



NSDA Digest – Week of October 12, 2026

40,000 Special Districts + One Voice

NSDA continues networking and building awareness!

Chantal Unfug, NSDA National Director Public Affairs, Outreach and Engagement teamed up with Erica Richardson, Texas Special District Coalition founder and CEO of Benbrook Library District on our NSDA outreach trip to Illinois to focus on Special District Libraries, connections, training and awareness.

Highlights of the trip included “boothing” with CPSHR, (THANK YOU!) NSDA business affiliate at the Illinois Library Association to try to meet a number of the over 350 library districts in Illinois, doing a deep dive into advocacy for libraries with Every Library, plotting future training with the University of Illinois Extension Services, and capping the trip off with a visit to the American Library Association to meet the Director of State and Local Government. PTMA also attended and hosted a social evening which was a highlight!

This trip is the culmination of three visits and hundreds of phone calls, zoom meetings and emails to learn more about and engage all types of Districts including Water and Soil Conservation, Fire, Drainage and Irrigation, Rural Water, Parks and Rec, cemeteries etc. With continued efforts with Illinois going into 2027, NSDA is excited to provide special district training with our partners.

Federal Advocacy Highlights

Due to Congressional Recess through November 9th, we will only post advocacy updates as needed.

Grant Funding News and Highlights: Lot of grant opportunities are being released so make sure to keep an eye on our weekly notices! <https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/weekly-grants-updates-from-tfg>.

No grants updates for this week

Webinars:

Help Shape the 2027 NSDA Webinar Series by November 1, 2026

<https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/training-webinars-on-demand>

October 8th - Cyber Security Federal Policy Update for Special Districts: What’s Changing and How to Prepare –

Click here to see presentation and recording: <https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/10-8-2026-federal-digital-policy-update-for-special-districts-what-s-changing-and-how-to-prepare>

November 12 - Essential HR Tools for Smaller Districts with CPSHR

Register here: <https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/training-webinars-on-demand>

Smaller districts face unique workforce challenges. Learn practical HR tools and strategies to support recruitment, retention, compliance, and employee management — even with limited staff and resources.

District highlight: <https://www.facebook.com/LocalDistricts>

The New York [Spencerport Fire District](#) is giving teens ages 14-17 a chance to explore firefighting through its new Junior Firefighters Program. 🇺🇸 A two-day mini academy offered hands-on training in firefighting basics, including a live vehicle fire demonstration. The program creates a path toward full membership when participants turn 18. Read more: <https://13wham.com/.../spencerport-fire-district-creates...>

Lets get Social - Follow like and repost NSDA - Help us reach a goal of having 10,000 followers!

- Districts Make the Difference: <https://www.facebook.com/LocalDistricts/>
- NSDA posts:
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [X](#)
- Bluesky: [National Special Districts Association \(@nsdadistricts.bsky.social\) — Bluesky](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/@NSDAdistricts>

Quick Links That Matter

Do you have your Member Code to see all member only resources? If not contact your Association or Chantalu@nationalspecialdistrict.org. NSDA posts the real time updates on these links below. Please check out these pages weekly to get your news to share including the latest guides and grant releases from the Ferguson Group and the Advocacy “Recaps and Look Ahead” from Manatt.

- Federal Advocacy Updates →
<https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/federal-advocacy-regular-updates>
- Advocacy News Alerts →
<https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/advocacy-news-alerts>
- Latest News and Events →
<https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/news-events>
- Grants Update →
<https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/weekly-grants-updates-from-tfg>
- Your Members-Only Events and Webinars →
<https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/training-webinars-on-demand>