



Special District Association of Colorado

To: Members, Senate Committee on State, Veterans and Military Affairs
From: Ann Terry, Executive Director, Special District Association

Support for HB18-1039, Changing Special District Elections to May of Odd Years

House Bill 18-1039, by Senator Gardner, changes Special District Elections from May of **even** numbered years to May of **odd** numbered years. The bill establishes a simple process of transition, to be accomplished by shortening terms of office of special district directors by one year for one term only.

Why?

Some of the benefits that have been discussed are as follows:

- ❖ With the number of elections that fall in the laps of county clerks in even-numbered years, including gubernatorial, legislative seats, presidential and congressional seats, and now with presidential and other primary elections, assisting special districts, even those that do not coordinate with the clerks' offices, places a great burden on clerks.
- ❖ Clerks feel that they would be more available to help districts with elections in odd-numbered years, either in helping to run district elections, or for those districts that do not work with their clerks for election assistance, the clerks are still involved in helping to get required lists, etc. It would also be easier for clerks to make election equipment, such as voting machines and counting machines available for district use.
- ❖ The change to odd years would change nothing concerning the ability of districts to conduct their own elections, to have independent mail ballot elections, polling place elections, or to cancel elections as at present. Districts that do not coordinate with their clerk now would not be required to do anything different in an odd year.
- ❖ Moving the board elections to the odd years would remove them from the media and campaign frenzy that accompanies the partisan elections that are held during even years.

How would the transition be accomplished?

HB18-1039 amends several sections of Title 32 (32-1-103(17)); (32-1-305.5(3)) and Title 1 (1-1-104(42)); (1-13.4-111(1)) to read "odd years", and decreasing board terms to three years in 2020 and 2022. In other words, the transition is accomplished by decreasing the terms to 3 years for one cycle, then all terms will revert back to four years. (Refer to the illustration on the reverse side)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
						Decrease to three year term for one term*								
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Transition Regular Special District Biennial Election from Even-numbered Year to Odd-numbered Year

Decrease the term of office of each seat that expires in 2020 or 2022, for one term only

*Special district board terms are to be staggered, with two seats up for election one year, and three seats up for election in the next election.

Reducing each term by one year as it comes up, completes the transition in 5 years.

**Decrease the election cycle by one year, resulting in a one year cycle one time only.

For more information, please contact Michael Valdez 303.887.1295, Evan Goulding 720.680.0272, or Mary Kay Hogan 303.229.1829