State (21st day before the election).	1-45-108(2)(a)(II)
4-16-25	Last day to publish Notice of the election once (at least 20 days before the election). Post Notice in the office of the Designated Election Official. Mail a copy of the Notice to the County Clerk and Recorder of each county in which the District is located. Post Polling Place sign at each polling place (at least 20 days prior to election). If requested, County Clerk and Recorder shall supply supplemental list of registered voters and County Assessor shall supply supplemental list of property owners (no later than 20 days prior to election).	1-13.5-502(1) 1-13.5-502(2) 1-13.5-502(3) 1-13.5-203(1)(a) 1-13.5-204(2)
4-21-25	Designated Election Official shall appoint election judges (at least 15 days prior to election). Designated Election Official shall mail certificates of appointment and acceptance forms to each person appointed. Each election judge shall file an acceptance of appointment with the Designated Election Official within seven (7) days after certificate of appointment and acceptance forms were mailed. Designated Election Official shall appoint at least one member of the special district Board and at least one eligible elector of the special district who is not a member of such Board to serve with the Designated Election Official as the Canvass Board for the election (at least 15 days prior to election).	1-13.5-401(1) 1-13.5-403 1-13.5-404 1-13.5-1301(1)
4-24-25	If the District is using voting machines or an electronic voting system for the use of absentee voters, such voting machines or electronic voting system must be available from 12 days prior to the election until the close of business on the Friday preceding the election.	1-13.5-1007(1) 1-13.5-1007(2)
4-29-25	Last day to request an absentee ballot (close of business on Tuesday preceding election).	1-13.5-1002(1)(b)
4-30-25	If requested, County Clerk and Recorder shall supply the complete list of registered voters and County Assessor shall supply the complete list of property owners (as of the 6th day prior to the election).	1-13.5-203(1)(a) 1-13.5-204(2)



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SDA Legislative Briefings

Your All-in-One Place for Legislative Information and Discussion

Did you know that the SDA Legislative Briefings are the perfect way to not only hear the latest updates on legislative hot topics, but to also weigh in on the important issues we're discussing?

These briefings, held every other week via Zoom, are a one-stop shop for all things legislation. We provide the latest up-to-date information on proposed bills at the Capitol and give you time to ask questions and weigh in on how these issues could impact your district.

And, since all the briefings are held via Zoom, it is easy for anyone from across the state to participate!

Below is the schedule for April:

- » Tuesday, April 1 at 12:00 pm
- » Tuesday, April 15 at 12:00 pm
- » Tuesday, April 29 at 12:00 pm

To register, please visit our website at www.sdaco.org.

Mark your calendars now, and we look forward to having you join us! 🍂



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Election Judges and Watchers

Who are They and What Can They Do?

Editor's Note: This information was adapted from a previous Ask Evan question. It is helpful for this election year as well so we are pleased to share it again.

Judges

For every special district election, the governing body, or the DEO if authorized, shall appoint at least two Election Judges and may appoint additional Judges as deemed necessary for the conducting of the election. *§1-13.5-402, C.R.S.*

Election Judges must be registered to vote in Colorado and be at least 18 years of age. Judges in special district elections are appointed without regard to party affiliation. *§1-13.5-401, C.R.S.*

Judges may be appointed for specific tasks, such as Supply Judge, Counting Judges, and Judges at polling places. Each Election Judge is entitled to receive compensation for their services and may be paid expenses and reasonable compensation for attending Judges' training sessions, which they are expected to attend.

Compensation can be set for the various tasks and must be uniform for all Judges. The DEO may find that it is difficult to attract Judges to serve unless the compensation is at a worthwhile level. Judges must provide their social security number to the DEO.

Watchers

Each candidate, and parties that are interested in a ballot issue or ballot question, are entitled to appoint a person, who must be an eligible elector, to act on his or her behalf in every polling place in which he or she is a candidate or in which the issue or question is on the ballot.

Note: The DEO may, by lot, reduce the number of Watchers

to one for and one against the ballot issue or ballot question for each location where Watchers are allowed. *§1-13.5-602(1), C.R.S.*

Watchers must be eligible electors, and since special district elections are nonpartisan, Watchers are not designated or appointed pursuant to political parties, as they would normally be in partisan elections. Watchers are required to take an oath, swearing or affirming that they are eligible electors; that their name has been submitted to the DEO as a Watcher for this election; and that they will not in any manner make known to anyone the result of vote counting until after the polls have closed.

Note: Neither a current candidate for Director nor any immediate family member, to the second degree, of such candidate is eligible to serve as a Watcher for that candidate. *§1-13.5-602(1)(a)(1), C.R.S.*

A Watcher has the right to:

- » Maintain a list of eligible electors as the names are announced by the Election Judges;
- » Witness and verify each step in the conduct of the election from prior to the opening of the polls through the completion of the count and announcement of the results;
- » Challenge ineligible electors; and
- » Assist in the correction of discrepancies. *§1-13.5-602(1)(c), C.R.S.*

On the other hand, Watchers may observe the procedures and the actions of the Judges, but may not:

- » Interrupt or disrupt the processing, verification, and counting of any ballots or any other stage of the election;

- » Write down any ballot numbers or any other identifying information about electors;
- » Handle the poll books; self-affirming oath and affirmation forms; ballots; mail ballot envelopes; mail-in ballot envelopes or provisional ballot envelopes; voting or counting machines; or machine components;
- » Interfere with the orderly process and conduct of any election, including issuing ballots, receiving ballots, voting, or counting of ballots;
- » Interact with election officials or Judges. Their concerns should be aired with the DEO, not Judges or other officials;
- » Watchers are not allowed to have a cellular phone, camera, recording device, laptop or tablet, or other electronic data capture device in the polling place. *§1-13.5-602(3), C.R.S.*

A Watcher who commits or encourages fraud; violates any of the prohibited behaviors outlined above; violates the oath that he or she has taken; is abusive or threatening toward election officials or other persons in the polling area; or is generally disruptive to the election process, may be removed by the DEO. *§1-13.5-602(4), C.R.S.* 🗳️

Election Judge Training is Coming Soon!

Please keep an eye on our website at www.sdaco.org for Election Judge Training for both mail ballot and polling place elections.

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2025 Leadership Academy Kicks Off with Special Guest Speaker!

The 2025 SDA Leadership Academy is officially underway, and we are pleased to welcome 47 new Leadership Fellows for this year! An interesting feature of this class is that many of them are based outside of the immediate Denver area; almost 30 Fellows drove 30 or more miles to attend the first class.

Our inaugural session was held on February 19 and featured special guest speaker, Nick Kittle. Nick spent the last 15 years working in government, during which time he directed 17 different divisions and founded one of the first government innovation offices in the country. Moreover, Nick has developed over 65 unique or first-of-their-kind pilot projects while directly generating \$7.8 million in savings and pioneering the concept of Innovation Value.

In his keynote presentation, Nick discussed the concept of “Sustainovation,” explaining the nature of innovation in government and the powerful role we all play in

making Sustainovation a reality in our organizations.

Anthoney Sandoval, the Leadership Academy Program Director, is excited to begin a new year of the program. “We have another exceptional cohort of leaders to work with, and I can’t wait to watch their development as we advance through the year.”

Ann Terry, SDA’s CEO, is also thrilled to welcome a new class of Leadership Fellows. “Every year we look forward to offering this unique training program to a new group of strong and diverse leaders from our district and associate members. We are always excited to provide new tools and resources to these leaders that can then be applied at their districts and organizations.”

The Leadership Academy will continue to meet throughout the year. The next class is scheduled for April 23 and will feature the ever-popular adaptive leadership presentation based on the famous 1914 Shackleton expedition in Antarctica. 🍌

It’s Almost Time to Submit Your Nominations for the 2025 SDA Annual Awards!

Do you know a District Manager, Fire Chief, Executive Director, or Board member who has made extraordinary contributions in his or her role? If so, now is your chance to nominate an exceptional person for a 2025 SDA Annual Award!

Each year at the SDA Annual Conference, we have the pleasure of honoring outstanding individuals with awards and recognitions in the following categories:

- » Manager of the Year
- » Board Member of the Year

This year the awards will be presented at the

Annual Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, September 16 during the SDA Annual Conference in Keystone.

The nominations will be opening soon so please watch your emails and the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for more details and the link to complete the easy online form.

If you have any questions about the awards, please contact Anthoney Sandoval at 303-863-1733 or anthoney@sdaco.org.

SDA is pleased for the opportunity to recognize the people who demonstrate remarkable dedication to serving the citizens of our state. We look forward to receiving your nominations!

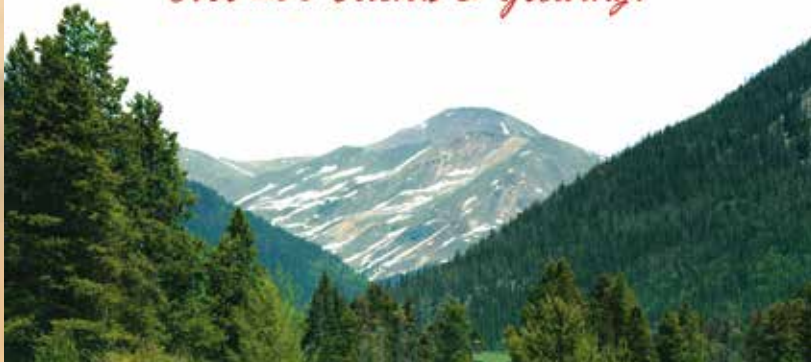
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Making the Most of Your CSD Pool Membership With...

Sign In Solutions

Guest article by the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool

The Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool (CSD Pool) remains committed to our more than 2,500 public entities as *Your Risk Management Partner*. Each month, we are focusing on a different program or service we offer our membership, either at no cost or at a discounted rate. This month's highlight is on our Sign In Solutions for members of the CSD Pool.

Sign In Solutions is a powerful mitigation software that can be tailored to the unique visitor management needs of the public sector. Designed to enhance security, ensure compliance, and improve operational efficiency, it helps organizations seamlessly manage visitors, contractors, and employees. It can be used on phones, tablets, and other devices set up for entry into buildings.

With customizable workflows, robust reporting tools, and integrations with key systems, Sign In Solutions ensures your facility stays secure while meeting the highest standards of compliance.

Visitor and Employee Security

- » Automate visitor security and streamline sign-ins
- » Faster employee sign-ins that ensure secure, compliant entry
- » Keep contractors compliant and secure with full oversight
- » Automate compliance and prevent security breaches

Additional Features

- » Desk and resource booking to create a more flexible and efficient workplace
- » Meeting management to coordinate meetings and integrate workflows
- » Real-time risk assessments with actionable data

Member Benefits

- » Specialized member pricing below retail price
- » Implementation, equipment, service set-up, and maintenance included in pricing
- » Required background checks paid for by the CSD Pool
- » Eligible for 50% reimbursement of total cost via our Safety and Loss Prevention Grant Program

Your Risk Management Partner

As *Your Risk Management Partner*, we remain committed to providing specialized coverages tailored for public entities, exemplary claims support, and safety and loss prevention services to ensure everyone within the organization—from Board members to supervisors and staff—has the tools they need to succeed. If you have any questions about the resources mentioned here, please visit csdpool.org or email us at info@csdpool.org. 🍷

FUN FACTS

1975

This month's fun facts feature some of the most popular songs from 1975. Were you groovin' to any of these tunes?

"Love Will Keep Us Together"
by Captain & Tennille

"Rhinestone Cowboy"
by Glen Campbell

"Before the Next Teardrop Falls"
by Freddy Fender

"My Eyes Adored You"
by Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons

"Shining Star"
by Earth, Wind & Fire

"Fame"
by David Bowie

"Laughter in the Rain"
by Neil Sedaka

"One of These Nights"
by Eagles

"Thank God I'm a Country Boy"
by John Denver



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