2020 ELECTION MANUAL

Title 1, Article 13.5: Colorado Local Government Election Code

Part 1 ---------- DEFINITIONS & GENERAL PROVISIONS

Part 2 ---------- QUALIFICATIONS & REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Part 3 ---------- NOMINATIONS

Part 4 ---------- ELECTION JUDGES

Part 5 ---------- NOTICE & PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS

Part 6 ---------- CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

Part 7 ---------- VOTING MACHINES

Part 8 ---------- ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS

Part 9 ---------- PAPER BALLOTS

Part 10 ---------- ABSENTEE VOTING

Part 11 ---------- INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS

Part 12 ---------- CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING

Part 13 ---------- SURVEY OF RETURNS

Part 14 ---------- CONTESTS

Part 15 ---------- OTHER JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Part 16 ---------- ELECTION OFFENSES

Title 1, Article 45 ---------- FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT

Title 32, Article 1, Parts 1-9: Special District Act (partial)

Parts 1 ---------- GENERAL PROVISIONS

Part 2 ---------- CONTROL ACT

Part 3 ---------- ORGANIZATION

Part 4 ---------- INCLUSION OF TERRITORY

Part 5 ---------- EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY

Part 6 ---------- CONSOLIDATION

Part 7 ---------- DISSOLUTION

Part 8 ---------- ELECTIONS

Part 9 ---------- DIRECTORS – ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Section X, Article 20, CO Const. (TABOR) ---------- The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights

ARTICLE 13.5
COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / Annotations

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

Law reviews: For article, "The New Colorado Local Government Election Code: The Greatest Thing Since Sliced Bread", see 43 Colo. Law. 39 (Sept. 2014).

BACK TO TOP

Section

PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

1-13.5-101. Short title.
1-13.5-102. Applicability of article - legislative intent.
1-13.5-103. Definitions.
1-13.5-104. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions that refer to qualified electors.
1-13.5-105. Acts legal and valid.
1-13.5-106. Applicability of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992".
1-13.5-107. Computation of time.
1-13.5-108. Powers of designated election official.
1-13.5-109. Construction.
1-13.5-110. Special elections.
1-13.5-111. Time for holding elections for special districts - type of election - manner of election - notice.
1-13.5-112. Commencement of terms - nonpartisan officers.

PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS

1-13.5-201. Registration required.
1-13.5-202. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections.
1-13.5-203. Registration records for local government elections - costs.
1-13.5-204. Lists of property owners - costs.
1-13.5-205. Delivery and custody of registration list and property owner list.

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BACK TO TOP

PART 3 NOMINATIONS

1-13.5-301. Eligibility for office - prohibitions - exceptions - challenges.
1-13.5-302. Nomination of local government candidates.
1-13.5-303. Candidates for special district or business improvement district director - self-nomination and acceptance form.
1-13.5-304. Withdrawal from nomination.
1-13.5-305. Write-in candidate affidavit.
1-13.5-306. Objections to nominations.

PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES

1-13.5-401. Appointment of election judges.
1-13.5-402. Number of judges - appointment.
1-13.5-403. Certificates of appointment.
1-13.5-404. Acceptance form - time to file.
1-13.5-405. Vacancies - emergency appointments.
1-13.5-406. Removal of judges.
1-13.5-407. Oath of judges.
1-13.5-408. Training of judges.
1-13.5-409. Compensation of judges.
1-13.5-410. Compensation for delivery of election returns and other election papers.

BACK TO TOP

PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS

1-13.5-501. Call for nominations - definitions.
1-13.5-502. Notice of election.
1-13.5-503. Ballot issue notice.
1-13.5-504. Establishing precincts and polling places - applicability.
1-13.5-504.5. Accessibility of polling places to persons with disabilities.
1-13.5-505. Judges may change polling places.
1-13.5-506. Number of voting booths, voting machines, or voting systems.
1-13.5-507. Arrangement of voting machines or voting booths and ballot boxes.
1-13.5-508. Election expenses to be paid by local government.
1-13.5-509. Failure to receive mailed notice.
1-13.5-510. Court-ordered elections.
1-13.5-511. Certification of ballot.
1-13.5-512. Correction of errors.
1-13.5-513. Election may be cancelled - when.

PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

1-13.5-601. Hours of voting.
1-13.5-602. Watchers - definition.
1-13.5-603. Judges open ballot box first.

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-604. Judge to keep pollbook.
1-13.5-605. Preparing to vote.
1-13.5-606. Manner of voting in precincts using paper ballots.
1-13.5-607. Eligible elector requiring assistance.
1-13.5-608. Spoiled ballots.
1-13.5-609. Counting paper ballots.
1-13.5-610. Counting by counting judges.
1-13.5-611. Tally sheets.
1-13.5-612. Defective ballots.
1-13.5-613. Judges' certificate - statement on ballots.
1-13.5-614. Delivery of election returns, ballot boxes, and other election papers.
1-13.5-615. Abstract of votes - judges to post returns.
1-13.5-616. Preservation of ballots and election records.
1-13.5-617. Ranked voting methods.
1-13.5-618. Covered voters to receive mail ballots.

PART 7 VOTING MACHINES

1-13.5-701. Use of voting machines.
1-13.5-702. Judges to inspect machines - when.
1-13.5-703. Sample ballots, ballot labels, and instruction cards.
1-13.5-704. Instructions to vote.
1-13.5-705. Length of time to vote.
1-13.5-706. Judge to watch voting machines.
1-13.5-707. Designated election official to supply seals for voting machines.
1-13.5-708. Close of polls and count of votes.
1-13.5-709. Election laws apply - separate absentee ballots permitted.

PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS

1-13.5-801. Use of electronic voting system.
1-13.5-802. Sample ballots.
1-13.5-803. Ballots - electronic voting.
1-13.5-804. Preparation for use - electronic voting.
1-13.5-805. Instructions to vote.
1-13.5-806. Ballots.
1-13.5-807. Distribution of ballots - receipt - filing.
1-13.5-808. Instruction cards - posting- content.
1-13.5-809. Close of polls - ballot return - transfer box - delivery.
1-13.5-810. Testing of electronic ballot counting equipment.
1-13.5-811. Electronic vote counting - procedure.
1-13.5-812. Election laws pertaining to use of electronic voting systems - separate absentee ballots permitted.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS

1-13.5-901. Ballot boxes.
1-13.5-902. Ballots and sample ballots - delivery - format.
1-13.5-903. Correction of errors.
1-13.5-904. Printing and distribution of ballots.
1-13.5-905. Substitute ballots.
1-13.5-906. Instruction cards - content.

PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING

1-13.5-1001. When absentee electors may vote.
1-13.5-1002. Application for absentee voter's ballot - delivery - list.
1-13.5-1003. Application for permanent absentee voter status.
1-13.5-1004. List of absentee voters' ballots - removal from list.
1-13.5-1005. Self-affirmation on return envelope.
1-13.5-1006. Manner of absentee voting by paper ballot.
1-13.5-1007. Absentee voters' voting machines - electronic voting systems.
1-13.5-1008. Delivery to judges.
1-13.5-1009. Casting and counting absentee voters' ballots.
1-13.5-1010. Challenge of absentee voters' ballots - rejection - record.
1-13.5-1011. Emergency absentee voting - definition.

PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS

1-13.5-1101. Independent mail ballot elections.
1-13.5-1102. Definitions.
1-13.5-1103. Independent mail ballot elections - optional - cooperation with county clerk and recorder permitted - exception.
1-13.5-1104. Preelection process - notification of independent mail ballot election - plan required - duties of designated election official.
1-13.5-1105. Procedures for conducting independent mail ballot election.
1-13.5-1105.5. Voting by electors at group residential facilities.
1-13.5-1106. Delivery of misdelivered ballots.
1-13.5-1107. Counting mail ballots.
1-13.5-1108. Write-in candidates.
1-13.5-1109. Challenges.

PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING

1-13.5-1201. No voting unless eligible.
1-13.5-1202. Right to vote may be challenged.
1-13.5-1203. Challenge to be made by written oath.
1-13.5-1204. Challenge questions asked.
1-13.5-1205. Oath of person challenged.
1-13.5-1206. Refusal to answer questions or take oath.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS

1-13.5-1301. Survey of returns - canvass board.
1-13.5-1302. Imperfect returns.
1-13.5-1303. Corrections.
1-13.5-1304. Tie - lots - notice to candidates.
1-13.5-1305. Statement - certificates of election.
1-13.5-1306. Recount.

PART 14 CONTESTS

1-13.5-1401. Person elected - contest - causes.
1-13.5-1402. District judge to preside - bond.
1-13.5-1403. Filing statement - contents.
1-13.5-1404. Summons - answer.
1-13.5-1405. Trial and appeals.
1-13.5-1406. Recount.
1-13.5-1407. Judgement.
1-13.5-1408. Ballot questions and ballot issues - how contested.

PART 15 OTHER JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

1-13.5-1501. Controversies.

PART 16 ELECTION OFFENSES

1-13.5-1601. Applicability of criminal penalties.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PART 1
DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-101. Short title.

1-13.5-101. Short title.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-101. Short title. / Statute text

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Colorado Local Government Election Code".

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-101. Short title. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 5, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-102. Applicability of article - legislative intent.

1-13.5-102. Applicability of article - legislative intent.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-102. Applicability of article - legislative intent. / Statute text

(1) This article applies only to nonpartisan elections not coordinated by county clerk and recorders that are conducted by a local government; except that nothing prohibits the governing body of a local government from utilizing any requirements and procedures of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", articles 1 to 13 of this title, in accordance with section 1-13.5-106.

(2) It is the general assembly's intent that the "Uniform Election Code of 1992" continue to govern coordinated elections.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-102. Applicability of article - legislative intent. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 5, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-103. Definitions.

1-13.5-103. Definitions.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-103. Definitions. / Statute text

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Absentee voter" means an eligible elector who requests in writing that the designated election official mail a ballot to either the elector's deliverable mailing address or to another address designated by the elector for the purpose of voting by mail.

(1.5) "Affidavit" means a sworn statement in writing, including a self-affirmation.

(2) "Designated election official" means the person designated by the governing body of a local government or by court order to supervise election duties.

(3) "Electronic voting system" means a system in which an elector votes using a device by which votes are recorded electronically, including a touchscreen system.

(4) "Eligible elector" means a person who meets the specific requirements for voting at a

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BACK TO TOP

specific election conducted under this article or for a specific candidate, ballot question, or ballot issue.

(5) "Issue committee" has the meaning set forth in section 1-45-103.

(6) "Local government" means any district, business improvement district, special district created pursuant to title 32, C.R.S., authority, or political subdivision of the state, authorized by law to conduct an election. "Local government" does not include a county, school district, regional transportation district, or municipality as defined in section 31-1-101 (6), C.R.S.

(7) "Pollbook" means the list of eligible electors who are permitted to vote at a polling place or by mail ballot at an election conducted pursuant to this article.

(8) "Polling place" means a place established for holding elections conducted under this article.

(9) "Property owners list" means the list of property owner names and addresses prepared by the county assessor in accordance with section 1-13.5-204.

(10) "Registration list" means the list of registered electors of each local government, as prepared by the county clerk and recorder for the county in which the local government is located or as obtained through state registration records in accordance with section 1-13.5-203.

(11) "Special district" means any public entity, as defined in section 24-10-103, C.R.S., that is authorized by law to hold an election; except that the term does not include a county, a municipality as defined in section 31-1-101, C.R.S., or a school district as defined in section 22-30-103, C.R.S.

(12) "Voter" means an eligible elector who voted in the most recent election conducted pursuant to this article.

(13) "Voting machine" means any device fulfilling the requirements for voting machines set forth in part 4 of article 7 of this title regarding its use, construction, procurement, and trial.

(14) "Watcher" means a registered elector of the local government whose name is submitted to the designated election official and certified by the designated election official to the appropriate election judges pursuant to section 1-13.5-602.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-103. Definitions. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 6, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (1.5) added, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1266, § 1, effective August 10.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-104. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions that refer to qualified electors.

1-13.5-104. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions that refer to qualified electors.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-104. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions that refer to qualified electors. / Statute text

Any elections, and any acts relating thereto, carried out under law that were conducted prior to July 1, 1987, pursuant to provisions that referred to a qualified elector rather than an eligible elector and that were valid when conducted are deemed and held to be legal and valid in all respects.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-104. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions that refer to qualified electors. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 7, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-105. Acts legal and valid.

1-13.5-105. Acts legal and valid.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-105. Acts legal and valid. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions that refer to registered electors, any elections, and any acts relating to those elections carried out under law that were conducted prior to July 1, 1992, and that were valid when conducted are held to be legal and valid in all respects.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-105. Acts legal and valid. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 7, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-106. Applicability of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992".

1-13.5-106. Applicability of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992".

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-106. Applicability of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992". / Statute text

(1) Any local government may provide by resolution that it will utilize all or part of the requirements and procedures of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", articles 1 to 13 of this title, in lieu of all or portions of this article with respect to any election. Absent such resolution, this article applies.

(2) All provisions of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992" not in conflict with this article 13.5 apply to local government elections; except that:

(a) Elections offenses and penalties described by parts 2 and 3 of article 13 of this title 1 do not apply to elections authorized under this article 13.5;

(b) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c) of this section, recall elections of local government officers must be conducted pursuant to part 5 of article 4 of title 31; and

(c) Recall elections of directors of special districts created pursuant to title 32 and directors of business improvement districts who were elected pursuant to section 31-25-1209 (1)(d) must be conducted pursuant to part 9 of article 1 of title 32.

(3) It is the intent of the general assembly that the general provisions of this article not

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BACK TO TOP

supersede or supplant specific provisions of law.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-106. Applicability of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992". / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 7, § 6, effective February 18; (2) amended, (SB 14-158), ch.170, p. 623, § 14, effective May 9. **L. 2016:** (2) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 754, § 5, effective June 6. **L. 2018:** (2) amended, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1306, § 4, effective May 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-106. Applicability of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992". / Annotations

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in SB 14-158, see section 1 of chapter 170, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-107. Computation of time.

1-13.5-107. Computation of time.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-107. Computation of time. / Statute text

(1) Calendar days shall be used in all computations of time made under this article.

(2) In computing time for any act to be done before any local government election, the first day is included, and the last, or election, day is excluded. Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays are included, but, if the time for any act to be done or the last day of any period is a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, the period is extended to include the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-107. Computation of time. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 7, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-108. Powers of designated election official.

1-13.5-108. Powers of designated election official.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-108. Powers of designated election official. / Statute text

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this article, the designated election official shall render all interpretations and shall make all initial decisions as to controversies or other matters arising in the operation of this article.

(2) All powers and authority granted to the designated election official by this article may be exercised by a deputy designated election official in the absence of the designated election official or in the event the designated election official is unable to perform the duties.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-108. Powers of designated election official. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 8, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-109. Construction.

1-13.5-109. Construction.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-109. Construction. / Statute text

Substantial compliance with the provisions or intent of this article is all that is required for the proper conduct of an election to which this article applies.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-109. Construction. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 8, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-110. Special elections.

1-13.5-110. Special elections.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-110. Special elections. / Statute text

Special elections must be held on such date as may be provided by law by the local government calling the special election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-110. Special elections. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 8, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-111. Time for holding elections for special districts - type of

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BACK TO TOP

election - manner of election - notice.

1-13.5-111. Time for holding elections for special districts - type of election - manner of election - notice.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-111. Time for holding elections for special districts - type of election - manner of election - notice. / Statute text

(1) **[** ***Editor's note: This version of subsection (1) is effective until July 1, 2022.*****]** Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, regular special district elections must be held on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of May in every even-numbered year.

(1) **[** ***Editor's note: This version of subsection (1) is effective July 1, 2022.*****]** Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, regular special district elections must be held on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of May in every odd-numbered year.

BACK TO TOP

(2) Special elections may be held only on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February, May, October, or December of any year; except that ballot issue elections may be held only on the date of a state general election, biennial local district election, or on the first Tuesday in November of odd-numbered years. A ballot issue election that is not part of an organizational election must be conducted either as part of a coordinated election or in accordance with part 11 of this article.

(3) Any special district election ordered pursuant to article 1 of title 32, C.R.S., by the district court having jurisdiction over such existing or proposed special district must be held on the date ordered by the court and conducted in accordance with this article.

(4) Whenever the date of a regular special district election is identical to the date set for a municipal or another special district election in any municipality or other special district having boundaries coterminous with the special district, the election may be held jointly with the municipal or other special district election. An election held jointly pursuant to this subsection (4) is not a coordinated election.

(5) Any election for the organization of a new health assurance or health service district must be held on the date of the general election or on the first Tuesday in November of an odd-numbered year. Any election on the proposal of a health assurance or health service district must be conducted by the county clerk and recorder in which the proposed district will be located as part of a coordinated election in accordance with section 1-7-116.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL,

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BACK TO TOP

AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-111. Time for holding elections for special districts - type of election - manner of election - notice. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 8, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2018:** (1) amended, (HB 18-1039), ch. 29, p. 330, § 2, effective July 1, 2022.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-112. Commencement of terms - nonpartisan officers.

1-13.5-112. Commencement of terms - nonpartisan officers.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-112. Commencement of terms - nonpartisan officers. / Statute text

(1) Unless otherwise provided by law, the regular term of office of a nonpartisan officer elected at a regular election commences the earlier of the following:

(a) No later than thirty days after the date that the election results are certified pursuant to section 1-13.5-1305 and upon the signing of an oath and posting of a bond, where required; or

(b) At the next meeting of the governing body of the local government following the date of the election.

(2) Unless otherwise provided by law, if the election is canceled in whole or in part pursuant to section 1-13.5-513, the regular term of office of a nonpartisan officer commences at:

(a) The next meeting of the governing body following the date of the regular election, but no later than thirty days following the date of the regular election and upon the signing of an oath and posting of a bond, where required; or

(b) If the nonpartisan officer was elected at an election other than a regular election, the next meeting of the governing body of the local government following the date of the election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PROVISIONS / 1-13.5-112. Commencement of terms - nonpartisan officers. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 9, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1266, § 2, effective August 10.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 2
QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS

1-13.5-201. Registration required.

Except where a statute specifically provides otherwise, no person is permitted to vote at any local government election without first having registered to vote in Colorado in accordance with the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", articles 1 to 13 of this title.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 9, § 6, effective February 18.

1-13.5-202. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-202. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections. / Statute text

No person is permitted to vote in any special district election unless that person is an eligible elector as defined in section 32-1-103 (5), C.R.S.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-202. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 9, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-203. Registration records for local government elections - costs.

1-13.5-203. Registration records for local government elections - costs.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-203. Registration records for local government elections - costs. / Statute text

(1) No later than the fortieth day preceding the date of a scheduled local government election, the designated election official shall order the registration records from the county clerk and recorder. The designated election official shall order either:

(a) An initial list of the registered electors as of the thirtieth day prior to the election, with a supplemental list to be provided on the twentieth day; or

(b) A complete list of registered electors as of the sixth day prior to the election.

(2) The county clerk and recorder shall certify and make available to the designated election official a complete copy of the list of the registered electors of the local government that has territorial boundaries located within the county and is involved in the election. If a supplemental list is provided pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section, the county clerk and

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

recorder shall certify and make available to the designated election official the supplemental list of eligible electors who became eligible since the earlier list was certified. These lists substitute for the original registration record.

(3) The registration list that is certified thirty days before the election pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section must contain the names and addresses of all registered electors residing within the local government at the close of business on the fortieth day preceding the election. The supplemental registration list for each local government that is certified no later than twenty days before the election must contain the names and addresses of all eligible electors residing within the local government at the close of business on the twenty-second day prior to the election. If a supplemental list is provided, it must contain the names and addresses of all eligible electors who became eligible during the period since the initial registration list was certified through the close of business on the twenty-second day preceding the election.

(4) Costs for the lists required to be obtained under this section must be assessed by the county clerk and recorder and paid by the local government holding the election. The fee for furnishing the lists shall be no less than twenty-five dollars for the entire list or no more than one cent for each name contained on the registration list, whichever is greater.

(5) The designated election official may cancel an order for the list if the election is canceled pursuant to section 1-13.5-513 and the county clerk and recorder has not already prepared the list.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-203. Registration records for local government elections - costs. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 9, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-204. Lists of property owners - costs.

1-13.5-204. Lists of property owners - costs.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-204. Lists of property owners - costs. /

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BACK TO TOP

Statute text

(1) For elections where owning property in the local government is a requirement for voting in the election, no later than the fortieth day preceding the date of the election, the designated election official shall order the list of property owners from the county assessor. Except as otherwise required under subsection (2) of this section, the county assessor shall certify and deliver an initial list of all recorded owners of taxable real and personal property within the local government no later than thirty days before the election. The supplemental list for the local government shall be provided no later than twenty days before the election and shall contain the names and addresses of all recorded owners who became owners no later than twenty-two days prior to the election and after the initial list of property owners was provided. The county assessors shall assess the cost for the lists, which must be paid by the local government holding the election. The fee for furnishing the lists is no less than twenty-five dollars for both lists or no more than one cent for each name contained on the lists, whichever is greater.

(2) The designated election official of a local government may order the list described in subsection (1) of this section of all recorded owners of taxable real and personal property within the local government as of the thirtieth day before the election, with a supplemental list to be provided on the twentieth day before the election, or the designated election official may order a complete list as of the sixth day before the election.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-204. Lists of property owners - costs. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 10, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-205. Delivery and custody of registration list and property owner list.

1-13.5-205. Delivery and custody of registration list and property owner list.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-205. Delivery and custody of registration list and property owner list. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

At such time as may be set by the designated election official, but at least one day prior to the election, one of the election judges from each precinct may appear in person at the office of the designated election official for the purpose of receiving the registration list and, as applicable, property owners list, election supplies, or the designated election official may deliver the same to one of the judges. The judges shall have custody of the registration list and property owners list and shall give his or her receipt for the list. After the closing of the polls on the day of election, the election judge selected pursuant to section 1-13.5-410 to deliver the election papers and supplies shall deliver the registration list and property owners list to the office of the designated election official or to such other place as the designated election official may designate as the counting center.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS / 1-13.5-205. Delivery and custody of registration list and property owner list. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 11, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 3
NOMINATIONS

1-13.5-301. Eligibility for office - prohibitions - exceptions - challenges.

BACK TO TOP

(1) (a) No person except an eligible elector who is at least eighteen years of age, unless another age is required by law, is eligible to hold any office in this state. No person is eligible to be a candidate for office unless that person fully meets the qualifications of that office as stated in the constitution and statutes of this state on or before the date the person is nominated to the office. The designated election official shall not certify the name of any candidate who fails to swear or affirm under oath that he or she fully meets the qualifications as of the date of nomination or who is unable to provide proof that he or she meets any requirements of the office relating to registration, residence, or property ownership.

(b) The information found on the person's voter registration record is admissible as prima facie evidence of compliance with the registration and residence requirements of this section. The information found in the property owners list is admissible as prima facie evidence of compliance with property ownership requirements.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (2), no person is eligible to be a candidate for more than one office in the same local government at one time. This subsection (2) does not:

(a) Apply to memberships on different special district or business improvement district boards; or

(b) Prohibit a candidate or elected official of any political subdivision from being a candidate or member of the board of directors of any special district, business improvement district, or

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BACK TO TOP

districts in which he or she is an eligible elector, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

(3) The qualification of any candidate may be challenged by an eligible elector of the local government within five days after the date that the designated election official certifies the candidate to the ballot. The challenge shall be made by verified petition setting forth the facts alleged concerning the qualification of the candidate and shall be filed in the district court in the county in which the local government is located. The hearing on the qualification of the candidate must be held not less than five nor more than ten days after the date the designated election official's statement is issued that certifies the candidate to the ballot. The court shall hear the testimony and other evidence and, within forty-eight hours after the close of the hearing, determine whether the candidate meets the qualifications for the office for which the candidate has declared. Part 1 of article 17 of title 13, C.R.S., regarding frivolous, groundless, or vexatious actions, applies to this section.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-301. Eligibility for office - prohibitions - exceptions - challenges. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 11, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-302. Nomination of local government candidates.

1-13.5-302. Nomination of local government candidates.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-302. Nomination of local government candidates. / Statute text

(1) Except as provided in section 1-13.5-303 or other applicable law, candidates for office of nonpartisan local governments must be nominated, without regard to affiliation, by petition on forms supplied by the designated election official. A petition of nomination may consist of one or more sheets, but it must contain the name and address of only one candidate and indicate the office to which the candidate is seeking election. The candidate's name must be printed on each sheet of a petition of nomination.

(2) Nomination petitions for a candidate in a local government, other than a special district or business improvement district, may be circulated and signed, beginning on January 1 of the year

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BACK TO TOP

in which election for that office is conducted and ending on the sixty-seventh day prior to the day of election, by at least two eligible electors residing within or eligible to vote in the local government.

(3) The circulator of each nomination petition shall make an affidavit that each signature thereon is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be and that each signer has stated to the circulator that the signer is an eligible elector of the local government for which the nomination is made.

(4) A petition is not valid if it does not contain the requisite number of signatures of eligible electors. The designated election official shall inspect timely filed petitions of nomination to ensure compliance with this section.

(5) Each nomination petition must be filed with the designated election official no later than the sixty-seventh day prior to the day of election. Every petition must have endorsed on it or appended to it the written affidavit of the candidate accepting the nomination and swearing that the candidate satisfies the requirements set forth in law to be a candidate and hold office in the local government.

(6) The designated election official shall preserve all nomination petitions filed with him or her for a period of two years. All such petitions are open to public inspection under proper regulation by the designated election official with whom they are filed.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-302. Nomination of local government candidates. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 12, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-303. Candidates for special district or business improvement district director - self-nomination and acceptance form.

1-13.5-303. Candidates for special district or business improvement district director - self-nomination and acceptance form.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-303. Candidates for special district or business improvement district director -

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BACK TO TOP

self-nomination and acceptance form. / Statute text

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no earlier than January 1 and no later than the normal close of business on the sixty-seventh day before the date of a regular special district election, any person who desires to be a candidate for the office of a special district director shall file a self-nomination and acceptance form or letter signed by the candidate and by an eligible elector of the state as a witness to the signature of the candidate.

(2) On the date of signing the self-nomination and acceptance form or letter, a candidate for director shall be an eligible elector of the special district. If the district is divided into director districts established pursuant to section 32-1-301 (2)(f), C.R.S., the candidate shall be an eligible elector within the boundaries of the director district in which the candidate is running for office.

(3) The self-nomination and acceptance form or letter must contain the name of the special district in which the election will be held, the special district director office sought by the candidate, the term of office sought if more than one length of a director's term is to be voted upon at the election, the date of the election, the full name of the candidate as it is to appear on the ballot, and whether the candidate is a member of an executive board of a unit owners' association, as defined in section 38-33.3-103, C.R.S., located within the boundaries of the special district for which the candidate is running for office. Unless physically unable, all candidates and witnesses shall sign their own signature and shall print their names, their respective residence addresses, including the street number and name, the city or town, the county, telephone number, and the date of signature on the self-nomination and acceptance form or letter.

(4) The self-nomination and acceptance form or letter must be filed with the designated election official or, if none has been designated, the presiding officer or the secretary of the board of directors of the special district in which the election will be held.

(5) The self-nomination and acceptance form or letter must be verified and processed substantially as provided in section 1-4-908, a protest on such a form or letter must be determined substantially as provided in sections 1-4-909 and 1-4-911, and cure of such a form or letter must be allowed substantially as provided for in section 1-4-912; except that an amended self-nomination and acceptance form or letter may be accepted by the designated election official until the normal close of business on the sixty-seventh day before an election.

(6) In a business improvement district with an elected board of directors, nominations for business improvement district directors must be handled substantially as provided in subsections (1) to (5) of this section.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-303. Candidates for special district or business improvement district director -

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

self-nomination and acceptance form. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 13, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (5) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1266, § 3, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-304. Withdrawal from nomination.

1-13.5-304. Withdrawal from nomination.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-304. Withdrawal from nomination. / Statute text

Any person who has been nominated and who has accepted a nomination, or filed a self-nomination form or letter, may cause his or her name to be withdrawn from such nomination at any time before the election by executing a written affidavit withdrawing from the nomination. The withdrawing candidate shall sign the affidavit and file it with the designated election official.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-304. Withdrawal from nomination. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 14, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-305. Write-in candidate affidavit.

1-13.5-305. Write-in candidate affidavit.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-305. Write-in candidate affidavit. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

A write-in vote for any local government office is counted only if an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate is filed with the designated election official by the person whose name is written in not later than sixty-four days before the day of the election. The affidavit of intent must indicate that the signer desires the office and is qualified to assume the duties of that office if elected.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-305. Write-in candidate affidavit. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 14, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-306. Objections to nominations.

1-13.5-306. Objections to nominations.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-306. Objections to nominations. / Statute text

All self-nomination and acceptance forms or letters, petitions of nomination, and affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate that are in apparent conformity, as determined by the designated election official, with section 1-13.5-302, 1-13.5-303, or 1-13.5-305, are valid unless objection thereto is duly made in writing within three days after the filing of the same. In case an objection is made, the designated election official shall mail forthwith notice of the objection to any candidate for the same office. The designated election official shall decide objections within forty-eight hours after the same are filed, and any objections upheld may be remedied or defect cured upon the original petition, by an amendment thereto, or by filing a new self-nomination and acceptance form or letter, petition of nomination, or affidavit of intent, as applicable, within three days after the objection is upheld, but in no event later than the fifty-eighth day before the day of election. The designated election official shall pass upon the validity of all objections, whether of form or substance, and the designated election official's decisions upon matters of form are final. The designated election official's decisions upon matters of substance are open to review if prompt application is made, as provided in section 1-13.5-1501, but the remedy in all cases shall be summary, and the decision of the district court is final and not subject to review by any other court; except that the supreme court, in the exercise of its discretion, may review any

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BACK TO TOP

proceeding in a summary way.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 3 NOMINATIONS / 1-13.5-306. Objections to nominations. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 14, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 4
ELECTION JUDGES

1-13.5-401. Appointment of election judges.

(1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, at least fifteen days before each local government election, the governing body shall appoint the election judges.

(b) Each election judge must be registered to vote in Colorado and at least eighteen years of age. Election judges must be appointed pursuant to this article without regard to party affiliation. Neither a current candidate for director nor any immediate family member, to the second degree, of such candidate is eligible to serve as an election judge.

(c) The designated election official shall make and file in his or her office a list of all individuals so appointed, giving their names and addresses. The list is a public record and is subject to inspection and examination during office hours by any elector of the local government with the right to make copies thereof.

(2) The governing body may delegate to the designated election official the authority and responsibility to appoint election judges in the manner provided in this section.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 14, § 6, effective February 18. **L.**

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

2016: (1) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1267, § 4, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-402. Number of judges - appointment.

1-13.5-402. Number of judges - appointment.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-402. Number of judges - appointment. / Statute text

The governing body, or the designated election official if authorized pursuant to section 1-13.5-401 (2), shall appoint at least two election judges for each local government election. The appointing authority may also appoint any additional judges as deemed necessary, and may appoint counting judges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-402. Number of judges - appointment. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 15, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-403. Certificates of appointment.

1-13.5-403. Certificates of appointment.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-403. Certificates of appointment. / Statute text

Promptly after the appointment of the election judges, the designated election official shall issue certificates certifying the appointments. The designated election official shall mail one certificate to each person appointed.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-403. Certificates of appointment. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 15, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-404. Acceptance form - time to file.

1-13.5-404. Acceptance form - time to file.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-404. Acceptance form - time to file. / Statute text

With each certificate of appointment transmitted to the election judges, the designated election official shall enclose a form for acceptance of the appointment. Each individual appointed as an election judge may file his or her acceptance form in the office of the designated election official within seven days after the date that the designated election official mailed the certificate of appointment and the acceptance form. Unless otherwise determined by the designated election official, failure of any person appointed as an election judge to file an acceptance within those seven days results in a vacancy, which shall be filled in the same way the original appointment was made.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-404. Acceptance form - time to file. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 15, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-405. Vacancies - emergency appointments.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-405. Vacancies - emergency appointments.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-405. Vacancies - emergency appointments. / Statute text

Except when section 1-13.5-404 applies, if an individual appointed as an election judge refuses or fails to accept the appointment or is unable to serve, the individual or any other election judge must immediately notify the designated election official. The designated election official shall forthwith appoint another qualified individual to serve as election judge in the place of the individual. In the event of an emergency, including inability to notify the designated election official, the remaining election judges at the location where the individual was to serve may appoint a replacement election judge.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-405. Vacancies - emergency appointments. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 15, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-406. Removal of judges.

1-13.5-406. Removal of judges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-406. Removal of judges. / Statute text

The designated election official may summarily remove any election judge who neglects his or her duty, or commits, encourages, or connives at any fraud in connection therewith, or violates any election laws, or knowingly permits others to do so, or has been convicted of any felony, or violates his or her oath, or commits any act that interferes or tends to interfere with a fair and honest election. An election judge has no cause of action against a local government or designated election official arising from removal from office pursuant to this section.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-406. Removal of judges. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 15, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-407. Oath of judges.

1-13.5-407. Oath of judges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-407. Oath of judges. / Statute text

Before any votes are taken at any local government election, the election judges shall make a self-affirmation substantially in the following form:

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I, ...., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States and
the state of Colorado; that I am a registered elector in Colorado; that I will perform
the duties of election judge according to law and the best of my ability; that I will
studiously endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit, and abuse in conducting the same; that I
will not try to ascertain how any elector voted, nor will I disclose how any elector
voted if, in the discharge of my duties as judge, such knowledge shall come to me,
unless called upon to disclose the same before some court; and that I will not
disclose the result of the votes until the polls have closed.
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Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-407. Oath of judges. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 16, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-408. Training of judges.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-408. Training of judges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-408. Training of judges. / Statute text

The designated election official shall make available an instruction class concerning the tasks of an election judge not more than forty-five days prior to each election. A designated election official shall remove an election judge who fails or refuses to attend the instruction class.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-408. Training of judges. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 16, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-409. Compensation of judges.

1-13.5-409. Compensation of judges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-409. Compensation of judges. / Statute text

The election judges at any local government election shall receive reasonable compensation for their services as election judges on election day and additional reasonable compensation for attending an instruction class required in section 1-13.5-408, as determined by the governing body of the local government or designated election official if authorized by the governing body to make a reasonable determination.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-409. Compensation of judges. / History

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BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 16, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-410. Compensation for delivery of election returns and other election papers.

1-13.5-410. Compensation for delivery of election returns and other election papers.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-410. Compensation for delivery of election returns and other election papers. / Statute text

The election judges in each polling place shall select one of their number to deliver the election returns, registration list, property owners list, ballot boxes, if any, and other election papers and supplies to the office of the designated election official or to such other place as the designated election official may designate as the counting center. The judge so selected shall be paid a reasonable amount of compensation for the performance of such service.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 4 ELECTION JUDGES / 1-13.5-410. Compensation for delivery of election returns and other election papers. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 16, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

PART 5
NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS

1-13.5-501. Call for nominations - definitions.

BACK TO TOP

(1) Between seventy-five and one hundred days before a regular local government election, the designated election official shall provide notice by publication of a call for nominations for the election. The call must state the director offices to be voted upon at the election, where a self-nomination and acceptance form or letter may be obtained, the deadline for submitting the self-nomination and acceptance form or letter to the designated election official, and information on obtaining an absentee ballot.

(2) As used in this section, "publication" means printing one time, in one newspaper of general circulation in the special district or proposed special district if there is such a newspaper, and, if not, then in a newspaper in the county in which the special district or proposed special district is located. For a special district with territory within more than one county, if publication cannot be made in one newspaper of general circulation in the special district, then one publication is required in a newspaper in each county in which the special district is located and in which the special district also has fifty or more eligible electors.

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BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 16, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-502. Notice of election.

1-13.5-502. Notice of election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-502. Notice of election. / Statute text

(1) The designated election official, at least twenty days before each local government election, shall give written notice of the election stating the date of the election and the location and hours during which the polls will be open; the date ballots have or may be mailed if the election is conducted by mail ballot; mail ballot drop-off locations; names of the officers to be elected and any ballot issues and ballot questions to be voted upon; and the names of those candidates whose nominations have been certified to the designated election official, which listing must be as nearly as possible in the form in which such nominations will appear upon the official ballot. For an independent mail ballot election, the notice does not need to include the text of the ballot issues or ballot questions. A copy of the notice must be posted until after the election in a conspicuous place in the office of the designated election official. A copy of the notice must be mailed or sent via electronic mail to the county clerk and recorder.

(2) (a) In addition, the notice required by this section must be published in at least one newspaper having general circulation in the local government on or before the twentieth day before election day.

(b) On or before the twentieth day before the election, a special district must effect publication of the notice as provided in section 1-13.5-1102.

(3) All polling places must be designated by a sign conspicuously posted at least twenty days before each local government election. The sign must be substantially in the following form: "Polling Place for (name of local government)". In addition, the sign must state the date of the next election and the hours the polling place will be open.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-502. Notice of election. / History

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 17, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-503. Ballot issue notice.

1-13.5-503. Ballot issue notice.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-503. Ballot issue notice. / Statute text

(1) Any ballot issue notice relating to a local government ballot issue must be prepared and distributed in a manner consistent with part 9 of article 7 of this title.

(2) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this section, a local government submitting a ballot issue concerning the creation of any debt or other financial obligation at an election in the local government must post notice in accordance with the requirements of section 1-7-908.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-503. Ballot issue notice. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 17, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-504. Establishing precincts and polling places - applicability.

1-13.5-504. Establishing precincts and polling places - applicability.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-504. Establishing precincts and polling places -

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BACK TO TOP

applicability. / Statute text

(1) This section applies to local government elections that are conducted by polling place.

(2) The governing body of each local government, or designated election official if authorized by the governing body, shall divide the local government into as many election precincts for local government elections as it deems expedient for the convenience of the electors of the local government and shall designate the location and address for each polling place at which elections are to be held.

(3) The designated election officials of local governments with overlapping boundaries that hold elections the same day by polling place must meet, confer, and thereafter, if practical, hold such elections in a manner that permits an elector in the overlapping area to vote in all of such elections at one polling place.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the governing body or designated election official shall change any polling place upon petition of a majority of the registered electors residing within the local government.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-504. Establishing precincts and polling places - applicability. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 18, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-504.5. Accessibility of polling places to persons with disabilities.

1-13.5-504.5. Accessibility of polling places to persons with disabilities.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-504.5. Accessibility of polling places to persons with disabilities. / Statute text

(1) Each polling place shall comply fully with the current "ADA standards for accessible design" set forth in 28 CFR 36 and promulgated in accordance with the federal "Americans with

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BACK TO TOP

Disabilities Act of 1990", as amended, 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., and no barrier shall impede the path of electors with disabilities to the voting booth.

(2) Emergency polling places are exempt from compliance with this section.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, a designated election official shall only select as polling places such sites that meet the standards of accessibility set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-504.5. Accessibility of polling places to persons with disabilities. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 18, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-505. Judges may change polling places.

1-13.5-505. Judges may change polling places.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-505. Judges may change polling places. / Statute text

(1) When it becomes impossible or inconvenient to hold an election at the place designated, the election judges, after notifying the designated election official and after having assembled at or as near as practicable to such place and before receiving any vote, may move to the nearest convenient place for holding the election and at such newly designated place proceed with the election.

(2) Upon moving to a new polling place, the judges shall prominently display a proclamation of the change and may station a proper person at the original polling place to notify all persons appearing at the original polling place of the new location for holding the election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-505. Judges may change polling places. / History

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BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 18, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-506. Number of voting booths, voting machines, or voting systems.

1-13.5-506. Number of voting booths, voting machines, or voting systems.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-506. Number of voting booths, voting machines, or voting systems. / Statute text

(1) In local governments that use paper ballots, the governing body shall provide in each polling place a sufficient number of voting booths. Each voting booth shall be situated so as to permit an eligible elector to prepare his or her ballot screened from observation and shall be furnished with such supplies and conveniences as will enable the eligible elector to prepare his or her ballot for voting.

(2) In local governments that use voting machines, the governing body shall supply each polling place with a sufficient number of voting machines.

(3) In local governments that use an electronic voting system, the governing body shall provide adequate materials and equipment for the orderly conduct of voting.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-506. Number of voting booths, voting machines, or voting systems. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 19, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-507. Arrangement of voting machines or voting booths and ballot boxes.

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-507. Arrangement of voting machines or voting booths and ballot boxes.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-507. Arrangement of voting machines or voting booths and ballot boxes. / Statute text

The voting machines or the voting booths and ballot box must be situated in the polling place in plain view of the election officials and watchers. No person other than the election officials and those admitted for the purpose of voting are permitted within the immediate voting area, which is the area within six feet of the voting machines or the voting booths and ballot box, except by authority of the election judges, and then only when necessary to keep order and enforce the law.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-507. Arrangement of voting machines or voting booths and ballot boxes. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 19, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-508. Election expenses to be paid by local government.

1-13.5-508. Election expenses to be paid by local government.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-508. Election expenses to be paid by local government. / Statute text

The cost of conducting a local government election, including the cost of printing and supplies, is to be paid by the local government for which the election is being held.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-508. Election expenses to be paid by local government. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 19, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-509. Failure to receive mailed notice.

1-13.5-509. Failure to receive mailed notice.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-509. Failure to receive mailed notice. / Statute text

Any election for which a notice was mailed shall not be invalidated on the grounds that an eligible elector did not receive the ballot issue notice, mailed information, or mailed notification of the election required by law or the state constitution if the designated election official acted in good faith in making the mailing. Good faith is presumed if the designated election official or coordinated election official mailed the ballot issue notice, information, or notification to the addresses appearing on a registration list for the local government as provided by the county clerk and recorder, and, where applicable, the property owners list for the local government provided by the county assessor.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-509. Failure to receive mailed notice. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 19, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-510. Court-ordered elections.

1-13.5-510. Court-ordered elections.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-510. Court-ordered elections. / Statute text

(1) When an election is ordered by the court for a special district, the court shall authorize the designated election official to give notice, and take such other actions, as provided in the order.

(2) For an organizational election, the notice by publication must include the purposes of the election, the estimated operating and debt service mill levies and fiscal year spending for the first year following organization, and the boundaries of the special district. The notice by publication must recite the election date, which shall be not less than twenty days after publication of the election notice.

(3) For a dissolution election, the notice by publication must include the plan for dissolution or a summary of the plan and the place where a member of the public may inspect or obtain a copy of the complete plan. The notice by publication must recite the election date, which must be not less than twenty days after publication of the election notice.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-510. Court-ordered elections. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 19, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (1) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1267, § 5, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-511. Certification of ballot.

1-13.5-511. Certification of ballot.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-511. Certification of ballot. / Statute text

(1) No later than sixty days before any election, the designated election official of each local

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BACK TO TOP

government that intends to conduct an election shall certify the order of the ballot and ballot content. The order of the ballot and ballot content must include the name and office of each candidate for whom a petition or self-nomination form or letter has been filed with the designated election official and any ballot issues or ballot questions to be submitted to the eligible electors.

(2) After a designated election official has certified the order of the ballot and ballot content in accordance with subsection (1) of this section, the designated election official may recertify the ballot if:

(a) A candidate withdraws from a race, and the withdrawal would not change the order that the candidate names appear on the ballot as previously determined by the lot drawing; or

(b) There are technical revisions to a ballot issue or ballot question prior to the ballots being printed.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-511. Certification of ballot. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 20, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1267, § 6, effective August 10.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-512. Correction of errors.

1-13.5-512. Correction of errors.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-512. Correction of errors. / Statute text

The designated election official shall, on his or her own motion, correct without delay any error in publication of sample or official ballots that he or she discovers or that is brought to his or her attention and that can be corrected without interfering with the timely distribution of the ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO

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BACK TO TOP

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-512. Correction of errors. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 20, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-513. Election may be canceled - when.

1-13.5-513. Election may be canceled - when.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-513. Election may be canceled - when. / Statute text

(1) If the only matter before the electors in a nonpartisan election is the election of persons to office and if, at the close of business on the sixty-third day before the election or at any time thereafter, there are not more candidates than offices to be filled at the election, including candidates filing affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate, the designated election official, if instructed by resolution of the governing body, shall cancel the election and declare the candidates elected.

(2) No later than twenty-five days before an election conducted as a coordinated election in November, and at any time prior to any other elections, a governing body may by resolution withdraw one or more ballot issues or ballot questions from the ballot. In such case, the ballot issues and ballot questions are deemed to have not been submitted and votes cast on the ballot issues and ballot questions will either not be counted or be deemed invalid by action of the governing body.

(3) If the electors are to consider the election of persons to office and ballot issues or ballot questions, the election may be canceled by the governing body only in the event that all of the conditions of subsection (1) of this section exist and that all ballot issues or ballot questions have been withdrawn from the ballot pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no election may be canceled in part.

(5) Unless otherwise provided by an intergovernmental agreement pursuant to section 1-7-116, upon receipt of an invoice, the governing body shall within thirty days promptly pay all costs accrued by the county clerk and recorder and any applicable political subdivision attributable to the canceled election or withdrawn ballot issues or ballot questions.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(6) The governing body or designated election official shall provide notice by publication, as that term is defined in section 1-13.5-501, of the cancellation of the election. A copy of the notice must be posted at each polling location of the local government, in the office of the designated election official, and in the office of the clerk and recorder for each county with territorial boundaries that overlap in whole or in part with those of the local government and, for special districts, a copy of the notice must be filed in the office of the division of local government. The governing body shall also notify the candidates that the election was canceled and that they were elected by acclamation.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 5 NOTICE AND PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-513. Election may be canceled - when. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 20, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 6
CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

1-13.5-601. Hours of voting.

At all elections held under this article, the polls shall be opened at 7 a.m. and remain open until 7 p.m. of the same day. If a full set of election judges is not present at the hour of 7 a.m., an alternate election judge shall be appointed by the designated election official or judge in attendance at the polling place. The polls shall be opened if at least two election judges are present, even if the alternate judge has not arrived. Every person otherwise qualified to vote who is standing in line waiting to vote at 7 p.m. may vote.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 21, § 6, effective February 18.

1-13.5-602. Watchers - definition.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-602. Watchers - definition. / Statute text

(1) (a) (I) Each candidate for office, or interested party in case of a ballot issue or ballot question, at a local government election is entitled to appoint 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; except that 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.

(II) As used in this section, "interested party" means an issue committee whose issue is on the ballot.

(b) The candidates or interested parties shall certify the name of the persons so appointed to the designated election official on forms provided by the designated election official. If multiple names are certified to the designated election official for or against any ballot issue or ballot question, and the designated election official reasonably determines that multiple watchers will impede the conduct of the election, the designated election official may, by lot, reduce the number of watchers to one for and one against the ballot issue or ballot question for each location to be watched.

(c) In case a watcher must leave the polling place, the watcher may designate an alternate to act on his or her behalf while he or she is absent if the alternate is made known to the election judges by an affidavit of the person first named as a watcher. A watcher serving at the polling place has the right to remain inside the polling place from at least fifteen minutes prior to the opening of the polls until after the completion of the count of votes cast at the election and the certification of the count by the election judges. Each watcher may maintain a list of eligible electors as the names are announced by the election judges and witness each step in the conduct of the election.

(2) Watchers shall take an oath administered by one of the election judges that they are eligible electors, that their name has been submitted to the designated election official as a watcher for this election, and that they will not in any manner make known to anyone the result of counting votes until the polls have closed.

(3) Watchers shall not:

(a) Interrupt or disrupt the processing, verification, or counting of any ballots or any other stage of the election;

(b) Write down any ballot numbers or any other identifying information about the electors;

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(c) Handle the pollbooks, affidavits and self-affirmations, ballots, mail ballot envelopes, absentee ballot envelopes, voting or counting machines, or machine components;

(d) Interfere with the orderly conduct of any election process, including issuance of ballots, receiving of ballots, and voting or counting of ballots;

(e) Interact with election officials or election judges except for the individual identified by the designated election official; or

(f) Have a cellular phone, camera, recording device, laptop or tablet, or other electronic data capture device in the polling place.

(4) A designated election official may remove a watcher upon finding that the watcher commits or encourages fraud in connection with his or her duties, violates any of the limitations outlined in this article, violates his or her oath, or is abusive or threatening toward election officials or any other person.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-602. Watchers - definition. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 21, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (1)(a)(I) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1268, § 7, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-603. Judges open ballot box first.

1-13.5-603. Judges open ballot box first.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-603. Judges open ballot box first. / Statute text

In polling places that use an electronic voting system or paper ballots, the election judges, immediately before the opening of the polls, shall open the ballot box in the presence of the people assembled in the polling place, turn it upside down so as to empty it of all of its contents, and then lock it securely. The ballot box must not be reopened until the time for counting the ballots it contains.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-603. Judges open ballot box first. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 22, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-604. Judge to keep pollbook.

1-13.5-604. Judge to keep pollbook.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-604. Judge to keep pollbook. / Statute text

An election judge shall keep a pollbook, which shall contain one column headed "names of voters" and one column headed "number on ballot". The name and number on the ballot of each eligible elector voting must be entered in regular succession under the headings in the pollbook.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-604. Judge to keep pollbook. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 23, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-605. Preparing to vote.

1-13.5-605. Preparing to vote.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS /

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-605. Preparing to vote. / Statute text

(1) Any eligible elector desiring to vote shall write his or her name and address on a form available at the polling place and shall give the form to one of the election judges, who shall thereupon announce the same clearly and audibly. If the elector is unable to write, he or she may request assistance from one of the election judges, and such judge shall sign the form and witness the elector's mark. The form made available must contain in substance the following:

```
I state under penalty of perjury that I am an elector who is eligible to vote each of
the ballots that I have cast in this election; that my signature and name are as shown
on this document; that I have not and will not cast more than one ballot for a matter
to be decided in this election; and that my ballots are cast in accordance with
applicable law.
Name: ..............................
Date:  ..............................
Signature of elector: ..............................
If the person's name is found on the registration list or property owners list, as
applicable, by the election judge having charge thereof, he or she shall repeat the
name, and the elector shall be allowed to enter the immediate voting area.
```

(2) (a) Any person desiring to vote at any special district election as an eligible elector who does not appear on the registration list or property owners list for the district shall sign a self-affirmation that the person is an elector of the special district. The self-affirming oath or affirmation shall be on a form that contains in substance the following:

```
I, (printed name), who reside at (address), am an elector of this (name of special
district) district and desire to vote at this election. I do solemnly swear (or
affirm) that I am registered to vote in the state of Colorado and qualified to vote in
this special district election as:
____ a resident of the district or area to be included in the district; or
____ the owner of taxable real or personal property situated within the boundaries of
the special district or area to be included within the special district; or
____ a person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable
property in the special district or the area to be included within the special
district; or
____ the spouse or civil union partner of (name of spouse or civil union partner) who
is the owner of taxable real or personal property situated within the boundaries of
the special district or area to be included within the special district.
I have not voted previously at this election.
Date _________________
Signature of elector _________________.
```

(b) A person otherwise eligible to vote in a local government election that is not a special district election whose name has been omitted from the registration list or property owner's list shall be permitted to vote by:

(I) Taking substantially the following self-affirmation:

```
I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a citizen of the United States of the age of
eighteen years or older; that I am a registered elector in this political subdivision;
that I am eligible to vote at this election; and that I have not previously voted at
this election; or
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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(II) Presenting to an election judge a certificate of registration issued on election day by the county clerk and recorder or a certificate of property ownership issued on election day by the county assessor as applicable; or

(III) An election judge verifying, on election day, the person's registration with the county clerk and recorder or through the statewide voter registration records maintained by the secretary of state, or, as applicable, obtaining verification of the person's property ownership from the county assessor.

(3) An election judge shall promptly contact the county clerk and recorder or the county assessor for verification required under paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section so that every eligible elector present at the polling place is allowed to vote. Notation of verification of registration or property ownership shall be made in the pollbook next to the eligible elector's name.

(4) The self-affirmation provided in subsection (2) of this section must be accepted in lieu of the verification of registration or property ownership unless the person's right to vote is successfully challenged.

(5) Besides the election officials, not more than four eligible electors in excess of the number of voting booths or voting machines are allowed within the immediate voting area at one time.

(6) The completed signature forms must be returned with other election materials to the designated election official. If no challenges are made, the forms may be destroyed after forty-five days following election day.

(7) In precincts using paper ballots, an election judge shall give the eligible elector one, and only one, ballot, which the election judge shall remove from the package of ballots by tearing or cutting the ballot along the perforated or dotted line. Before delivering the ballot to an elector, the election judge having charge of the ballots shall endorse his or her initials on the duplicate stub. An election judge shall enter the name of the elector and number of said ballot in the pollbook.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-605. Preparing to vote. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 23, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS /

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-606. Manner of voting in precincts using paper ballots.

1-13.5-606. Manner of voting in precincts using paper ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-606. Manner of voting in precincts using paper ballots. / Statute text

(1) In precincts that use paper ballots, upon receiving his or her ballot, an eligible elector shall immediately retire alone to one of the voting booths provided and shall prepare the ballot by marking or stamping in ink or indelible pencil, in the appropriate margin or place, a cross mark (x) opposite the name of the candidate of the elector's choice for each office to be filled; except that no cross mark (x) is required opposite the name of a write-in candidate. In case of a question submitted to a vote of the people, the elector shall mark or stamp, in the appropriate margin or place, a cross mark (x) opposite the answer that he or she desires to give. Before leaving the voting booth, the elector shall fold the ballot without displaying the marks thereon so that the contents of the ballot are concealed and the stub can be removed without exposing any of the contents of the ballot, and the elector must keep the ballot folded until the elector deposits the ballot in the ballot box.

(2) Each eligible elector who has prepared a ballot and is ready to cast his or her vote shall then leave the voting booth and approach the election judge in charge of the ballot box. The elector shall give his or her name to that judge, who shall announce the name of such elector and the number upon the duplicate stub of the ballot, which number must correspond with the stub number previously placed on the registration list or pollbook. If the stub number of the ballot corresponds and is identified by the initials of the election judge placed thereupon, the election judge shall then remove the duplicate stub from the ballot. The ballot must then be returned to the eligible elector, who shall, in full view of the election judges, cast his or her vote by depositing the ballot in the ballot box.

(3) Each eligible elector shall mark and deposit his or her ballot without undue delay and shall leave the immediate voting area as soon as the elector votes. No elector shall occupy a voting booth already occupied by another, nor remain within the immediate voting area for more than ten minutes, nor occupy a voting booth for more than five minutes if all such booths are in use and other electors are waiting to occupy the same. No eligible elector whose name has been entered on the pollbook is allowed to reenter the immediate voting area during the election except when accompanied by an election judge.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS /

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-606. Manner of voting in precincts using paper ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 25, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-607. Eligible elector requiring assistance.

1-13.5-607. Eligible elector requiring assistance.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-607. Eligible elector requiring assistance. / Statute text

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of section 1-13.5-606 to the contrary, if, at any election, an eligible elector declares under oath to the election judges of the polling place that, by reason of visual impairment or other physical disability or inability to read or write, the elector is unable to prepare his or her ballot or operate the voting machine without assistance, the elector may, upon request, receive the assistance of any one of the election judges or, at the elector's option, any other person selected by the elector requiring assistance. No person, other than an election judge, is permitted to enter a voting booth as an assistant to more than one elector.

(2) A notation must be made in the pollbook opposite the name of each voter thus assisted indicating that the voter was assisted.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-607. Eligible elector requiring assistance. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 25, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-608. Spoiled ballots.

1-13.5-608. Spoiled ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-608. Spoiled ballots. / Statute text

In polling places that use an electronic voting system or paper ballots, no person shall take or remove any ballot from the polling place before the close of the polls. If any elector spoils a ballot, he or she may successively obtain others, one at a time, not exceeding three in all, upon returning each spoiled one. The spoiled ballots so returned shall be immediately canceled and shall be preserved and returned to the designated election official along with other election records and supplies.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-608. Spoiled ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 26, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-609. Counting paper ballots.

1-13.5-609. Counting paper ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-609. Counting paper ballots. / Statute text

(1) As soon as the polls at any election are finally closed, the election judges shall immediately open the ballot box and proceed to count the votes cast, and, before the election judges adjourn, the counting thereof shall continue until finished. The election judges shall first count the number of ballots in the box. If the ballots are found to exceed the number of names entered on the pollbook, the election judges shall then examine the official endorsements upon the ballots, and if, in the unanimous opinion of the judges, any of the ballots in excess of the number on the pollbook do not bear the proper official endorsement, they shall be put into a separate pile, and a separate record and return of the votes in such ballots shall be made under the heading "excess ballots". When the ballots and the pollbook agree, the election judges shall proceed to count the votes. Each ballot shall be read and counted separately, and every name separately marked as voted for on such ballot where there is no conflict to obscure the intention of the voter, and shall be read and marked upon the tally sheets before proceeding to any other

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BACK TO TOP

ballot. Each ballot, excepting excess ballots, shall be read and counted and placed upon the tally sheets in like manner.

(2) When all the votes have been read and counted, the ballots, together with one of the tally lists, shall be placed in a box or appropriate container, and the opening shall be carefully sealed, and each of the election judges shall place his or her initials on said seal. The sealed box shall be delivered to the designated election official pursuant to section 1-13.5-614.

(3) All persons, except election judges and watchers, are excluded from the place where the counting is being carried on until the count has been completed.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-609. Counting paper ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 26, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-610. Counting by counting judges.

1-13.5-610. Counting by counting judges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-610. Counting by counting judges. / Statute text

(1) In precincts with counting judges, the receiving judges as directed by the designated election official shall deliver to the counting judges the ballot box containing cast ballots and the receiving judges shall then use another ballot box furnished for voting. The receiving judges shall open, empty, and lock the alternate ballot box in the manner prescribed in section 1-13.5-603.

(2) When the counting judges have counted the votes in a ballot box, they shall return the empty ballot box to the receiving judges and exchange it for the box containing ballots cast since taking possession of the first ballot box. The judges shall continue to exchange ballot boxes in the same manner until the polls are closed and shall continue counting until all ballots have been counted.

(3) When an exchange of ballot boxes is made as described in subsection (2) of this section,

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BACK TO TOP

the receiving judges shall sign and furnish to the counting judges a statement showing the number of ballots that are to be found in each ballot box as indicated by the pollbooks. The counting judges shall then count ballots in the manner prescribed in section 1-13.5-609.

(4) The designated election official may provide a separate room or building for the counting judges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-610. Counting by counting judges. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 26, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-611. Tally sheets.

1-13.5-611. Tally sheets.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-611. Tally sheets. / Statute text

As the election judges open and read the ballots, the votes that each candidate and any ballot issue or ballot question received must be carefully marked down, upon tally sheets prepared by the designated election official for that purpose, by any appropriate election official.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-611. Tally sheets. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 27, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-612. Defective ballots.

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-612. Defective ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-612. Defective ballots. / Statute text

(1) If an elector votes for more names than there are persons to be elected to an office, or, if it is impossible to determine the choice of an elector for an office to be filled, the elector's ballot will not be counted for that office. A defective or an incomplete cross marked on any ballot in a proper place must be counted if there is no other mark or cross on such ballot indicating an intention to vote for some person other than those indicated by the first mentioned defective cross or mark. No ballot without the official endorsement, except as provided in section 1-13.5-704, may be deposited in the ballot box, and only ballots provided in accordance with this article shall be counted. If the election judges discover in the counting of votes that the name of any candidate voted for is misspelled or the initial letters of a candidate's given name are transposed or omitted in part or altogether on the ballot, the vote for the candidate must be counted if the intention of the elector to vote for the candidate is apparent.

(2) Ballots not counted must be marked "defective" on the back thereof and shall be preserved for such time as is provided in section 1-13.5-616 for ballots and destroyed as therein directed.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-612. Defective ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 27, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-613. Judges' certificate - statement on ballots.

1-13.5-613. Judges' certificate - statement on ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-613. Judges' certificate - statement on ballots. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

(1) As soon as all the votes have been read and counted, the election judges shall make a certificate stating:

(a) The name of each candidate, designating the office for which each candidate received votes;

(b) The number of votes each candidate received, which number must be expressed in words, at full length, and in numerical figures; and

(c) The ballot issue or ballot question, if any, voted upon and the number of votes counted for and against the ballot issue or ballot question.

(2) (a) In addition, the election judges shall make a statement in writing showing the number of ballots voted, containing a separate statement that identifies and specifies each of the following:

(I) The number of ballots delivered to electors;

(II) The number of ballots not delivered to electors;

(III) The number of unofficial and substitute ballots voted;

(IV) The number of spoiled ballots; and

(V) The number of ballots returned.

(b) All unused ballots, spoiled ballots, and stubs of ballots voted must be returned with the statement described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2).

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-613. Judges' certificate - statement on ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 27, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-614. Delivery of election returns, ballot boxes, and other election papers.

1-13.5-614. Delivery of election returns, ballot boxes, and other election papers.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL,

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BACK TO TOP

AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-614. Delivery of election returns, ballot boxes, and other election papers. / Statute text

When all the votes have been read and counted, an election judge shall deliver to the designated election official the certificate and statement required by section 1-13.5-613, the ballot boxes and all keys or seals thereto, and the registration and property owners lists, pollbooks, tally sheets, spoiled ballots, unused ballots, ballot stubs, oaths, affidavits, and other election papers and supplies. The delivery must be made at once and with all convenient speed, and informality in delivery does not invalidate the vote of any polling place when delivery has been made prior to the completion of the official abstract of the votes by the canvassers pursuant to section 1-13.5-1305. The designated election official shall provide a receipt for all papers so delivered.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-614. Delivery of election returns, ballot boxes, and other election papers. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 28, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-615. Abstract of votes - judges to post returns.

1-13.5-615. Abstract of votes - judges to post returns.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-615. Abstract of votes - judges to post returns. / Statute text

(1) (a) In addition to all certificates otherwise required to be made of the count of votes cast at any election, the election judges are required to make an abstract of the count of votes containing the names of the offices, the names of the candidates, any ballot issues or ballot questions voted upon, and the number of votes counted for and against each candidate or ballot measure.

(b) Suitable blanks for the required abstract shall be prepared, printed, and furnished to all

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BACK TO TOP

election judges at the same time and in the same manner as other election supplies are furnished.

(2) Immediately upon completion of the count, the abstract required under subsection (1) of this section must be posted in a conspicuous place that can be seen from the outside of the polling place. The abstract may be removed at any time forty-eight hours after the polls close.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-615. Abstract of votes - judges to post returns. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 28, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-616. Preservation of ballots and election records.

1-13.5-616. Preservation of ballots and election records.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-616. Preservation of ballots and election records. / Statute text

(1) The ballots, when not required to be taken from the sealed box for the purpose of election contests, shall remain in the sealed box in the custody of the designated election official until twenty-five months after the date the polls closed for the election at which the ballots were cast or until the time has expired for which the ballots would be needed in any contest proceedings, at which time the sealed box must be opened by the designated election official and the ballots destroyed by fire, shredding, burial, or by any other method approved by the governing body.

(2) The designated election official shall preserve all other official election records and forms for at least six months following the date the polls closed.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-616. Preservation of ballots and election records. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 29, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-617. Ranked voting methods.

1-13.5-617. Ranked voting methods.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-617. Ranked voting methods. / Statute text

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, a local government may use a ranked voting method to conduct a regular election to elect the members of the governing body of the local government in accordance with section 1-7-1003, and the rules adopted by the secretary of state pursuant to section 1-7-1004.

(2) A local government conducting an election using a ranked voting method may adapt the requirements of this article, including requirements concerning the form of the ballot, the method of marking the ballot, the procedure for counting ballots, and the form of the election judges' certificate, as necessary for compatibility with the ranked voting method.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-617. Ranked voting methods. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 29, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-618. Covered voters to receive mail ballots.

1-13.5-618. Covered voters to receive mail ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-618. Covered voters to receive mail ballots. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, the designated election official of a local government shall mail a ballot to every eligible elector of the local government who is a covered voter, as that term is defined in section 1-8.3-102, for any election conducted under this article.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 6 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-618. Covered voters to receive mail ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 29, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 7
VOTING MACHINES

1-13.5-701. Use of voting machines.

Voting machines may be used in any local government election if the governing body, by resolution, authorizes their use.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 29, § 6, effective February 18.

1-13.5-702. Judges to inspect machines - when.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

The election judges of each polling place at which voting machines are used shall meet at the polling place at least forty-five minutes before the time set for the opening of the polls at each election. Before the polls open for an election, each judge shall carefully examine each machine used in the polling place and see that no vote has been cast and that every counter, except the protective counter, registers zero.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-702. Judges to inspect machines - when. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 29, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-703. Sample ballots, ballot labels, and instruction cards.

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Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-703. Sample ballots, ballot labels, and instruction cards. / Statute text

(1) Sample ballots must be produced for display at polling places in which voting machines are used and are subject to public inspection. The sample ballots must be arranged in the form of a diagram showing the front of the voting machine as it will appear after the official ballot labels are arranged on the voting machine for voting. The designated election official shall provide sample ballots for each polling place. The sample ballots must be delivered to the election judges and posted in the polling place for display on election day.

(2) The designated election official or his or her designee shall also prepare and place on each voting machine to be used in the polling place a set of official ballot labels arranged in the manner prescribed for the official election ballot to be used on voting machines. The designated election official shall deliver the required number of voting machines, equipped with the official ballot, to each polling place no later than the day prior to the day of election.

(3) Instruction cards to guide eligible electors in casting their ballots on voting machines must be supplied by the designated election official as provided in section 1-13.5-906.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-703. Sample ballots, ballot labels, and instruction cards. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 30, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-704. Instructions to vote.

1-13.5-704. Instructions to vote.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-704. Instructions to vote. / Statute text

In case an eligible elector, after entering the voting machine or voting booth, asks for further instructions concerning the manner of voting, an election judge shall give such instruction to him or her; except that no judge or other election officer or person assisting such elector shall enter the voting machine or voting booth, except as provided in section 1-13.5-607, or in any manner request, suggest, or seek to persuade or induce any such elector to vote for any particular candidate, or for or against any particular ballot issue or ballot question. After receiving instruction, the eligible elector shall vote as in the case of an unassisted voter.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-704. Instructions to vote. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 30, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-705. Length of time to vote.

1-13.5-705. Length of time to vote.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-705. Length of time to vote. / Statute text

No eligible elector shall remain within the voting machine booth longer than three minutes. If an eligible elector refuses to leave after a lapse of three minutes, the elector shall be removed by the election judges, but the judges, in their discretion, may permit an elector to remain longer than three minutes.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-705. Length of time to vote. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 30, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-706. Judge to watch voting machines.

1-13.5-706. Judge to watch voting machines.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-706. Judge to watch voting machines. / Statute text

The election judges shall designate at least one judge to be stationed beside the entrance to the voting machine or voting booth during the entire period of the election to see that it is properly closed after an elector has entered to vote. At such intervals as the judge deems proper or necessary, the judge shall examine the face of the machine to ascertain whether it has been defaced or injured, to detect the wrongdoer, and to repair any injury.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-706. Judge to watch voting machines. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 30, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-707. Designated election official to supply seals for voting machines.

1-13.5-707. Designated election official to supply seals for voting machines.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-707. Designated election official to supply seals for voting machines. / Statute text

The designated election official shall supply each polling place with a seal for each voting machine for the purpose of sealing each machine after the polls are closed and an envelope for the return of the keys and seals to the machine, as applicable, with the election returns.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-707. Designated election official to supply seals for voting machines. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 31, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-708. Close of polls and count of votes.

1-13.5-708. Close of polls and count of votes.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-708. Close of polls and count of votes. / Statute text

As soon as the polls are closed, the election judges shall immediately lock and seal each voting machine to prevent further voting. Immediately after each machine is locked and sealed, the election judges shall open the counting compartments and count the votes. After the total

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BACK TO TOP

votes for each candidate and each ballot issue or ballot question, as applicable, have been ascertained, the election judges shall make a certificate of votes cast, in numerical figures only, and return the same to the designated election official as provided in section 1-13.5-613.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-708. Close of polls and count of votes. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 31, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-709. Election laws apply - separate absentee ballots permitted.

1-13.5-709. Election laws apply - separate absentee ballots permitted.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-709. Election laws apply - separate absentee ballots permitted. / Statute text

Nothing in this part 7 prohibits the use and acceptance of separate paper ballots by absentee voters.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 7 VOTING MACHINES / 1-13.5-709. Election laws apply - separate absentee ballots permitted. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 31, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

PART 8
ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS

1-13.5-801. Use of electronic voting system.

BACK TO TOP

An electronic voting system may be used in any local government election if the governing body authorizes its use.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 31, § 6, effective February 18.

1-13.5-802. Sample ballots.

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BACK TO TOP

SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-802. Sample ballots. / Statute text

Sample ballots shall be printed and in the form of the official ballot but on paper of a different color from the official ballot. The designated election official shall provide that sample ballots for each polling place are delivered to the election judges and posted in the polling place on election day.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-802. Sample ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 31, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-803. Ballots - electronic voting.

1-13.5-803. Ballots - electronic voting.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-803. Ballots - electronic voting. / Statute text

(1) Ballot pages or ballot cards placed upon voting devices shall be, so far as practicable, in the same order of arrangement as provided for paper ballots; except that the pages or cards shall be of the size and design required by the vote recorder or the electronic vote counting equipment, as applicable, and may be printed on a number of separate pages that are placed on the voting device or on one or more ballot cards.

(2) If votes are recorded on a ballot card, a separate write-in ballot may be provided, which shall be in the form of a paper ballot on which the eligible elector may write in the titles of the office and the names of persons not on the printed ballot for whom he or she wishes to vote.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-803. Ballots - electronic voting. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 31, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-804. Preparation for use - electronic voting.

1-13.5-804. Preparation for use - electronic voting.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-804. Preparation for use - electronic voting. / Statute text

(1) Prior to an election in which an electronic voting system will be used, the designated election official shall:

(a) Have the vote recorders or punching devices, or both, as applicable, prepared for voting; and

(b) Inspect and determine that each recorder or device is in proper working order; and

(c) Cause a sufficient number of such recorders or devices to be delivered to each polling place in which the electronic voting system is to be used.

(2) The designated election official shall supply each polling place in which vote recorders or voting devices are to be used with a sufficient number of ballot cards, sample ballots, ballot boxes, write-in ballots, if required, and other supplies and forms as may be required. Each ballot card shall have a serially numbered stub attached, which the election judge shall remove before the card is deposited in the ballot box.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-804. Preparation for use - electronic voting. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 31, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-805. Instructions to vote.

1-13.5-805. Instructions to vote.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-805. Instructions to vote. / Statute text

In case any eligible elector, after commencing to vote, asks for further instructions concerning the manner of voting, an election judge shall give such instructions to the elector; but no judge or other election officer or person assisting such elector shall request, suggest, or seek to persuade or induce any such elector to vote for any particular candidate or for or against any particular ballot issue or ballot question. After receiving such instructions, the elector shall vote as in the case of an unassisted voter.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-805. Instructions to vote. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 32, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-806. Ballots.

1-13.5-806. Ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-806. Ballots. / Statute text

The designated election official shall provide sufficient ballots for every election in which an electronic voting system is used.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-806. Ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 32, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-807. Distribution of ballots - receipt - filing.

1-13.5-807. Distribution of ballots - receipt - filing.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-807. Distribution of ballots - receipt - filing. / Statute text

In a local government election in which an electronic voting system is used, the designated election official shall distribute to the election judges in the respective polling places a sufficient number of ballots. The ballots must be placed in one or more sealed packages for each polling place with marks on the outside of each stating clearly the polling place for which it is intended and the number of ballots enclosed. Such package shall be delivered to one of the election judges of such polling place no later than the day before the election. A receipt for the delivered ballots must be given by the election judge who received them. The receipt must be filed with the designated election official, who shall also keep a record of the time and manner in which each of said packages was sent and delivered.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-807. Distribution of ballots - receipt - filing. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 32, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-808. Instruction cards - posting - content.

1-13.5-808. Instruction cards - posting - content.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-808. Instruction cards - posting - content. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

(1) The designated election official shall furnish to the election judges of each polling place a sufficient number of instruction cards to guide eligible electors in preparing their ballots. The election judges shall post at least one card in each polling place on the day of election. The cards shall be printed in large, clear type and contain full instructions to the elector as to what should be done:

(a) To obtain a ballot for voting;

(b) To prepare the ballot for deposit in the ballot box;

(c) To obtain a new ballot in the place of one spoiled by accident or mistake; and

(d) To obtain assistance in marking ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-808. Instruction cards - posting - content. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 32, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-809. Close of polls - ballot return - transfer box - delivery.

1-13.5-809. Close of polls - ballot return - transfer box - delivery.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-809. Close of polls - ballot return - transfer box - delivery. / Statute text

(1) After the polls close, the election judges shall secure the vote recorders or the voting devices, as applicable, against further use and prepare a ballot return in duplicate showing the number of voters as indicated by the pollbook who have voted in the polling place, the number of official ballot cards received, and the number of spoiled and unused ballot cards returned.

(2) The original copy of the ballot return prepared pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be deposited in a durable transfer box along with all voted and spoiled ballots. The transfer box shall then be sealed in such a way as to prevent tampering with the box or its contents, using a numbered seal provided by the designated election official. One judge shall deliver the sealed

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BACK TO TOP

transfer box to the counting center or other place identified by the designated election official.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-809. Close of polls - ballot return - transfer box - delivery. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 33, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-810. Testing of electronic ballot counting equipment.

1-13.5-810. Testing of electronic ballot counting equipment.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-810. Testing of electronic ballot counting equipment. / Statute text

(1) The designated election official shall have the electronic ballot counting equipment tested pursuant to subsection (2) of this section to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and all measures.

(2) (a) The electronic ballot counting equipment shall be tested at least three times, once on the day before the election, once just prior to the start of the count on election day, and finally at the conclusion of the counting. The designated election official may conduct any additional tests he or she deems necessary.

(b) The designated election official shall vote and retain at least twenty-five test ballots, observe the tabulation of all test ballots by means of the electronic ballot counting equipment, and compare the tabulation with the previously retained records of the test vote count. The cause of any discrepancies shall be corrected prior to the actual vote tabulation.

(3) (a) All test materials, when not in use, must be kept in a secure location.

(b) After the final conclusion of the counting, all programs, test materials, and ballots must be sealed and retained as provided for paper ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-810. Testing of electronic ballot counting equipment. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 33, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-811. Electronic vote counting - procedure.

1-13.5-811. Electronic vote counting - procedure.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-811. Electronic vote counting - procedure. / Statute text

BACK TO TOP

(1) All proceedings at the counting center must be under the direction of the designated election official and must be conducted under the observation of watchers, so far as practicable; but no unauthorized person may touch any ballot or ballot card or return. If any ballot is damaged or defective so that it cannot properly be counted by the electronic vote counting equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be made of the damaged ballot in the presence of two election judges. The duplicate ballot must be substituted for the damaged ballot. All duplicate ballots shall be clearly labeled as such and shall bear a serial number, which is recorded on the damaged ballot.

(2) When certified by the designated election official, the return printed by the electronic vote counting equipment, to which have been added write-in votes, constitutes the official return of each polling place. The designated election official may from time to time release unofficial returns. Upon completion of the count, the official returns are open to the public.

(3) Absentee ballots must be counted at the counting center in the same manner as ballots voted at the polling place. Valid write-in votes may be counted at the polling place by the election judges or at the counting center.

(4) If for any reason it becomes impracticable to count all or a part of the ballots with electronic vote counting equipment, the designated election official may direct that the ballots be counted manually, following as far as practicable the provisions governing the counting of paper ballots.

(5) The receiving, opening, and preservation of the transfer boxes and their contents are the responsibilities of the designated election official, who shall provide adequate personnel and

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BACK TO TOP

facilities to assure accurate and complete election results. Any indication of tampering with the ballots or ballot cards or other fraudulent action must be immediately reported to the district attorney, who shall immediately investigate the action and report his or her findings within ten days to the designated election official and, subject to prosecutorial discretion, shall prosecute to the full extent of the law any person responsible for the fraudulent action. The conduct of local government elections when electronic voting systems are used must follow, as nearly as practicable, the conduct of general and primary elections when such systems are used.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-811. Electronic vote counting - procedure. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 34, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-812. Election laws pertaining to use of electronic voting systems - separate absentee ballots permitted.

1-13.5-812. Election laws pertaining to use of electronic voting systems - separate absentee ballots permitted.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-812. Election laws pertaining to use of electronic voting systems - separate absentee ballots permitted. / Statute text

A local government may use the provisions of part 6 of article 5 of this title not inconsistent with this article for elections conducted under this article in which electronic voting systems are used in polling places. Nothing in this article prohibits the use of a separate paper ballot by absentee voters.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 8 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS / 1-13.5-812. Election laws pertaining to use of electronic voting systems - separate absentee ballots permitted. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 34, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 9
PAPER BALLOTS

1-13.5-901. Ballot boxes.

The governing body of each local government using paper ballots shall provide at least one ballot box for each polling place. Each ballot box shall be strongly constructed so as to prevent tampering, with a small opening at the top and with a lid to be locked. The ballot boxes and keys or seals shall be kept by the designated election official and delivered to the election judges within one day immediately preceding any local government election, to be returned as provided in section 1-13.5-614. Nothing in this section prevents the governing body from obtaining ballot boxes from the office of the county clerk and recorder.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 35, § 6, effective February 18.

1-13.5-902. Ballots and sample ballots - delivery - format.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-902. Ballots and sample ballots - delivery - format. / Statute text

(1) (a) The designated election official of each local government using paper ballots shall provide printed ballots for the local government election. The official ballots shall be printed and in the possession of the designated election official at least thirty days before the election.

(b) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), sample ballots must be printed in the form of the official ballots and are subject to public inspection. The sample ballots must be printed upon paper of a different color from the official ballots. Sample ballots must be delivered to the election judges and posted with the instruction cards provided under section 1-13.5-906.

(2) Every ballot must contain the names of all duly nominated candidates for the offices to be voted for at that election, except those who have died or withdrawn, and the ballot must contain no other names. The names of the candidates for each office must be printed on the ballot without political party designation and without any title or degree designating the business or profession of the candidate. The names must be arranged by lot by the designated election official at any time prior to the certification of the ballot. The designated election official shall notify the candidates of the time and place of the lot drawing.

(3) The ballots must be printed so as to give to each eligible elector a clear opportunity to designate his or her choice of candidates, ballot issues, and ballot questions by a mark as instructed. Words may be printed on the ballot that will aid the elector, such as "vote for not more than one".

(4) At the end of the list of candidates for each different office, there must be one or more blank spaces in which the elector may write the name of any eligible person not printed on the ballot who has filed an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate pursuant to section 1-13.5-305. The number of spaces provided shall be the lesser of the number of eligible electors who have properly filed an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate or the number of persons to be elected to the office. No such blank spaces shall be provided if no eligible person properly filed an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate.

(5) The names of the candidates for each office must be arranged under the designation of the office. The designated election official shall not print, in connection with any name, any title or degree designating the business or profession of the candidate. Each candidate's name may include one nickname if the candidate regularly uses the nickname and the nickname does not include any part of a political party name.

(6) If no candidate is duly nominated and no person properly files an affidavit of intent to be

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

a write-in candidate for an office, the following text must appear under the designation of the office: "There are no candidates for this office".

(7) (a) Whenever the approval of a ballot issue or ballot question is submitted to the vote of the people, the ballot issue or question must be printed on the ballot following the lists of candidates. Ballot issues and ballot questions must be listed in the following order, as applicable: Issues to increase taxes, issues to increase debt, citizen petitions, and other referred measures.

(b) The ballot issue or question must be identified by the name of the local government submitting the ballot issue or question followed by a letter.

(8) (a) The extreme top part of each ballot must be divided by two perforated or dotted lines into two spaces, each of which must be not less than one inch in width, the top portion being known as the stub and the next portion as the duplicate stub. Upon each of said stubs nothing is to be printed except the number of the ballot, and the same number must be printed on both stubs. Stubs and duplicate stubs of ballots must both be numbered consecutively. There must be printed on the stub of an absentee ballot "Absentee Ballot Number [...]", and such stubs must be numbered consecutively beginning with number one. All ballots must be uniform and of sufficient length and width to allow for the names of candidates and the proposed questions to be printed in clear, plain type with a space of at least one-half inch between the different columns on said ballot. On each ballot must be printed the endorsement "official ballot for . . .", and after the word "for" must follow the designation of the local government for which the ballot is prepared, the date of the election, and a facsimile of the signature of the designated election official. The ballot shall not contain any caption or other endorsement or number. Each designated election official shall use precisely the same quality and tint of paper, the same kind of type, and the same quality and tint of plain black ink for all ballots furnished by the designated election official at one election.

(b) A duplicate stub is not required for a ballot that is prepared for an independent mail ballot election pursuant to part 11 of this article.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-902. Ballots and sample ballots - delivery - format. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 35, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (8) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1268, § 8, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-903. Correction of errors.

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-903. Correction of errors.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-903. Correction of errors. / Statute text

(1) The designated election official shall correct, without delay, any errors in publication or in sample or official ballots that are discovered or brought to the official's attention and that can be corrected without interfering with the timely distribution of the ballots.

(2) If it appears by verified petition of a candidate or the candidate's agent submitted to any district court that an error or omission occurred in the publication of the names or description of the candidates or in the printing of sample or official election ballots and the error has been brought to the attention of the designated election official and not been corrected, the court shall issue an order requiring the designated election official to correct the error immediately or to show cause why the error should not be corrected. Costs, including reasonable attorney fees, may be assessed in the discretion of the court against either party.

(3) If, before the date set for election, a duly nominated candidate withdraws by filing an affidavit of withdrawal with the designated election official, or dies and the fact of the death becomes known to the designated election official before the ballots are printed, the name of the candidate will not be printed on the ballots. If the ballots are already printed, the votes cast for the withdrawn or deceased candidate are invalid and will not be counted.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-903. Correction of errors. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 36, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-904. Printing and distribution of ballots.

1-13.5-904. Printing and distribution of ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO

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BACK TO TOP

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-904. Printing and distribution of ballots. / Statute text

In local government elections in which paper ballots are used, the designated election official shall cause to be printed or copied and distributed to the election judges in each respective polling place a sufficient number of ballots. The ballots shall be sent in one or more sealed packages for each polling place, with marks on the outside of each clearly stating the polling place for which it is intended and the number of ballots enclosed. The packages must be delivered to one of the election judges of each polling place no later than the day before the election. The election judge who receives the ballots thus delivered shall give receipt for them, which receipt must be filed with the designated election official, who shall also keep a record of the time and manner in which each of said packages was sent and delivered. The election judge receiving the package shall produce the same, with the seal unbroken, in the proper polling place at the opening of the polls on election day and, in the presence of all election judges for the polling place, shall open the package.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-904. Printing and distribution of ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 37, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-905. Substitute ballots.

1-13.5-905. Substitute ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-905. Substitute ballots. / Statute text

If the ballots to be furnished to any election judge are not delivered by 8 p.m. on the day before election day, or if after delivery they are destroyed or stolen, the designated election official shall see that other ballots are prepared, as nearly in the form prescribed as practicable, with the word "substitute" printed in brackets immediately under the facsimile signature of the designated election official. Upon receipt of the substitute ballots, accompanied by a written and sworn statement of the designated election official that the same have been so prepared and furnished by him or her and that the original ballots were not received or were destroyed or

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BACK TO TOP

stolen, the election judges shall use the substitute ballots at the election. If for any cause none of the official ballots or substitute ballots prepared by the designated election official are ready for distribution at any polling place, or if the supply of ballots is exhausted before the polls are closed, unofficial ballots, printed or written, made as nearly as possible in the form of the official ballots, may be used until substitutes prepared by the designated election official are printed and delivered.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-905. Substitute ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 37, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-906. Instruction cards - content.

1-13.5-906. Instruction cards - content.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-906. Instruction cards - content. / Statute text

(1) The designated election official shall furnish to the election judges of each polling place a sufficient number of instruction cards to guide electors in preparing their ballots. The election judges shall post at least one card in each polling place on the day of the election. Such cards shall be printed in large, clear type and contain full instructions to the electors about how to:

(a) Obtain ballots for voting;

(b) Prepare the ballot for deposit in the ballot box;

(c) Obtain a new ballot in the place of one spoiled by accident or mistake; and

(d) Obtain assistance in marking ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 9 PAPER BALLOTS / 1-13.5-906. Instruction cards - content. / History

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BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 38, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 10
ABSENTEE VOTING

1-13.5-1001. When absentee electors may vote.

Any eligible elector of a local government may cast an absentee voter's ballot at the election in the manner provided in sections 1-13.5-1002 to 1-13.5-1007.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 38, § 6, effective February 18.

ANNOTATION

Annotator's note. The following annotations include a case decided under former provisions similar to this section.

The provision for absentee voting is constitutional. Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1059 (1931).

The provision for absentee voting was enacted for the purpose of procuring a fuller expression of the public will at the ballot box. Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P. 1059 (1931).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1002. Application for absentee voter's ballot - delivery - list.

1-13.5-1002. Application for absentee voter's ballot - delivery - list.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1002. Application for absentee voter's ballot - delivery - list. / Statute text

(1) (a) (I) Requests for an application for an absentee voter's ballot may be made orally or in writing. The application may be in the form of a letter. The application may request that the applicant be added to the permanent absentee voter list for the local government.

(II) Applications for absentee voters' ballots shall be filed in writing and be personally signed by the applicant or a family member related by blood, marriage, civil union, or adoption to the applicant. If the applicant is unable to sign the application, the applicant shall make such applicant's mark on the application, which must be witnessed in writing by another person.

(b) The application must be filed with the designated election official not later than the close of business on the Tuesday immediately preceding the next local government election in which the absentee voter wishes to vote by absentee voter's ballot.

(2) (a) Upon timely receipt of an application for an absentee voter's ballot, the designated election official receiving it shall examine the records of the county clerk and recorder or county assessor, as appropriate, to ascertain whether or not the applicant is registered and lawfully entitled to vote as requested.

(b) If the person is found to be so entitled, the designated election official shall deliver, as soon as practicable but not more than seventy-two hours after the blank ballots have been received, an official absentee voter's ballot, an identification return envelope with the affidavit or the envelope properly filled in as to address of residence as shown by the records of the county clerk and recorder, and an instruction card. The identification return envelope must state "Do not forward. Address correction requested." or any other similar statement that is in accordance with United States postal service regulations. The delivery must be made to the applicant either personally in the designated election official's office or by mail to the mailing address given in

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

the application for an official absentee voter's ballot.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1002. Application for absentee voter's ballot - delivery - list. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 38, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (1)(b) and (2)(b) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1268, § 9, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1002. Application for absentee voter's ballot - delivery - list. / Annotations

ANNOTATION

Annotator's note. The following annotations include cases decided under former provisions similar to this section.

Absentee voter statutes must be strictly construed, and a voter who wishes to cast such a ballot must comply exactly with all applicable statutory requirements. Jardon v. Meadowbrook-Fairview Metro. Dist., 190 Colo. 528, 549 P.2d 762 (1976).

Findings that voters came within the application requirements not disturbed on review. Israel v. Wood, 98 Colo. 495, 56 P.2d 1324 (1936).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1003. Application for permanent absentee voter status.

1-13.5-1003. Application for permanent absentee voter status.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1003. Application for permanent absentee voter status. / Statute text

(1) Any eligible elector of a political subdivision may apply for permanent absentee voter status. The application for permanent absentee voter status must be made in writing or by facsimile using an application form or letter furnished by the designated election official of the political subdivision. The application must contain the same information submitted in connection

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

with an application for an absentee voter's ballot pursuant to section 1-13.5-1002.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for permanent absentee voter status, the designated election official shall process the application in the same manner as an application for an absentee voter's ballot. If the designated election official determines that the applicant is an eligible elector, the designated election official shall place the eligible elector's name on the list maintained by the political subdivision pursuant to section 1-13.5-1004 of those eligible electors to whom an absentee voter's ballot is mailed every time there is an election conducted by the political subdivision for which the eligible elector has requested permanent absentee voter status.

(3) If there is no designated election official presently appointed in the local government, the secretary of the local government shall process the application for permanent absentee status in accordance with subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1003. Application for permanent absentee voter status. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 39, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (3) added, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1269, § 10, effective August 10.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1004. List of absentee voters' ballots - removal from list.

1-13.5-1004. List of absentee voters' ballots - removal from list.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1004. List of absentee voters' ballots - removal from list. / Statute text

(1) The designated election official shall keep a list of names of eligible electors who have applied for absentee voters' ballots and of those permanent absentee voters placed on the list pursuant to section 1-13.5-1003 (2), with the date on which each application was made, the date on which the absentee voter's ballot was sent, and the date on which each absentee voter's ballot was returned. If an absentee voter's ballot is not returned, or if it is rejected and not counted, that fact must be noted on the list. The list is open to public inspection under proper regulations.

(2) (a) An eligible elector whose name appears on the list as a permanent absentee voter must remain on the list and must be mailed an absentee voter's ballot for each election conducted by

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BACK TO TOP

the political subdivision for which the eligible elector has requested permanent absentee voter status.

(b) An eligible elector must be deleted from the permanent absentee voter list if:

(I) The eligible elector notifies the designated election official that he or she no longer wishes to vote by absentee voter's ballot;

(II) The absentee voter's ballot sent to the eligible elector is returned to the designated election official as undeliverable;

(III) The eligible elector has been deemed "Inactive" pursuant to section 1-2-605; or

(IV) The person is no longer eligible to vote in the political subdivision.

(3) The designated election official shall keep a list of the names of eligible electors applying for an absentee voter's ballot, the number appearing on the stub of the ballot issued to such eligible elector, and the date the ballot is delivered or mailed. This information may be recorded on the registration record or registration list before the registration book or list is delivered to the election judges. A separate list of the eligible electors who have received absentee voter's ballots must be delivered to the election judges in the polling place designated for counting absentee voter's ballots, or, if the designated election official elects to deliver absentee voters' envelopes received from electors to the election judges of such polling place, as provided by section 1-13.5-1006, a separate list of the eligible electors who have received absentee voter's ballots must be delivered to the election judges of each such polling place.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1004. List of absentee voters' ballots - removal from list. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 39, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1005. Self-affirmation on return envelope.

1-13.5-1005. Self-affirmation on return envelope.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1005. Self-affirmation on return envelope. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

(1) The return envelope for an absentee voter's ballot must have printed on its face a self-affirmation substantially in the form provided in section 1-13.5-605 (1).

(2) If applicable, the self-affirmation provided in section 1-13.5-605 (2) may be substituted for the self-affirmation in section 1-13.5-605 (1).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1005. Self-affirmation on return envelope. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 40, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1006. Manner of absentee voting by paper ballot.

1-13.5-1006. Manner of absentee voting by paper ballot.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1006. Manner of absentee voting by paper ballot. / Statute text

(1) Any eligible elector applying for and receiving an absentee voter's ballot, in casting the ballot, shall make and subscribe to the self-affirmation on the return envelope. The voter shall then mark the ballot. The voter shall fold the ballot so as to conceal the marking, deposit it in the return envelope, and seal the envelope securely. The envelope may be delivered personally or mailed by the voter to the designated election official issuing the ballot. It is permissible for a voter to deliver the ballot to any person of the voter's own choice or to any duly authorized agent of the designated election official for mailing or personal delivery to the designated election official. To be counted, all envelopes containing absentee voter's ballots must be in the hands of the designated election official or an election judge for the local government not later than 7 p.m. on election day.

(2) Upon receipt of an absentee voter's ballot, the designated election official or an election judge shall write or stamp on the envelope containing the ballot the date and hour that the envelope was received and, if the ballot was delivered in person, the name and address of the person delivering the same. The designated election official or election judge shall safely keep and preserve all absentee voter's ballots unopened until the time prescribed for delivery to the

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BACK TO TOP

judges as provided in section 1-13.5-1008.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1006. Manner of absentee voting by paper ballot. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 40, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1006. Manner of absentee voting by paper ballot. / Annotations

ANNOTATION

Analysis

I. General Consideration.
II. Casting Absentee Ballots.
III. Duty of Election Official.

BACK TO TOP

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

Annotator's note. The following annotations include cases decided under former provisions similar to this section.

Statutory requirement that state reimburse counties for costs associated with an increased level of service found in § 29-1-304.5 (1) inapplicable to requirement in subsection (1)(a) of this section that counties must provide drop-off boxes for mail-in ballots at every polling place on election day, notwithstanding that this increase in service may create additional costs to the county. Statute requiring that the costs of conducting an election be a county charge, § 1-5-505 (1), is in irreconcilable conflict with § 29-1-304.5 (1). However, § 1-5-505 (1), which pertains only to election funding, is more specific than § 29-1-304.5 (1), which broadly applies its reimbursement requirement to most existing state programs. Although § 29-1-304.5 (1) was adopted after § 1-5-505 (1), there is no manifest intent that it should prevail in a conflict with the other statute. Rather, the intent of the legislature was to prioritize citizens' access to free and fair elections over convenience or cost savings to counties. Thus, § 1-5-505 (1) should prevail over § 29-1-304.5 (1), making the unfunded mandate requirement inapplicable to the requirement of this section that counties provide drop-off boxes for mail-in ballots at every polling place on election day. Gessler v. Doty, 2012 COA 4, 272 P.3d 1131.

II. CASTING ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

A voter wishing to cast an absentee vote must comply with all the statutory demands, and the power of the board of elections is held within those lines. Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P. 1059

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BACK TO TOP

(1931).

Absentee voting is in derogation of the general election law and should be strictly construed. Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P. 1059 (1931).

For a strict construction of prescribed procedures is necessary to safeguard the exercise of the elective franchise. Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P. 1059 (1931).

And the general assembly undoubtedly intended that a voter be held to a strict performance of the prescribed absentee voting procedures. Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P. 1059 (1931).

Thus, execution by a voter of the affidavit is a mandatory precedent to the right to so vote, and if not furnished, the ballot should not be counted. Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P. 1059 (1931).

However, objection to method of casting vote not considered where vote not mentioned in statement of contest. Israel v. Wood, 98 Colo. 495, 56 P.2d 1324 (1936).

III. DUTY OF ELECTION OFFICIAL.

Voter cannot be disenfranchised for clerk's mistake. A voter who has performed every act required of him cannot be disenfranchised because of irregularities or mistakes of the county clerk. Kellogg v. Hickman, 12 Colo. 256, 21 P. 325 (1888); Lehman v. Pettingell, 39 Colo. 258, 89 P. 48 (1907); Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P. 1059 (1931).

Election officials are presumed to comply with the law. Bullington v. Grabow, 88 Colo. 561, 298 P. 1059 (1931).

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1007. Absentee voters' voting machines - electronic voting systems.

1-13.5-1007. Absentee voters' voting machines - electronic voting systems.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1007. Absentee voters' voting machines - electronic voting systems. / Statute text

(1) Any local government using voting machines in a local government election may provide one or more machines in the designated election official's office for the use of qualified applicants for absentee voters' ballots. If such machines are provided, they must be available from twelve days prior to the election until the close of business on the Friday immediately preceding the election. Votes on the machines must be cast and counted in the same manner as votes would be cast and counted on a voting machine in a polling place on election day. The designated election official shall supervise the casting and counting of absentee voters' ballots on

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BACK TO TOP

the machines. The machines shall remain locked and the tabulation of the votes cast must remain unknown until election day.

(2) Any local government using an electronic voting system may provide such system for the use of qualified applicants for absentee voters' ballots. Such system must be available from twelve days prior to the election until the close of business on the Friday immediately preceding the election. Votes cast using such system must be cast in the same manner as votes would be cast in a polling place on election day. The designated election official shall supervise the casting and counting of absentee voters' ballots using such system.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1007. Absentee voters' voting machines - electronic voting systems. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 41, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1008. Delivery to judges.

1-13.5-1008. Delivery to judges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1008. Delivery to judges. / Statute text

Not later than 8:30 a.m. on the day of any local government election, the designated election official shall deliver to the election judges of one of the polling places of the local government, which polling place shall be selected by the designated election official, all the absentee voters' ballot envelopes received up to that time, in sealed packages. The designated election official shall take a receipt for the packages, together with the list of absentee voters, or, in the designated election official's discretion, the designated election official may elect to deliver the absentee voters' envelopes received from electors and the list of absentee voters to the election judges of the polling place. The designated election official shall continue to deliver any envelopes that are received thereafter during that day up to and including 7 p.m. On the sealed packages must be printed or written, "This package contains . . . (number) absentee voters' ballots." With the envelopes, the designated election official shall deliver to one of the election judges all the books, records, and supplies as are needed for tabulating, recording, and certifying

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BACK TO TOP

said absentee voters' ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1008. Delivery to judges. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 41, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1009. Casting and counting absentee voters' ballots.

1-13.5-1009. Casting and counting absentee voters' ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1009. Casting and counting absentee voters' ballots. / Statute text

BACK TO TOP

If the self-affirmation on the envelope containing an absentee voter's ballot is properly sworn to, one of the election judges shall tear open the voter's identification envelope in the presence of a majority of the judges without defacing the self-affirmation printed thereon or mutilating the enclosed ballot. One of the election judges shall verify the name of the eligible elector and ballot number issued to such elector and carefully remove the stub from the ballot. The ballot must then be cast and counted in the same manner as if the absentee voter had been present in person; except that one of the judges shall deposit the ballot in the ballot box without unfolding it. The absentee vote must be counted and certified separately from the votes of the polling place where it is counted.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1009. Casting and counting absentee voters' ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 42, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1010. Challenge of absentee voters' ballots - rejection - record.

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-1010. Challenge of absentee voters' ballots - rejection - record.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1010. Challenge of absentee voters' ballots - rejection - record. / Statute text

(1) The vote of any absentee voter may be challenged in the same manner as other votes are challenged, and the election judges may determine the legality of such ballot. If the challenge is sustained or if the judges determine that the self-affirmation accompanying the absentee voter's ballot is insufficient or that the voter is not an eligible elector, the envelope containing the ballot of the voter shall not be opened, and the judges shall endorse on the back of the envelope the reason for rejection. When it is made to appear to the election judges by sufficient proof that any absentee voter who has marked and forwarded a ballot has died, the envelope containing the ballot of the deceased voter shall not be opened, and the judges shall make proper notation on the back of such envelope. If an absentee voter's envelope contains more than one marked ballot, none of the ballots in that envelope may be counted, and the judges shall note on the envelope the reason that the ballots were not counted. If an absentee voter's envelope does not contain all pages of a ballot, only the marked and returned pages shall be counted. Election judges shall certify in their returns the number of absentee voter's ballots cast and counted and the number of such ballots rejected.

(2) All absentee voters' envelopes, ballot stubs, and absentee voters' ballots rejected by the election judges in accordance with subsection (1) of this section must be returned to the designated election official. All absentee voters' ballots received by the designated election official after 7 p.m. on the day of the election, together with those rejected and returned by the election judges as provided in this section, must remain in the sealed identification envelopes.

(3) If an absentee voter's ballot is not returned or if it is rejected and not counted, the fact shall be noted on the record kept by the designated election official. Such record is open to public inspection under proper regulations.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1010. Challenge of absentee voters' ballots - rejection - record. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 42, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-1011. Emergency absentee voting - definition.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1011. Emergency absentee voting - definition. / Statute text

(1) (a) If an eligible elector is confined in a hospital or at his or her place of residence on election day because of conditions arising after the closing day for absentee voters' ballot applications, he or she may request, by a written statement signed by him or her, that the designated election official send him or her an emergency absentee voter's ballot. The designated election official shall deliver the emergency absentee voter's ballot, with the word "emergency" stamped or written on the stubs of the ballot, at his or her office, during the regular hours of business, to any authorized representative of the elector possessing a written statement from the voter's physician, physician assistant authorized under section 12-240-107 (6), advanced practice nurse, or nurse practitioner that the voter will be confined in a hospital or his or her place of residence on election day. The authorized representative shall acknowledge receipt of the emergency absentee voter's ballot with his or her signature, name, and address.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (1), "authorized representative" means a person possessing a written statement from the elector containing the elector's signature, name, and address and requesting that the elector's emergency absentee voter's ballot be given to the authorized person as identified by name and address.

(2) A request for an emergency absentee voter's ballot under this section shall be made, and the ballot shall be returned, to the designated election official's office no later than 7 p.m. on election day.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 10 ABSENTEE VOTING / 1-13.5-1011. Emergency absentee voting - definition. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 42, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (1)(a) amended, (SB 16-158), ch. 204, p. 720, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2019:** (1)(a) amended, (HB 19-1172), ch. 136, p. 1642, § 4, effective October 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in SB 16-158, see section 1 of chapter 204, Session Laws of Colorado 2016.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 11
INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS

1-13.5-1101. Independent mail ballot elections.

Any local government may conduct an independent mail ballot election utilizing the procedures in this part 11.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 43, § 6, effective February 18.

1-13.5-1102. Definitions.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1102. Definitions. / Statute text

As used in this part 11, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Independent mail ballot election" means a mail ballot election that the governing body of a local government determines will not be coordinated by the county clerk and recorder.

(2) "Mail ballot packet" means the packet of information provided by the designated election official to eligible electors in the independent mail ballot election. The packet includes the ballot, instructions for completing the ballot, a secrecy envelope, and a return envelope.

(3) "Publication" means one-time printing in a newspaper of general circulation in the local government or proposed special district if there is such a newspaper, or, if not, in a newspaper in the county in which the local government or proposed special district is or will be located. For a local government with territory in more than one county, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the local government, "publication" means the one-time printing in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in which the local government is located and in which fifty or more eligible electors of the local government resides.

(4) "Return envelope" means an envelope that is printed with spaces for the name and address of, and a self-affirmation substantially in the form described in section 1-13.5-605 (1) to be signed by, an eligible elector voting in an independent mail ballot election, into which envelope must fit a secrecy envelope. A return envelope must be designed to allow election officials, upon examining the signature, name, and address on the outside of the envelope, to determine whether the enclosed ballot is being submitted by an eligible elector who has not previously voted in that particular election.

(5) "Secrecy envelope" means the envelope or sleeve used for an independent mail ballot election that contains the eligible elector's ballot for the election and that is designed to conceal and maintain the confidentiality of the elector's vote until the counting of votes for that particular election.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1102. Definitions. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 43, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (1) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1269, § 11, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1103. Independent mail ballot elections - optional -

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BACK TO TOP

cooperation with county clerk and recorder permitted - exception.

1-13.5-1103. Independent mail ballot elections - optional - cooperation with county clerk and recorder permitted - exception.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1103. Independent mail ballot elections - optional - cooperation with county clerk and recorder permitted - exception. / Statute text

(1) If the governing body of any local government determines that an election shall be by independent mail ballot, the designated election official for the local government shall conduct the election by mail ballot pursuant to this part 11.

(2) Nothing in this part 11 requires that any election be conducted by mail ballot.

(3) Notwithstanding the fact that an independent mail ballot election is an election that is not coordinated by a county clerk and recorder, the designated election official of a local government and the county clerk and recorder may, by agreement, cooperate on any election procedure or notice.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, the designated election official of a local government shall mail a ballot to every eligible elector of the local government who resides within the boundaries of the local government and who is a covered voter, as that term is defined in section 1-8.3-102, for any election conducted under this article.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1103. Independent mail ballot elections - optional - cooperation with county clerk and recorder permitted - exception. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 44, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (4) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1269, § 12, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1104. Preelection process - notification of independent mail ballot election - plan required - duties of designated election official.

1-13.5-1104. Preelection process - notification of independent mail ballot election - plan

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BACK TO TOP

required - duties of designated election official.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1104. Preelection process - notification of independent mail ballot election - plan required - duties of designated election official. / Statute text

(1) The designated election official responsible for conducting an election that is to be by independent mail ballot pursuant to this part 11 shall, no later than fifty-five days prior to the election, have on file at the principal office of the local government or designated election official a plan for conducting the independent mail ballot election. The plan is a public record.

(2) The designated election official shall supervise the distributing, handling, and counting of ballots and the survey of returns, and shall take the necessary steps to protect the confidentiality of the ballots cast and the integrity of the election.

(3) No elector information may be delivered to an elector in the form of a sample ballot.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1104. Preelection process - notification of independent mail ballot election - plan required - duties of designated election official. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 44, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1105. Procedures for conducting independent mail ballot election.

1-13.5-1105. Procedures for conducting independent mail ballot election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1105. Procedures for conducting independent mail ballot election. / Statute text

(1) Official ballots must be prepared and all other preelection procedures followed as

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BACK TO TOP

otherwise provided by law; except that mail ballot packets must be prepared in accordance with this part 11.

(2) (a) Except for coordinated elections conducted pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement as a mail ballot election where the county clerk and recorder is the coordinated election official under the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", articles 1 to 13 of this title, no later than thirty days prior to election day, the county clerk and recorder in which the local government is located shall submit to the designated election official conducting the independent mail ballot election a complete preliminary list of registered electors. For special district independent mail ballot elections, the county clerk and recorder and county assessor of each county in which a special district is located shall certify and submit to the designated election official a property owners list and a list of registered electors residing within the affected district.

(b) Not later than twenty days prior to election day, the county clerk and recorder and, if appropriate, county assessor, required to submit a preliminary list in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall submit to the designated election official a supplemental list of the names of eligible electors or property owners who registered to vote on or before twenty-two days prior to the election and whose names were not included on the preliminary list.

(c) All registered electors' names and property owners lists provided to a designated election official under this section shall include the last mailing address of each elector.

(d) (I) No later than twenty days before an election, the designated election official, or the coordinated election official if so provided by an intergovernmental agreement, shall provide notice by publication of an independent mail ballot election conducted pursuant to this article, which notice shall state, as applicable for the particular election for which the notice is provided, the information set forth in section 1-13.5-502.

(II) The notice required to be given by this paragraph (d) is in lieu of the notice requirements set forth in section 1-13.5-502.

(3) Subsequent to the preparation of ballots, but prior to the mailing required under subsection (4) of this section, a designated election official shall provide a mail ballot to an eligible elector requesting the ballot at the office designated in the mail ballot plan.

(4) (a) Not sooner than twenty-two days before an election, and no later than fifteen days before an election, the designated election official shall mail to each active registered elector, at the last mailing address appearing in the registration records and in accordance with United States postal service regulations, a mail ballot packet marked "Do not forward. Address correction requested.", or any other similar statement that is in accordance with United States postal service regulations.

(b) The ballot or ballot label must contain the following warning:

Warning:

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates, or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both.

(c) (I) The return envelope must have printed on it a self-affirmation substantially in the form provided in section 1-13.5-605 (1).

(II) The signing of the self-affirmation on the return envelope constitutes an affirmation by the eligible elector to whom the ballot was provided, under penalty of perjury, that the facts stated in the self-affirmation are true. If the eligible elector is unable to sign, the eligible elector may affirm by making a mark on the self-affirmation, with or without assistance, that is witnessed by another person who signs as witness where indicated on the return envelope.

(III) Repealed.

(d) Not sooner than twenty-two days prior to election day, and until 7 p.m. on election day, mail ballots must be made available at the office designated in the mail ballot plan for eligible electors who are not listed or who are listed as "Inactive" on the county voter registration records or, for special district independent mail ballot elections, not listed on the property owners list or the registration list but who are authorized to vote pursuant to section 1-13.5-202 or other applicable law.

(e) (I) An eligible elector may obtain a replacement ballot if his or her original ballot was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or for any other reason not received by the eligible elector. An eligible elector may obtain a ballot if a mail ballot packet was not sent to the elector because the eligibility of the elector could not be determined at the time the mail ballot packets were mailed. In order to obtain a ballot, the eligible elector must sign a sworn statement specifying the reason for requesting the ballot, which statement must be presented to the designated election official no later than 7 p.m. on election day. The designated election official shall keep a record of each ballot issued in accordance with this paragraph (e) with a list of each ballot obtained pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subsection (4).

(II) A designated election official or election judge shall not transmit a mail ballot packet under this paragraph (e) unless a sworn statement requesting the ballot is received on or before election day. A ballot may be transmitted directly to the eligible elector requesting the ballot at the office designated in the mail ballot plan or may be mailed to the eligible elector at the address provided in the sworn statement. Such ballots may be cast no later than 7 p.m. on election day.

(5) (a) Upon receipt of a ballot, the eligible elector shall mark the ballot, sign and complete the self-affirmation on the return envelope, and comply with the instructions provided with the ballot.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(b) The eligible elector may return the marked ballot to the designated election official by United States mail or by depositing the ballot at the office of the official or any place identified in the mail ballot plan by the designated election official. The ballot must be returned in the return envelope. If an eligible elector returns the ballot by mail, the elector must provide postage. The ballot must be received at the office identified in the mail ballot plan or an identified depository, which must remain open until 7 p.m. on election day. The depository must be identified by the designated election official and located in a secure place under the supervision of the designated election official, an election judge, or another person named by the designated election official.

(6) Once the ballot is returned, an election judge shall first qualify the submitted ballot by comparing the information on the return envelope with the registration records and property owners list, as applicable, to determine whether the ballot was submitted by an eligible elector who has not previously voted in the election. If the ballot qualifies and is otherwise valid, the election judge shall indicate in the pollbook that the eligible elector cast a ballot and deposit the ballot in an official ballot box.

(7) All deposited ballots shall be counted as provided in this part 11. A mail ballot is valid and shall be counted only if it is returned in the return envelope, the self-affirmation on the return envelope is signed and completed by the eligible elector to whom the ballot was issued, and the information on the return envelope is verified in accordance with subsection (6) of this section. Mail ballots shall be counted in the same manner as provided by section 1-13.5-609 for counting paper ballots or section 1-13.5-708 or 1-13.5-811 for counting electronic ballots. If the election judge or designated election official determines that an eligible elector to whom a replacement ballot has been issued has voted more than once, the first ballot returned by the elector shall be considered the elector's official ballot. Rejected ballots shall be handled in the same manner as provided in section 1-13.5-1010.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1105. Procedures for conducting independent mail ballot election. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 45, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (3), (4)(d), (4)(e)(II), and (5)(b) amended, (SB 16-142), ch. 173, p. 589, § 73, effective May 18; (4)(c)(III) repealed, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1269, § 13, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1105.5. Voting by electors at group residential facilities.

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-1105.5. Voting by electors at group residential facilities.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1105.5. Voting by electors at group residential facilities. / Statute text

For independent mail ballot elections conducted under this part 11, upon the request of any eligible elector of the local government residing in a facility described in section 1-7.5-113 (1), the designated election official shall appoint a committee for delivery of mail ballots to, and return of voted mail ballots from, the facility in accordance with section 1-7.5-113.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1105.5. Voting by electors at group residential facilities. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 48, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1106. Delivery of misdelivered ballots.

1-13.5-1106. Delivery of misdelivered ballots.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1106. Delivery of misdelivered ballots. / Statute text

(1) If an elector delivers a ballot, mail ballot, or absentee voter's ballot to the designated election official, polling place, or election judge of another local government, or to the county clerk and recorder, the recipient may accept the ballot and, if accepted, must arrange for its delivery to the proper person by 7 p.m. on election day. The reasonable cost of such delivery must be paid by the local government conducting the election in which the voter intended to cast the ballot.

(2) If the error in delivery of a ballot is discovered too late for delivery by 7 p.m. on election

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BACK TO TOP

day, the ballot must be mailed to the proper designated election official and maintained as an election record, but not counted.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1106. Delivery of misdelivered ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 48, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (1) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1269, § 14, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1107. Counting mail ballots.

1-13.5-1107. Counting mail ballots.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1107. Counting mail ballots. / Statute text

The election officials at the mail ballot counting place shall receive and prepare mail ballots delivered and turned over to them by the election judges for counting. Counting of the mail ballots may begin fifteen days prior to the election and continue until counting is completed. The election official in charge of the mail ballot counting place shall take all precautions necessary to ensure the secrecy of the counting procedures, and no information concerning the count shall be released by the election officials or watchers until after 7 p.m. on election day.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1107. Counting mail ballots. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 48, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1108. Write-in candidates.

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-1108. Write-in candidates.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1108. Write-in candidates. / Statute text

Any write-in candidate is allowed in independent mail ballot elections if the candidate has filed an affidavit of intent with the designated election official as required by law.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1108. Write-in candidates. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 48, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1109. Challenges.

1-13.5-1109. Challenges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1109. Challenges. / Statute text

Votes cast pursuant to this part 11 may be challenged pursuant to and in accordance with law, including the challenge and rejection of ballot provisions set forth in section 1-13.5-1010. Any independent mail ballot election conducted pursuant to this part 11 will not be invalidated on the grounds that an eligible elector did not receive a ballot so long as the designated election official for the political subdivision conducting the election acted in good faith in complying with this part 11.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 11 INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS / 1-13.5-1109. Challenges. / History

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BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 48, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 12
CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1201. No voting unless eligible.

1-13.5-1201. No voting unless eligible.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1201. No voting unless eligible. / Statute text

Unless otherwise permitted pursuant to section 1-13.5-605, no person is permitted to vote at any local government election unless his or her name is found on the registration list or property owners list, if applicable, or unless the person's registration or property ownership is confirmed orally as provided by section 1-13.5-605 (3).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1201. No voting unless eligible. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 49, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1202. Right to vote may be challenged.

1-13.5-1202. Right to vote may be challenged.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1202. Right to vote may be challenged. / Statute text

(1) When any person whose name appears on the registration list or property owners list applies for a ballot, his or her right to vote at that election may be challenged. If the person applying is not entitled to vote, no ballot shall be delivered to him or her. Any person may also be challenged when he or she offers a ballot for deposit in the ballot box.

(2) It is the duty of any election judge to challenge any person offering to vote who he or she believes is not an eligible elector. In addition, challenges may be made by watchers or any eligible elector of the local government who is present.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1202. Right to vote may be challenged. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 49, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1203. Challenge to be made by written oath.

1-13.5-1203. Challenge to be made by written oath.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1203. Challenge to be made by written oath. / Statute text

Each challenge must be made by written oath, signed by the challenger under penalty of perjury, setting forth the name of the person challenged and the basis for the challenge. The election judges shall deliver all challenges and oaths to the designated election official at the time the other election papers are returned. The designated election official shall deliver all challenges and oaths to the district attorney for investigation and appropriate action as soon as possible.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS

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BACK TO TOP

VOTING / 1-13.5-1203. Challenge to be made by written oath. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 49, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1204. Challenge questions asked.

1-13.5-1204. Challenge questions asked.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1204. Challenge questions asked. / Statute text

(1) If a person offering to vote is challenged as unqualified, one of the election judges shall tender to him or her the following written oath or affirmation: "You do solemnly swear or affirm that you will fully and truly answer all such questions as are put to you regarding your place of residence and qualifications as an eligible elector at this election."

(2) If the person is challenged as unqualified on the ground that he or she is not a citizen and will not exhibit papers pertaining to naturalization, an election judge shall ask the following question: "Are you a citizen of the United States?"

(3) If the person is challenged as unqualified on the ground that he or she is not a resident of the local government, an election judge shall ask the following questions:

(a) "Have you resided in the local government immediately preceding this election?"

(b) "Have you been absent from the local government immediately preceding this election, and during that time have you maintained a home or domicile elsewhere?"

(c) "If so, when you left, was it for a temporary purpose with the intent of returning, or did you intend to remain away?"

(d) "Did you, while absent, look upon and regard this state as your home?"

(e) "Did you, while absent, vote in any other state or territory?"

(4) If the person is challenged as ineligible because the person is not a property owner or the spouse or civil union partner of a property owner, an election judge shall ask the following questions:

(a) "Are you a property owner or the spouse or civil union partner of a property owner in this

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

political subdivision and therefore eligible to vote?"

(b) "What is the address or, for special district elections where an address is not available, the location of the property that entitles you to vote in this election?"

(5) If the person is challenged as unqualified on the ground that the person is not eighteen years of age, an election judge shall ask the following question: "Are you eighteen years of age or over to the best of your knowledge and belief?"

(6) An election judge shall put all other questions to the person challenged as may be necessary to test the person's qualifications as an eligible elector at the election.

(7) If the person challenged answers satisfactorily all of the questions put to him or her, the person shall sign his or her name on the form of the challenge after the printed questions. The election judges shall indicate in the proper place on the form of challenge whether the challenge was withdrawn and whether the challenged voter refused to answer the questions and left the polling place without voting.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1204. Challenge questions asked. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 49, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1205. Oath of person challenged.

1-13.5-1205. Oath of person challenged.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1205. Oath of person challenged. / Statute text

(1) If the challenge is not withdrawn after the person offering to vote has answered the questions asked pursuant to section 1-13.5-1204, one of the election judges shall tender the following oath:

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You do solemnly swear or affirm that you are a citizen of the United States of the age
of eighteen years or over; that you have been a resident of this local government and
have not retained a home or domicile elsewhere, or that you or your spouse or civil
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BACK TO TOP

union partner are owners of taxable real or personal property within the local government; that you are a registered elector of this state; and that you have not previously voted at this election.

(2) After the person has taken the oath or affirmation, his or her ballot must be received and the word "sworn" must be written on the pollbook after the person's name.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1205. Oath of person challenged. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 50, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1206. Refusal to answer questions or take oath.

1-13.5-1206. Refusal to answer questions or take oath.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1206. Refusal to answer questions or take oath. / Statute text

If the challenged person refuses to answer fully any question which is put to him or her as provided in section 1-13.5-1204 or refuses to take the oath or affirmation tendered as provided in section 1-13.5-1205, the election judges shall reject the challenged person's vote.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 12 CHALLENGE OF PERSONS VOTING / 1-13.5-1206. Refusal to answer questions or take oath. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 51, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

PART 13
SURVEY OF RETURNS

1-13.5-1301. Survey of returns - canvass board.

(1) At least fifteen days before any election, the designated election official shall appoint at least one member of the governing body of a local government, and at least one eligible elector of the local government who is not a member of that body, to assist the designated election official in the survey of returns. The persons so appointed and the designated election official constitute the canvass board for the election.

(2) To the fullest extent possible, no member of the canvass board nor the member's spouse or civil union partner shall have a direct interest in the election.

(3) If, for any reason, any person appointed as a member of the canvass board refuses, fails, or is unable to serve, that appointed person shall notify the designated election official, who shall appoint another person that possesses the same qualifications as the original appointee as directed under subsection (1) of this section, if available, to the canvass board.

(4) Each canvass board member who is not a member of the governing body shall receive a minimum fee of fifteen dollars for each day of service. The fee shall be set by the designated election official and paid by the local government for which the service is performed.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 51, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1302. Imperfect returns.

1-13.5-1302. Imperfect returns.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1302. Imperfect returns. / Statute text

If the canvass board finds that the returns from any polling place do not strictly conform to the requirements of law in the making, certifying, and returning of the returns, the votes cast in that polling place nevertheless must be canvassed and counted if such returns are sufficiently explicit to enable the persons authorized to canvass votes and returns to determine how many votes were cast for each candidate, ballot issue, or ballot question.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1302. Imperfect returns. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 51, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1303. Corrections.

1-13.5-1303. Corrections.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1303. Corrections. / Statute text

If, upon proceeding to canvass the votes, it clearly appears to the canvass board that in any statement produced to them certain matters are omitted that should have been inserted or that any

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BACK TO TOP

mistakes which are merely clerical exist, the canvass board shall send the statement to the election judges from whom they were received to have the mistakes corrected. The election judges, when so demanded, shall make such corrections as the facts of the case require, but shall not change or alter any decision made before by them. The canvass board may adjourn from day to day for the purpose of obtaining and receiving the statement.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1303. Corrections. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 51, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1304. Tie - lots - notice to candidates.

1-13.5-1304. Tie - lots - notice to candidates.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1304. Tie - lots - notice to candidates. / Statute text

If any two or more candidates receive an equal and highest number of votes for the same office, and if there are not enough offices remaining for all such candidates, the canvass board shall determine by lot the person who shall be elected. Reasonable notice shall be given to such candidates of the time when such election will be so determined.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1304. Tie - lots - notice to candidates. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 52, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1305. Statement - certificates of election.

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BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-1305. Statement - certificates of election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1305. Statement - certificates of election. / Statute text

(1) No later than the fourteenth day following the election, the canvass board shall make statements from the official abstract of votes that show the names of the candidates, any ballot issue or ballot question, and the number of votes given to each. The canvass board shall certify the statement to be correct and subscribe their names thereto. The canvass board shall then determine which persons have been duly elected by the highest number of votes and shall endorse and subscribe on such statements a certificate of their determination. The designated election official shall also file a copy of the certificate with the division of local government in the department of local affairs.

(2) The designated election official shall make and transmit to each of the persons thereby declared to be elected a certificate of the person's election.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1305. Statement - certificates of election. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 52, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1269, § 15, effective August 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1306. Recount.

1-13.5-1306. Recount.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1306. Recount. / Statute text

(1) The designated election official shall order a recount of the votes cast in any election if it appears, as evidenced by the survey of returns, that the difference between the highest number of

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BACK TO TOP

votes cast in the election and the next highest number of votes cast in the election is less than or equal to one-half of one percent of the highest number of votes cast in the election. Any recount conducted pursuant to this subsection (1) shall be completed no later than the twenty-eighth day following the election and shall be paid for by the governing body of the local government. The designated election official shall give notice of the recount to the governing body, to all candidates and, in the case of a ballot issue or question, to any issue committee that are affected by the result of the election. The notice must be given by any means reasonably expected to notify the affected candidates or issue committee. An affected candidate or issue committee is allowed to be present during and observe the recount.

(2) (a) Whenever a recount of the votes cast in an election is not required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, any interested party, including an eligible elector or a candidate for office or the issue committee for a ballot issue or question, may submit to the designated election official a written request for a recount at the expense of the interested party making the request. This request shall be filed with the designated election official within seventeen days after the election.

(b) Before conducting the recount, the designated election official shall:

(I) Give notice of the recount in accordance with subsection (1) of this section;

(II) Determine the cost of the recount;

(III) Notify the interested party that requested the recount of such cost; and

(IV) Collect the actual cost of conducting the recount from such interested party.

(c) The interested party that requested the recount shall pay on demand the cost of the recount to the designated election official. The funds paid to the designated election official for the recount must be held and used for payment of all expenses incurred in the recount.

(d) If, after the recount, the result of the election is reversed in favor of the interested party that requested the recount or if the amended election count is such that a recount otherwise would have been required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the payment for expenses must be refunded to the interested party who paid them.

(e) Any recount of votes conducted pursuant to this subsection (2) must be completed no later than the twenty-eighth day after canvassing the election.

(f) If any leftover funds remain from the deposit paid under paragraph (c) of this subsection (2), and the recount does not change the result of the election, the designated election official shall return that unused portion of the deposit to the interested party who paid it.

(3) The designated election official is responsible for conducting the recount and shall be assisted by those persons who assisted in preparing the official abstract of votes. If those persons cannot participate in the recount, other persons shall be appointed as provided in section

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-1301. The designated election official may appoint additional persons qualified to be the election judges who did not serve as judges in the election as assistants in conducting the recount. Persons assisting in the conduct of the recount shall be compensated as provided in section 1-13.5-1301 (4).

(4) The designated election official may require the production of any documentary evidence regarding the legality of any vote cast or counted and may correct the survey of returns in accordance with the designated election official's findings based on the evidence presented.

(5) In elections using paper or electronic ballots, the recounts are of the ballots cast and the votes must be tallied on sheets other than those used at the election. In elections using voting machines, the recount is of the votes tabulated on the voting machines, and separate tally sheets must be used for each machine.

(6) After a recount conducted pursuant to this section has been completed, the designated election official shall notify the governing body of the local government conducting the election of the results of the recount, shall make a certificate of election for each candidate who received the highest number of votes for an office for which a recount was conducted, and shall deliver the certificate to such candidate.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 13 SURVEY OF RETURNS / 1-13.5-1306. Recount. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 52, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

PART 14
CONTESTS

1-13.5-1401. Person elected - contest - causes.

(1) The election of any person declared duly elected to any local government office may be contested by any eligible elector of the local government on the following grounds:

(a) The contestee is not eligible for the office to which he or she has been declared elected;

(b) Illegal votes have been received, or legal votes rejected, at the polls in sufficient numbers to change the results;

(c) An error or mistake was made by any of the election judges, the designated election official, or the canvass board in counting or declaring the result of the election, if the error or mistake was sufficient to change the result;

(d) Malconduct, fraud, or corruption occurred on the part of the election judges in any polling place, a canvass board member, or any designated election official or his or her assistant, if the malconduct, fraud, or corruption was sufficient to change the result; or

(e) For any other cause that shows that another candidate was the legally elected person.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 54, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1402. District judge to preside - bond.

1-13.5-1402. District judge to preside - bond.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1402. District judge to preside - bond. / Statute text

(1) All contested election cases of local government officers shall be tried and determined in the district court of the county in which the local government is located. If the territorial boundaries of a local government overlap wholly or partially with more than one county, the district court of either county has jurisdiction. The style and form of process, the manner of service of process and papers, the fees of officers, and judgment for costs and execution shall be according to the rules and practices of the district court.

(2) Before the district court is required to take jurisdiction of the contest, the contestor must file with the clerk of the court a bond, with sureties, to be approved by the district judge, running to the contestee and conditioned to pay all costs in case of failure to maintain his or her contest.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1402. District judge to preside - bond. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 54, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1403. Filing statement - contents.

1-13.5-1403. Filing statement - contents.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO

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BACK TO TOP

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1403. Filing statement - contents. / Statute text

The contestor shall file in the office of the clerk of the district court, within ten days after the expiration of the period within which a recount may be requested pursuant to section 1-13.5-1306, or within ten days after the conclusion of a recount conducted pursuant to section 1-13.5-1306, whichever is later, a written statement of the contestor's intention to contest the election and setting forth the name of the contestor, that the contestor is an eligible elector of the local government, the name of the contestee, the office contested, the time of election, and the particular causes of the contest. The statement must be verified by the affidavit of the contestor that the causes set forth in the statement are true to the best of the affiant's knowledge and belief.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1403. Filing statement - contents. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 55, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1270, § 16, effective August 10.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1404. Summons - answer.

1-13.5-1404. Summons - answer.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1404. Summons - answer. / Statute text

(1) If the clerk of the district court receives a statement as set forth in section 1-13.5-1403, the clerk shall issue a summons in the ordinary form, naming the contestor as plaintiff and the contestee as defendant, stating the court in which the action is brought and a brief statement of the causes of contest, as set forth in the contestor's statement. The summons shall be served upon the contestee in the same manner as other summons are served out of the district court.

(2) The contestee, within ten days after the date of service of such summons, shall make and file an answer to the same with the clerk of the court in which the contestee shall either admit or specifically deny each allegation intended to be controverted by the contestee on the trial of such contest and shall set in that answer any counterstatement that he or she relies upon as entitling

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BACK TO TOP

the contestee to the office to which he or she has been declared elected.

(3) If the reception of illegal votes or the rejection of legal votes is alleged as the cause of the contest, a list of the persons who so voted or offered to vote must be set forth in the statement of the contestor and must be likewise set forth in the answer of the contestee if any such cause is alleged in his or her answer by way of counterstatement.

(4) If the answer of the contestee contains new matter constituting a counterstatement, the contestor, within ten days after the filing of such answer, shall reply to the same, admitting or specifically denying, under oath, each allegation contained in such counterstatement intended by him or her to be controverted on the trial, and file the same in the office of the clerk of the district court.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1404. Summons - answer. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 55, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (3) amended, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1270, § 17, effective August 10.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1405. Trial and appeals.

1-13.5-1405. Trial and appeals.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1405. Trial and appeals. / Statute text

Immediately after the joining of issue, the district court shall fix a date for the trial to commence, which date shall not be more than twenty days nor less than ten days after the joining of issue. The trial takes precedence over all other business in the court. The testimony may be oral or by depositions taken before any officer authorized to take depositions. Any depositions taken to be used upon the trial of such contest may be taken upon four days' notice. The district judge shall cause the testimony to be taken in full and filed in the cause. The trial of such causes must be conducted according to the rules and practice of the district court. Such proceedings may be reviewed and finally adjudicated by the supreme court of this state, if application to that court is made by either party and if the supreme court is willing to assume jurisdiction of the case.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1405. Trial and appeals. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 55, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1406. Recount.

1-13.5-1406. Recount.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1406. Recount. / Statute text

If, upon the trial of any contested election under this article, the statement or counterstatement sets forth an error in canvass sufficient to change the result, the trial judge has the power to conduct a recount of the ballots cast or the votes tabulated on the voting machines in the precinct where the alleged error was made. The court may also require the production of witnesses, documents, records, and other evidence as may have or may contain information regarding the legality of any vote cast or counted for either of the contesting candidates or the correct number of votes cast for either candidate and may correct the canvass in accordance with the evidence presented and its findings.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1406. Recount. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 56, § 6, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1407. Judgment.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-13.5-1407. Judgment.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1407. Judgment. / Statute text

The court shall pronounce judgment whether the contestee or any other person was duly elected. The person so declared elected is entitled to the office upon qualification. If the judgment is against the contestee and he or she has received his or her certificate, the judgment annuls it. If the court finds that no person was duly elected, the judgment will be that the election be set aside and that a vacancy exists.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1407. Judgment. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 56, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1408. Ballot questions and ballot issues - how contested.

1-13.5-1408. Ballot questions and ballot issues - how contested.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1408. Ballot questions and ballot issues - how contested. / Statute text

(1) The results of an election on any ballot question or ballot issue may be contested in the manner provided by this part 14. The grounds for such contest are those grounds set forth in section 1-13.5-1401 (1)(b), (1)(c), and (1)(d). The contestee is the appropriate election official. In addition to other matters required to be set forth by this part 14, the statement of intention to contest the election must set forth the question contested.

(2) Any contest arising out of a ballot issue or ballot question concerning the order on the ballot or concerning whether the form or content of any ballot title meets the requirements of section 20 of article X of the state constitution must be conducted as provided in section

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BACK TO TOP

1-11-203.5.

(3) The result of an election on any ballot issue approving the creation of any debt or other financial obligation may be contested in the manner provided by this part 14. The grounds for such contest are those grounds set forth in sections 1-11-201 (4) and 1-13.5-1401 (1)(b), (1)(c), and (1)(d). The contestee is the local government for which the ballot issue was decided.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / GENERAL, PRIMARY, RECALL, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS / ARTICLE 13.5 COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE / PART 14 CONTESTS / 1-13.5-1408. Ballot questions and ballot issues - how contested. / History

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 56, § 6, effective February 18.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 15
OTHER JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

1-13.5-1501. Controversies.

(1) When any controversy arises between any official charged with any duty or function under this article and any candidate or other person, the district court, upon the filing of a verified petition by any such official or person setting forth in concise form the nature of the controversy and the relief sought, shall issue an order commanding the respondent in the petition to appear before the court and answer under oath to the petition. It is the duty of the court to summarily hear and dispose of any such issues, with a view to obtaining a substantial compliance with this article by the parties to the controversy, and to make and enter orders and judgments and to follow the procedures of the court to enforce all such orders and judgments.

(2) The proceedings may be reviewed and finally adjudicated by the supreme court of this state, if application to that court is made within five days after the termination by the court in which the petition was filed and if the supreme court is willing to assume jurisdiction of the case.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 57, § 6, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PART 16
ELECTION OFFENSES

1-13.5-1601. Applicability of criminal penalties.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, except for parts 2 and 3 of article 13 of this title, election offenses and penalties described under article 13 of this title apply to elections conducted under this article.

Source: L. 2014: Entire article added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 57, § 6, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 754, § 6, effective June 6.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

ARTICLE 45
FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This article was added in 1974. This article was repealed and reenacted by initiative in 1996, resulting in the addition, relocation, and elimination of sections as well as subject matter. The vote count on the measure at the general election held November 5, 1996, was as follows:

FOR: 928,148

AGAINST: 482,551

(2) For amendments to this article prior to 1996, consult the Colorado statutory research explanatory note and the table itemizing the replacement volumes and supplements to the original volume of C.R.S. 1973 beginning on page vii in the front of this volume. Former C.R.S. section numbers are shown in editor's notes following those sections that were relocated.

Cross references: For public official disclosure law, see part 2 of article 6 of title 24.

Law reviews: For article, "Fair Campaign Practices Act: Killing Trees for Good Government", see 26 Colo. Law. 101 (Sept. 1997). For article, "Public Moneys and Ballot Issues Under the Fair Campaign Practices Act", see 34 Colo. Law. 81 (Sept. 2005). For article, "Campaign Finance Law in Colorado", see 46 Colo. Law. 35 (June 2017).

Section

1-45-101. Short title.
1-45-102. Legislative declaration.
1-45-103. Definitions - repeal.
1-45-103.7. Contribution limits - county offices - treatment of independent expenditure committees - contributions from limited liability companies - voter instructions on spending limits - definitions.
1-45-104. Contribution limits. (Repealed)
1-45-105. Voluntary campaign spending limits. (Repealed)
1-45-105.3. Contribution limits. (Repealed)
1-45-105.5. Contributions to members of general assembly and governor during consideration of legislation.
1-45-106. Unexpended campaign contributions.
1-45-107. Independent expenditures. (Repealed)

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-45-107.5. Independent expenditures - restrictions on foreign corporations - registration - disclosure - disclaimer requirements - definitions.
1-45-108. Disclosure - definitions - repeal.
1-45-108.3. Disclaimer statement - committees - electioneering communications.
1-45-108.5. Political organizations - disclosure.
1-45-109. Filing - where to file - timeliness.
1-45-110. Candidate affidavit - disclosure statement.
1-45-111. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement. (Repealed)
1-45-111.5. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement - sanctions - definitions.
1-45-111.7. Campaign finance complaints - initial review - curing violations - investigation and enforcement - hearings - advisory opinions - document review - collection of debts resulting from campaign finance penalties - definitions.
1-45-112. Duties of municipal clerk.
1-45-112.5. Immunity from liability.
1-45-113. Sanctions. (Repealed)
1-45-114. Expenditures - political advertising - rates and charges.
1-45-115. Encouraging withdrawal from campaign prohibited.
1-45-116. Home rule counties and municipalities.
1-45-117. State and political subdivisions - limitations on contributions.
1-45-117.5. Media outlets - political records.
1-45-118. Severability.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-101. Short title.

1-45-101. Short title.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-101. Short title. / Statute text

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Fair Campaign Practices Act".

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-101. Short title. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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BACK TO TOP

REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-101. Short title. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 1-45-101 as it existed prior to 1996.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-102. Legislative declaration.

1-45-102. Legislative declaration.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-102. Legislative declaration. / Statute text

The people of the state of Colorado hereby find and declare that large campaign contributions to political candidates allow wealthy contributors and special interest groups to exercise a disproportionate level of influence over the political process; that large campaign contributions create the potential for corruption and the appearance of corruption; that the rising costs of campaigning for political office prevent qualified citizens from running for political office; and that the interests of the public are best served by limiting campaign contributions, establishing campaign spending limits, full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions, and strong enforcement of campaign laws.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-102. Legislative declaration. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **Initiated 2012, (Amendment 65):** Entire section amended, L. 2013, p. 3301, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 1, 2013.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-102. Legislative declaration. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 1-45-102 as it existed prior to 1996.

(2) This section was amended by initiative in 2012. The vote count on the measure at the general election held November 6, 2012, was as follows:

FOR: 1,276,432

AGAINST: 988,542

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-103. Definitions - repeal.

1-45-103. Definitions - repeal.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-103. Definitions - repeal. / Statute text

As used in this article 45, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Appropriate officer" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (1) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(1.3) "Ballot issue" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 1-1-104 (2.3); except that, for purposes of section 1-45-117, "ballot issue" shall mean both a ballot issue as defined in this subsection (1.3) and a ballot question.

(1.5) "Ballot question" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 1-1-104 (2.7).

(2) "Candidate" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (2) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(3) "Candidate committee" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (3) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(4) "Candidate committee account" shall mean the account established by a candidate committee with a financial institution pursuant to section 3 (9) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(5) "Conduit" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (4) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(6) (a) "Contribution" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (5) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(b) "Contribution" includes, with regard to a contribution for which the contributor receives compensation or consideration of less than equivalent value to such contribution, including, but not limited to, items of perishable or nonpermanent value, goods, supplies, services, or participation in a campaign-related event, an amount equal to the value in excess of such compensation or consideration as determined by the candidate committee.

(c) "Contribution" also includes:

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(I) Any payment, loan, pledge, gift, advance of money, or guarantee of a loan made to any political organization;

(II) Any payment made to a third party on behalf of and with the knowledge of the political organization; or

(III) The fair market value of any gift or loan of property made to any political organization.

(d) "Contribution" does not include the payment of legal fees to advise a candidate on compliance with campaign laws or regulations or to represent a candidate or candidate committee in any action in which the candidate or committee has been named as a defendant. Such legal services are not undertaken "for the benefit of any candidate committee" or "for the purpose of promoting the candidate's nomination, retention, recall, or election" as those phrases are used in section 2 (5)(a)(II) and (5)(a)(IV) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(e) "Contribution" does not include an intervention by the secretary of state, as authorized by section 1-45-111.5 (1.5)(g), in any action brought to enforce the provisions of article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article 45.

(7) "Corporation" means a domestic corporation incorporated under and subject to the "Colorado Business Corporation Act", articles 101 to 117 of title 7, C.R.S., a domestic nonprofit corporation incorporated under and subject to the "Colorado Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act", articles 121 to 137 of title 7, C.R.S., or any corporation incorporated under and subject to the laws of another state. For purposes of this article, "domestic corporation" shall mean a for-profit or nonprofit corporation incorporated under and subject to the laws of this state, and "nondomestic corporation" shall mean a corporation incorporated under and subject to the laws of another state or foreign country. For purposes of this article, "corporation" includes the parent of a subsidiary corporation or any subsidiaries of the parent, as applicable.

(7.3) (a) "Donation" means:

(I) The payment, loan, pledge, gift, or advance of money, or the guarantee of a loan, made to any person for the purpose of making an independent expenditure;

(II) Any payment made to a third party that relates to, and is made for the benefit of, any person that makes an independent expenditure;

(III) The fair market value of any gift or loan of property that is given to any person for the purpose of making an independent expenditure; or

(IV) Anything of value given, directly or indirectly, to any person for the purpose of making an independent expenditure.

(b) "Donation" shall not include a transfer by a membership organization of a portion of a member's dues for an independent expenditure sponsored by such membership organization.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(7.5) "Earmark" means a designation, instruction, or encumbrance that directs the transmission and use by the recipient of all or part of a donation to a third party for the purpose of making one or more independent expenditures or electioneering communications in excess of one thousand dollars.

(8) "Election cycle" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (6) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(9) "Electioneering communication" has the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (7) of article XXVIII of the state constitution. For purposes of the disclosure required by section 1-45-108, "electioneering communication" also includes any communication that satisfies all other requirements set forth in said section 2 (7) of article XXVIII but that is broadcast, printed, mailed, delivered, or distributed between the primary election and the general election.

(10) (a) "Expenditure" has the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (8) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(b) "Expenditure" does not include legal services paid to defend a candidate or candidate committee against any action brought to enforce the provisions of article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article 45.

(10.5) "Foreign corporation" means:

(a) A parent corporation or the subsidiary of a parent corporation formed under the laws of a foreign country that is functionally equivalent to a domestic corporation;

(b) A parent corporation or the subsidiary of a parent corporation in which one or more foreign persons hold a combined ownership interest that exceeds fifty percent;

(c) A parent corporation or the subsidiary of a parent corporation in which one or more foreign persons hold a majority of the positions on the corporation's board of directors; or

(d) A parent corporation or the subsidiary of a parent corporation whose United States-based operations, or whose decision-making with respect to political activities, falls under the direction or control of a foreign entity, including the government of a foreign country.

(11) "Independent expenditure" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (9) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(11.5) "Independent expenditure committee" means one or more persons that make an independent expenditure in an aggregate amount in excess of one thousand dollars or that collect in excess of one thousand dollars from one or more persons for the purpose of making an independent expenditure.

(12) (a) "Issue committee" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (10) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(b) For purposes of section 2 (10)(a)(I) of article XXVIII of the state constitution, "major purpose" means support of or opposition to a ballot issue or ballot question that is reflected by:

(I) An organization's specifically identified objectives in its organizational documents at the time it is established or as such documents are later amended; or

(II) An organization's demonstrated pattern of conduct based upon its:

(A) Annual expenditures in support of or opposition to a ballot issue or ballot question; or

(B) Production or funding, or both, of written or broadcast communications, or both, in support of or opposition to a ballot issue or ballot question.

(c) The provisions of paragraph (b) of this subsection (12) are intended to clarify, based on the decision of the Colorado court of appeals in *Independence Institute v. Coffman,* 209 P.3d 1130 (Colo. App. 2008), cert. denied, 558 U.S. 1024, 130 S. Ct. 165, 175 L. Ed. 479 (2009), section 2 (10)(a)(I) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and not to make a substantive change to said section 2 (10)(a)(I).

(12.5) "Media outlet" means a publication or broadcast medium that transmits news, feature stories, entertainment, or other information to the public through various distribution channels, including, without limitation, newspapers; magazines; radio; and broadcast, cable, or satellite television.

(12.7) "Obligating" means, in connection with a named candidate, agreeing to spend in excess of one thousand dollars for an independent expenditure or to give, pledge, loan, or purchase one or more goods, services, or other things of value that have a fair market value in excess of one thousand dollars as an independent expenditure. "Obligating" shall not require that the total amount in excess of one thousand dollars be finally determined at the time of the agreement to spend moneys for an independent expenditure or to give, pledge, loan, or purchase anything of value.

(13) "Person" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (11) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(14) "Political committee" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (12) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(14.5) "Political organization" means a political organization defined in section 527 (e)(1) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended, that is engaged in influencing or attempting to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any state or local public office in the state and that is exempt, or intends to seek any exemption, from taxation pursuant to section 527 of the internal revenue code. "Political organization" shall not be construed to have the same meaning as "political organization" as defined in section 1-1-104 (24) for purposes of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", articles 1 to 13 of this title.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(15) "Political party" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (13) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(15.3) "Regular biennial school election" means the election that is described in section 22-31-104 (1), C.R.S.

(15.5) "Regular biennial school electioneering communication" has the same meaning as "electioneering communication" as defined in section 2 (7) of article XXVIII of the state constitution; except that, for purpose of the definition of regular biennial school electioneering communication only, "candidate" as referenced in section 2 (7)(a)(I) of said article means a candidate in a regular biennial school election and the requirements specified in section 2 (7)(a)(II) mean a communication that is broadcast, printed, mailed, delivered, or distributed within sixty days before a regular biennial school election. Except as otherwise specified in this subsection (15.5), the definition of "regular biennial school electioneering communication" is the same as that of "electioneering communication".

(16) "Small donor committee" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (14) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(16.3) (a) "Small-scale issue committee" means an issue committee that has accepted or made contributions or expenditures in an amount that does not exceed five thousand dollars during an applicable election cycle for the major purpose of supporting or opposing any ballot issue or ballot question.

(b) The following are treated as a single small-scale issue committee:

(I) All small-scale issue committees that support or oppose a common ballot measure if the committees are established, financed, maintained, or controlled by a single corporation or its subsidiaries;

(II) All small-scale issue committees that support or oppose a common ballot measure if the committees are established, financed, maintained, or controlled by a single labor organization or the affiliated local units it directs; or

(III) All small-scale issue committees that support or oppose a common ballot measure if the committees are established, financed, maintained, or controlled by substantially the same person, group of persons, or other organizations.

(16.5) "Spending" means funds expended influencing or attempting to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any state or local public office in the state and includes, without limitation, any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything else of value by any political organization, a contract, promise, or agreement to expend funds made or entered into by any political organization, or any electioneering communication by any political organization.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(17) "Subsidiary" means a business entity having more than half of its stock owned by another entity or person, or a business entity of which a majority interest is controlled by another person or entity.

(18) "Unexpended campaign contributions"shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2 (15) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-103. Definitions - repeal. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 98:** (1) added and (8) amended, p. 223, § 1, effective April 10; (1.5) amended and (14) added, p. 954, § 1, effective May 27. **L. 99:** (5) amended, p. 1390, § 12, effective June 4. **L. 2000:** (1.3), (4)(a)(V), and (4.5) added and (4)(a)(III), (10)(b), and (12) amended, pp. 122, 123, §§ 2, 3, effective March 15; (8) amended, p. 1724, § 1, effective June 1. **L. 2002:** (8)(a)(I) amended and (8)(a)(III) added, p. 198, § 1, effective April 3; (1.5) and (2) amended, p. 1576, § 1, effective July 1. **Initiated 2002:** Entire section repealed, effective upon proclamation of the Governor (see editor's note, (2)). **L. 2003:** Entire section RC&RE, p. 2156, § 1, effective June 3. **L. 2007:** (7) amended, p. 1766, § 1, effective June 1; (6)(c), (14.5), and (16.5) added, pp. 1225, 1224, §§ 2, 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1.3) and (1.5) added, (HB 09-1153), ch. 174, p. 774, § 1, effective September 1. **L. 2010:** (7) amended and (7.3), (7.5), (10.5), (11.5), (12.5), and (12.7) added, (SB 10-203), ch. 269, p. 1229, § 2, effective May 25; (12) amended, (HB 10-1370), ch. 270, p. 1241, § 4, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2011:** (12)(c) amended, (HB 11-1303), ch. 264, p. 1148, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2016:** (16.3) added, (SB 16-186), ch. 269, p. 1113, § 1, effective June 10; (15.3) and (15.5) added, (HB 16-1282), ch. 267, p. 1105, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2018:** (6)(d) and (6)(e) added and (10) amended, (HB 18-1047), ch. 155, p. 1091, § 1, effective April 23. **L. 2019:** IP and (7.5) amended and (16.3) R&RE, (HB 19-1318), ch. 328, p. 3040, § 1, effective August 2; IP and (9) amended, (SB 19-068), ch. 69, p. 250, § 1, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-103. Definitions - repeal. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 1-45-103 as it existed prior to 1996.

(2) (a) Subsection (4) of section 1 of article V of the state constitution provides that initiated and referred measures shall take effect from and after the official declaration of the vote thereon by the proclamation of the Governor. The measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution takes effect upon proclamation of the vote by the Governor. The Governor's proclamation was issued on December 20, 2002. However section 13 of the measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution provides that the effective date of article XXVIII is December 6, 2002.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(b) Prior to the recreation and reenactment of this section in 2013, this section was repealed by an initiated measure that was adopted by the people in the general election held November 5, 2002. Section 12 of article XXVIII provides for the repeal of this section. For the text of the initiative and the vote count, see Session Laws of Colorado 2003, p. 3609.

(3) Prior to the reenactment of subsection (16.3) on August 2, 2019, subsection (16.3)(c) provided for the repeal of subsection (16.3), effective June 30, 2019. (See. L. 2016, p. 1113.)

(4) Section 4(2) of chapter 69 (SB 19-068), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or for the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

(5) Section 7(2) of chapter 328 (HB 19-1318), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or to the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

Cross references: (1) For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act amending subsection (7) and adding subsections (7.3), (7.5), (10.5), (11.5), (12.5), and (12.7), see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

(2) For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act amending subsection (12), see section 1 of chapter 270, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

(3) For the legislative declaration in the 2011 act amending subsection (12)(c), see section 1 of chapter 264, Session Laws of Colorado 2011.

BACK TO TOP

ANNOTATION

Annotator's note. Since § 1-45-103 is similar to § 1-45-103 as it existed prior to its repeal in 2002, relevant cases construing that provision and its predecessors have been included in the annotations to this section.

Phrases unconstitutional. The phrase in subsection (7), "which unambiguously refer to any specific public office or candidate for such office, but does not include expenditures made by persons, other than political parties and political committees, in the regular course and scope of their business and political messages sent solely to their members[,]" is unconstitutional under the first amendment. Citizens for Responsible Gov't State Political Action Comm. v. Davidson, 236 F.3d 1174 (10th Cir. 2000).

The phrase in subsection (11), "or which unambiguously refers to such candidate[,]" is unconstitutional under the first amendment. Citizens for Responsible Gov't State Political Action Comm. v. Davidson, 236 F.3d 1174 (10th Cir. 2000).

The court concluded that the unconstitutional phrases were severable and declared subsections (7) and (11) invalid only insofar as they reach beyond that which may constitutionally be regulated. Citizens for Responsible Gov't State Political Action Comm. v. Davidson, 236 F.3d 1174 (10th Cir. 2000).

It is apparent from the plain language of subsection (2) that a candidate committee may be comprised of one person only and that the candidate acting alone may be a candidate committee. Thus, a candidate committee who acts alone for the purpose of receiving campaign contributions or

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BACK TO TOP

making campaign expenditures is a candidate committee subject to the disclosure requirements of this article. Therefore, the expenditures made by a candidate from the candidate's personal funds before certification of his or her committee were either contributions to the ultimately certified candidate committee or expenditures by a separate campaign committee composed of the candidate alone. Hlavec v. Davidson, 64 P.3d 881 (Colo. App. 2002) (decided under section that was repealed by article XXVIII of the state constitution).

Court's interpretation of the term "candidate committee" to include expenditures of personal money by the candidate on his or her campaign does not limit the amount of money a candidate could personally spend on his or her campaign in violation of the first amendment. The act does not specifically address whether a candidate's personal expenditures are contributions. However, in light of Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), the definition of "contribution" contained in subsection (4) does not include a candidate's expenditures of personal funds and contributions made by the candidate to his or her own candidate committee. Accordingly, the court rejected candidate's first amendment argument. Hlavec v. Davidson, 64 P.3d 881 (Colo. App. 2002) (decided under section that was repealed by article XXVIII of the state constitution).

A contribution under § 2(5)(a)(IV) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and as incorporated by reference into subsection (6)(a) of this section requires that: (1) a thing of value (2) be given to a candidate, either directly or indirectly, (3) in order to promote the candidate's nomination, retention, recall, or election. Keim v. Douglas County Sch. Dist., 2017 CO 81, 397 P.3d 377.

Term "independent expenditure" in subsection (7) permits the regulation of only those expenditures that are used for communications that expressly advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate. This standard includes the words and phrases listed in Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), and other substantially similar or synonymous words. This approach remains focused on actual words, as contrasted with images, symbols, or other contextual factors, provides adequate notice in light of due process concerns, and strikes an appropriate balance between trying to preserve the goals of campaign finance reform and protecting political speech. League of Women Voters v. Davidson, 23 P.3d 1266 (Colo. App. 2001).

None of the advertisements of so-called educational committee at issue amounted to "express advocacy" as that term is applied in Buckley and progeny and, therefore, so-called educational committee was not subject to the requirements of the Fair Campaign Practices Act. League of Women Voters v. Davidson, 23 P.3d 1266 (Colo. App. 2001).

The term "issue" in subsection (8) includes an initiative that has gone through the title-setting process, but has not been formally certified for the election ballot. To construe the term to include only measures actually placed on the ballot would frustrate the purposes of the Campaign Reform Act by allowing groups to raise and spend money, without limit and without disclosure to the public, to convince electors to sign or not to sign a particular petition, thus significantly influencing its success or failure. Colo. for Family Values v. Meyer, 936 P.2d 631 (Colo. App. 1997).

Telephone opinion poll was not "electioneering" and thus did not constitute an "electioneering communication" within the meaning of subsection (9) of this section and § 6 of article XXVIII of the state constitution. In giving effect to the intent of the electorate, court gives term "communication" its plain and ordinary meaning. Court relies upon dictionary definitions of "communication" that contemplate imparting a message to, rather than having mere contact with, another party. In reviewing scripts used by telephone opinion pollster, "communication" occurred because "facts, information, thoughts, or opinions" were "imparted, transmitted, interchanged, expressed, or exchanged" by pollster to those it called. Telephone opinion pollster, therefore, communicated information to members of the electorate during its opinion poll. Harwood v. Senate Majority Fund, LLC, 141 P.3d 962

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(Colo. App. 2006).

Telephone opinion poll, however, did not satisfy meaning of electioneering. Colorado electorate intended article XXVIII to regulate communication that expresses "electorate advocacy" and tends to "influence the outcome of Colorado elections". This conclusion is reinforced by plain and ordinary meaning of term "electioneering". Court relies upon dictionary definitions suggesting that "electioneering" is defined by such activities as taking an active part in an election campaign, campaigning for one's own election, or trying to sway public opinion especially by the use of propaganda and that "campaigning" means influencing the public to support a particular candidate, ticket, or measure. Here, telephone opinion poll did not seek to influence voters or sway public opinion but instead merely asked neutral questions to collect data and measure public opinion. Accordingly, telephone opinion poll did not constitute an "electioneering communication" under subsection (9) of this section and article XXVIII of the state constitution. Harwood v. Senate Majority Fund, LLC, 141 P.3d 962 (Colo. App. 2006).

The term "issue committee" covers only those issue committees that were formed for the purpose of supporting or opposing a ballot initiative. An association that was formed and operated for purposes other than "accepting contributions or making expenditures to support or oppose any ballot issue or ballot question" does not become an "issue committee" as defined in this section if, at a future point in time, it engages in those activities with regard to a specific ballot issue or ballot question. Common Sense Alliance v. Davidson, 995 P.2d 748 (Colo. 2000).

A "political committee" is formed when two or more persons associate themselves with the original purpose of making independent expenditures. Citizens for Responsible Gov't State Political Action Comm. v. Davidson, 236 F.3d 1174 (10th Cir. 2000).

The term "political committee" in subsection (10) includes a for-profit corporation which makes contributions, contributions in kind, or expenditures to or on behalf of state political campaigns out of its ordinary corporate treasury. Therefore, such corporation is required to file a statement of organization, to report its contributions, contributions in kind, and expenditures, and otherwise to comply with any filing and reporting requirements of the Campaign Reform Act of 1974. Colo. Common Cause v. Meyer, 758 P.2d 153 (Colo. 1988) (decided prior to 1988 amendment to subsection (10)).

While the stated purposes for the formation of an organization may be one criterion upon which to determine whether it is a "political committee", such purposes are not conclusive. To so hold would permit regulable conduct to escape regulation merely because the stated purposes were misleading, ambiguous, fraudulent, or all three. In addition, such a holding would exalt form over substance and would almost entirely eviscerate the Fair Campaign Practices Act and make a mockery of legitimate attempts at campaign finance reform. League of Women Voters v. Davidson, 23 P.3d 1266 (Colo. App. 2001).

The use of the disjunctive term "or" in subsection (11) renders the definition of "political message" applicable to messages that "unambiguously refer to a candidate", even if such messages do not also "advocate the election or defeat" of that candidate. Citizens for Responsible Gov't State Political Action Comm. v. Davidson, 236 F.3d 1174 (10th Cir. 2000).

To qualify as a political message under subsection (11), a message need only: (1) Be delivered by telephone, any print or electronic media, or other written material, and (2) either (a) advocate the election or defeat of any candidate or (b) unambiguously refer to such candidate. Citizens for Responsible Gov't State Political Action Comm. v. Davidson, 236 F.3d 1174 (10th Cir. 2000).

Voter guides that unambiguously refer to specific candidates but do not expressly advocate the election or defeat of any candidate constitute "political messages" as defined in subsection (11). Therefore, the funds expended to produce and disseminate the voter guides are subject to

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

regulation as "independent expenditures" as the term is defined in subsection (7). Citizens for Responsible Gov't State Political Action Comm. v. Davidson, 236 F.3d 1174 (10th Cir. 2000).

"Expressly advocating" for purposes of the definition of expenditure in subsection (10) is limited to speech that explicitly exhorts the viewer or reader to vote for or against a candidate in an upcoming election using either the "magic words" described in Buckly v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1, 44 n.52 (1976), or substantially similar words. The court declined to adopt a functional equivalence test for "express advocacy" that would be difficult to apply and unconstitutionally chill political speech. None of the 17 ads at issue contained any of the magic words or substantially similar synonyms. Accordingly, because none of the ads constituted "expenditures", neither of the two political organizations that distributed the ads were subject to regulation as "political committees". Colo. Ethics v. Senate Majority Fund, LLC, 2012 CO 12, 269 P.3d 1248.

Administrative law judge (ALJ) did not err in concluding that definition of "expenditures" did not apply to metropolitan district boards. Respondents had argued that the metropolitan districts qualified as "persons" that could expend payments on behalf of issue committee supporting ballot issue. Even if the definition of "person" could be stretched to cover political subdivisions of the state such as metropolitan districts, respondents failed to explain how the payments at issue were "made with the prior knowledge and consent of an agent" of the issue committee that was not yet formed in order to bring such payments within the definition of "expenditure". Skruch v. Highlands Ranch Metro. Dists., 107 P.3d 1140 (Colo. App. 2004).

ALJ did not err by interpreting "expenditure" to occur when a payment is made and when there is a contractual agreement and the amount is determined. The use of the disjunctive "or" in the definition of "expenditure" indicates that an expenditure is made if either criterion is met after the ballot title is submitted. Skruch v. Highlands Ranch Metro. Dists., 107 P.3d 1140 (Colo. App. 2004).

ALJ erred by failing to determine whether major purpose of nonprofit association engaging in political advocacy was the nomination or election of candidates. Alliance for Colorado's Families v. Gilbert, 172 P.3d 964 (Colo. App. 2007).

ALJ correctly construed the phrase "for the purpose of" in § 2(5)(a)(IV) of article XXVIII of the state constitution in accordance with its plain meaning to indicate "an anticipated result that is intended or desired" and not "with the effect of". Such a construction would improperly conflate the distinct concepts of purpose and effect. Such an interpretation would also lead to unintended consequences far beyond the scope of issues presented in the case. CEW v. City & County of Broomfield, 203 P.3d 623 (Colo. App. 2009).

Since effect of city employees' actions, rather than their intent, is to be examined, court further rejects argument that intent is to be gauged by objective rather than subjective criteria. Inquiry into purpose requires examination of the intent of the person alleged to have made a campaign contribution. ALJ considered evidence concerning the city employees' intent and determined, on the basis of substantial evidence in the record, that organization bringing campaign finance complaint had not met its burden of proving that the employees provided services for the purpose of promoting a campaign even though employees knew information would be helpful to the candidates to whom the information was provided. Organization's interpretation improperly equates knowledge of the possible effects of one's actions with an intent to achieve a particular result. Accordingly, ALJ correctly determined that city's contribution of staff time was not "for the purpose of" promoting a political campaign. CEW v. City & County of Broomfield, 203 P.3d 623 (Colo. App. 2009).

Political committee's spending on legal expenses did not qualify as an "expenditure". The meaning of expenditure under § 2(8)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and subsection (10) of this section is limited to spending for "expressly advocating" the election or defeat of a candidate, and

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

express advocacy is limited further still to advocacy by use of "magic words" or substantially similar synonyms. Money spent for legal expenses is not spent for expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate and therefore is not an expenditure. Camp. Integ. Watchdog v. Alliance for Safe, 2018 CO 7, 409 P.3d 357.

Payment by unions of staff salaries for time spent organizing walks to distribute political literature and payments of other costs associated with related political activities did not constitute prohibited expenditures in violation of § 3(4)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution. Whether payments made by the union are prohibited as "expenditures" depends upon whether they are exempt from regulation by the membership communication exception in § 2(8)(b)(III) of article XXVIII of the state constitution as payments for "any communication solely to members and their families". The membership communication exception must be construed broadly to reflect the plain language of this constitutional provision and to satisfy the demands of the first amendment. The membership communication exception as construed applies to most of the union's activities in this case. To the extent that the challenged union activities are not embraced by the membership communication exception, the administrative law judge correctly held that person filing campaign finance complaint failed to prove facts demonstrating that an expenditure was made. Colo. Educ. Ass'n v. Rutt, 184 P.3d 65 (Colo. 2008).

The membership communication exception found in § 2(8)(b)(III) of article XXVIII of the state constitution must be extended to and embraced within the definition of "contribution". To hold otherwise nullifies the exception. The same conduct may not be protected by the membership communication exception to expenditures, that is, treated as an exempt expenditure, yet, at the same time, be prohibited as a nonexempt contribution. Such a result would be contrary to the intent of the electorate and constitute an unreasonable and disharmonious application of this article. Colo. Educ. Ass'n v. Rutt, 184 P.3d 65 (Colo. 2008).

BACK TO TOP

Unions' challenged conduct does not meet the pertinent definitions of a contribution under § 2(5)(a)(II) and (5)(a)(IV) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and subsection (6) of this section. Facts may reasonably be viewed in two contradictory ways: One advancing the union's argument that the payment of union staff salaries for organizing political events were paid for the benefit of the unions and their members and thus exempt from regulation; the other that the payments constituted payments made to a third party for the benefit of the candidate or anything of value given indirectly to the candidate and, thus, were prohibited contributions. When the first amendment is at stake, the tie goes to the speaker rather than to censorship and regulation. On the facts of this case, the unions did not make any prohibited contributions in violation of § 3(4)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution. Colo. Educ. Ass'n v. Rutt, 184 P.3d 65 (Colo. 2008).

School district did not make a prohibited contribution to a campaign under § 2(5)(a)(IV) of article XXVIII and § 1-45-117 (1)(a)(I). A research report from a national think tank supportive of a school district's educational reform efforts that the district commissioned and paid for with public funds constitutes a "thing of value" for purposes of the definition of "contribution". The district did not make a prohibited contribution to a campaign, however, when it broadly disseminated an email of the report to county residents. Something of value is not given to a candidate when it is publicly distributed, even if the candidate happens to be among the public to which the thing of value has been made available. Keim v. Douglas County Sch. Dist., 2017 CO 81, 397 P.3d 377.

Uncompensated legal services are not contributions to a political organization under subsection (6)(b). The constitutional definition of "contribution" does not address political organizations, and neither part of the definition in subsection (6) covers legal services donated to political organizations. Subsection (6)(b) does not apply to political organizations and the word "gift" in subsection (6)(c)(I) does not include gifts of services. Coloradans Bet. Fut. v. Camp. Int. Watchdog, 2018 CO 6, 409 P.3d 350.

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BACK TO TOP

Payments to a law firm to defend political committee in tort suit are a reportable contribution under § 2(5)(a)(II) of article XXVIII of the state constitution. Because the law firm that defended the political committee and the court of appeals were both third parties in relation to the political committee, the payment of filing fees to the court and of legal fees to the law firm were "payment[s] made to a third party." And the payments were "for the benefit" of the political committee because they furthered the committee's legal defense. Because the payments of the political committee's legal expenses were contributions to the committee under § 2(5)(a)(II), the committee was required to report them as contributions under § 1-45-108 (1)(a)(I). Camp. Integ. Watchdog v. Alliance for Safe, 2018 CO 7, 409 P.3d 357.

Because coordination, as a concept or as a matter of law, is not required to protect the rights of the maker of a contribution under the circumstances of this case, court declines to impose a requirement of coordination on the definition of contribution to satisfy first amendment requirements. While a finding of coordination may be necessary to protect the recipient of an indirect contribution from unwittingly violating this article, that issue is not raised by this case. Colo. Educ. Ass'n v. Rutt, 184 P.3d 65 (Colo. 2008).

Television advertisements urging voters to oppose incumbent member met the definition of electioneering communications under § 2(7)(a) of article XXVIII of state constitution. Unambiguous reference to "any communication" in definition does not distinguish between express advocacy and advocacy that is not express. Further, subsection (7)(a) is triggered when a communication is made within 30 days before a primary election or 60 days before a general election, without regard to the communication's purpose. Colo. Citizens for Ethics in Gov't v. Comm. for the Am. Dream, 187 P.3d 1207 (Colo. App. 2008).

Regular business exception in § 2(7)(b)(III) of article XXVIII of the state constitution is limited to persons whose business is to broadcast, print, publicly display, directly mail, or hand deliver candidate-specific communications within the named candidate's district as a service rather than to influence elections. Wording of exception shows that the phrase "in the regular course and scope of their business" does not apply to political committees. Accordingly, political committee does not come within the regular business exception. Colo. Citizens for Ethics in Gov't v. Comm. for the Am. Dream, 187 P.3d 1207 (Colo. App. 2008).

The definition of political committee in § 2(12) of article XXVIII of the state constitution would be unconstitutional as applied if it did not incorporate the major purpose test. There are two ways to determine an organization's major purpose: (1) examining its central organizational purpose; and (2) comparing the organization's independent spending with overall spending to determine whether the preponderance of expenditures is for express advocacy or contributions to candidates. Campaign Integrity v. Colo. Citizens, 2018 COA 16, 415 P.3d 874.

The statutory major purpose test borrowed from the definition of issue committee in subsection (12)(b) should not be applied to assessing whether an organization is a political committee. Campaign Integrity v. Colo. Citizens, 2018 COA 16, 415 P.3d 874.

Organization was not a political committee because its major purpose, its one central purpose, was not supporting candidates. Records of the organization in a consecutive twelve-month period showed that only a little over one-third of the organization's spending was on political advocacy for candidates. Campaign Integrity v. Colo. Citizens, 2018 COA 16, 415 P.3d 874.

A judicial officer seeking retention is a candidate for purposes of the definition of "candidate" in subsection (2). Further, a judicial retention vote is an election for purposes of the definition of "political committee" in subsection (14). Colo. Ethics Watch v. Clear the Bench, 2012 COA 42, 277 P.3d 931.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

An organization that supports or opposes the retention of a judicial officer is a political committee because it supports or opposes the election of a candidate and because it is recognized as such by § 1-45-109 (1)(a)(I). Organization accepted contributions and made expenditures of over $200 to oppose the retention of three justices of the Colorado supreme court. It is, therefore, a political committee. Organization cannot be both a political committee and issue committee because the two are defined under subsections (10) and (12) of art. XXVIII of the state constitution to be mutually exclusive. Colo. Ethics Watch v. Clear the Bench, 2012 COA 42, 277 P.3d 931.

The language in § 25 of art. VI of the state constitution stating that "a question shall be placed on the . . . ballot" does not render judicial retention a "ballot question" for purposes of this article. A judicial retention vote is not a "ballot question" because it does not involve a citizen petition or referred measure. Because a judicial retention vote does not meet the definition of a "ballot issue" or "ballot question" contained in subsections (1.3) and (1.5), organization opposing retention of three justices is not an issue committee under subsection (12)(a). Colo. Ethics Watch v. Clear the Bench, 2012 COA 42, 277 P.3d 931.

Secretary of state's proposed rule, 8 Colo. Code Regs. 1505-6, § 1.12, intended to fill a gap in subsection (12)(b) of this section by defining "major purpose" in the definition of issue committee, is arbitrary and capricious. The rule imposed a requirement that, in order to determine whether an issue committee has a "major purpose" under the constitutional and statutory definitions, a demonstrated pattern of conduct is established where the organization's annual expenditures in support of or in opposition to ballot issues or ballot questions exceed 30% of the organization's total spending during the same period. The rule is arbitrary and capricious because the 30% threshold is unsupported by competent evidence in the record. Even if there was competent evidence in the record to support a 30% threshold, this threshold would not resolve the ambiguity as to how a "pattern of conduct" must be demonstrated. Thus, the rule's 30% threshold is manifestly contrary to subsection (12)(b)'s use of the phrase "pattern of conduct" in its definition of major purpose. Colo. Ethics Watch v. Gessler, 2013 COA 172M, 363 P.3d 727.

Secretary of state's proposed rule, 8 Colo. Code Regs. 1505-6, § 1.18.2, designed to fill a gap in the constitutional definition of "political committee" in subsection (14) of this section by explaining precisely how the judicially created "major purpose" test limits what groups qualify as political committees, is invalid because the constitutional definition is clear and unambiguous: Political committees are defined by their contributions or expenditures, not by an additional major purpose test. Because the provisions are clear, there is no gap for the secretary to fill, and he does not have the authority to add a "major purpose" requirement, even in an attempt to codify judicial precedent. Colo. Ethics Watch v. Gessler, 2013 COA 172M, 363 P.3d 727.

District court correctly invalidated secretary of state's proposed rules, 8 Colo. Code Regs. 1505-6, §§ 7.2 and 1.10, designed to fill a gap in subsection (14.5) of this section by narrowing the definition of the phrase "political organization" to conform to federal judicial precedent. The secretary's addition in § 7.2 of the rules of a requirement that a section 527 entity must have a major purpose of influencing state elections contradicts the clear and unambiguous language of subsection (14.5) of this section. This section does not look to the purpose of the entity but to the actual activities of the entity. The secretary's addition in § 1.10 of the rules of an "express advocacy" requirement also contradicts the clear and unambiguous language of this section. These rules thus contradict the clear and unambiguous language of this section by improperly eliminating the statutory distinction between a political organization and a political committee. Colo. Ethics Watch v. Gessler, 2013 COA 172M, 363 P.3d 727.

Subsection (6)(b), which concerns all contributions "for which the contributor receives compensation or consideration", applies to payments made to a state political party for vendor

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

tables at the party's state convention. Interpreting subsection (6)(b) as applying only to payments made to candidate committees that have determined the value of the goods and services provided while excluding payments made to political parties would lead to an absurd result. It is illogical that the general assembly intended "contribution" to enable only candidate committees to determine the value of goods and services provided. Campaign Integrity Watchdog v. Colo. Republican Comm., 2017 COA 126, __ P.3d __.

Under the plain language of subsection (6)(b), political parties are required to report only that portion of payments for services that exceeds the value of the services rendered. While the state constitution broadly defines a "contribution", the plain language of the statute addresses the determination of the contribution amount when the contributor receives something of value in the transaction. When a contributor pays a political party for a good or service, and the amount paid is greater than its value, only the amount paid in excess of the value is considered a contribution. The general assembly intended to differentiate between those payments for services that equal the value of those goods and services, which are not contributions, and those made in excess, which are. Campaign Integrity Watchdog v. Colo. Republican Comm., 2017 COA 126, __ P.3d __.

Based on the plain meaning of subsection (6)(b) and applying it to political parties, ALJ erred in determining that payments made to state political party for vendor tables at party's state convention were reportable contributions that party did not properly report. The amount of a contribution includes only payments made in excess of the value received by the contributor. Campaign Integrity Watchdog v. Colo. Republican Comm., 2017 COA 126, __ P.3d __.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-103.7. Contribution limits - county offices - treatment of independent expenditure committees - contributions from limited liability companies - voter instructions on spending limits - definitions.

1-45-103.7. Contribution limits - county offices - treatment of independent expenditure committees - contributions from limited liability companies - voter instructions on spending limits - definitions.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-103.7. Contribution limits - county offices - treatment of independent expenditure committees - contributions from limited liability companies - voter instructions on spending limits - definitions. / Statute text

(1) Nothing in article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article shall be construed to prohibit a corporation or labor organization from making a contribution to a political committee.

(1.5) (a) (I) The maximum amount of aggregate contributions that any one person other than a small donor committee or a political party may make to a candidate committee of a candidate for a county office, and that a candidate committee for such candidate may accept from any such person, is one thousand two hundred fifty dollars for the primary election and one thousand two hundred fifty dollars for the general election.

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BACK TO TOP

(II) The maximum amount of aggregate contributions that any one small donor committee may make to a candidate committee of a candidate for a county office, and that a candidate committee for such candidate may accept from any one small donor committee, is twelve thousand five hundred dollars for the primary election and twelve thousand five hundred dollars for the general election.

(III) The maximum amount of aggregate contributions that a political party may make to a candidate committee of a candidate for a county office, and that a candidate committee for such candidate may accept from any political party, is twenty-two thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars for the applicable election cycle.

(b) Candidates may accept contributions subject to the aggregate limits specified in subsection (1.5)(a)(I) or (1.5)(a)(II) of this section in accordance with subsection (3) of this section.

(c) Any monetary amount specified in subsection (1.5)(a) of this section must be adjusted in accordance with the adjustments made to other contribution limits as specified in section 3 (13) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(d) The requirements of sections 1-45-108 and 1-45-109, as applicable, apply to any contribution made or received that is subject to subsection (1.5)(a) of this section.

(e) For purposes of this subsection (1.5), "county office" means a county commissioner, county clerk and recorder, sheriff, coroner, treasurer, assessor, or surveyor.

(2) A political committee may receive and accept moneys contributed to such committee by a corporation or labor organization pursuant to subsection (1) of this section for disbursement to a candidate committee or political party without depositing such moneys in an account separate from the account required to be established for the receipt and acceptance of all contributions by all committees or political parties in accordance with section 3 (9) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(2.5) (a) An independent expenditure committee differs from a political committee in that an independent expenditure committee does not coordinate its activities with a candidate or political party.

(b) An independent expenditure committee shall not be treated as a political committee and, therefore, is not subject to the requirements of section 3 (5) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(3) A candidate committee established in the name of a candidate affiliated with either a major political party or a minor political party who is running in a primary election may accept:

(a) The aggregate contribution limit specified in section 3 (1) of article XXVIII of the state constitution for a primary election at any time after the date of the primary election in which the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

candidate in whose name the candidate committee is accepting contributions is on the primary election ballot; or

(b) The aggregate contribution limit specified in section 3 (1) of article XXVIII of the state constitution for a general election at any time prior to the date of the primary election in which the candidate in whose name the candidate committee is accepting contributions is on the primary election ballot.

(4) A candidate committee established in the name of a candidate affiliated with either a major political party or a minor political party running in a primary election may expend contributions received and accepted for a general election prior to the date of the primary election in which the candidate in whose name the candidate committee is accepting contributions is on the primary election ballot. A candidate committee established in the name of a candidate affiliated with a major political party or a minor political party running in a primary election who wins the primary election may expend contributions received and accepted for a primary election in the general election.

(4.5) (a) A candidate committee established in the name of a candidate who is a write-in candidate, an unaffiliated candidate, or the candidate of a minor political party who is not running in a primary election may accept from any one person the aggregate contribution limit specified in either section 3 (1) of article XXVIII of the state constitution or subsection (1.5)(a) of this section applicable to the office he or she is seeking at any point during the election cycle in which the candidate in whose name the candidate committee is accepting contributions is on the general election ballot.

(b) A candidate committee established in the name of a candidate who is a write-in candidate, an unaffiliated candidate, or the candidate of a minor political party who is not running in a primary election may expend contributions received and accepted in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection (4.5) at any point during the election cycle in which the candidate in whose name the candidate committee is accepting contributions is on the general election ballot.

(5) (a) No limited liability company shall make any contribution to a candidate committee or political party if one or more of the individual members of the limited liability company is:

(I) A corporation;

(II) A labor organization;

(III) A natural person who is not a citizen of the United States;

(IV) A foreign government;

(V) A professional lobbyist, volunteer lobbyist, or the principal of a professional or volunteer lobbyist, and the contribution is prohibited under section 1-45-105.5 (1); or

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(VI) Otherwise prohibited by law from making the contribution.

(b) No limited liability company shall make any contribution to a political committee if one or more of the individual members of the limited liability company is:

(I) An entity formed under and subject to the laws of a foreign country;

(II) A natural person who is not a citizen of the United States; or

(III) A foreign government.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection (5), no limited liability company shall make any contribution to a candidate committee or political party if either the limited liability company has elected to be treated as a corporation by the internal revenue service pursuant to 26 CFR 301.7701-3 or any successor provision or the shares of the limited liability company are publicly traded. A contribution by a limited liability company with a single natural person member that does not elect to be treated as a corporation by the internal revenue service pursuant to 26 CFR 301.7701-3 shall be attributed only to the single natural person member.

(d) (I) Any limited liability company that is authorized to make a contribution shall, in writing, affirm to the candidate committee, political committee, or political party to which it has made a contribution, as applicable, that it is authorized to make a contribution, which affirmation shall also state the names and addresses of all of the individual members of the limited liability company. No candidate committee, political committee, or political party shall accept a contribution from a limited liability company unless the written affirmation satisfying the requirements of this paragraph (d) is provided before the contribution is deposited by the candidate committee, political committee, or political party. The candidate committee, political committee, or political party receiving the contribution shall retain the written affirmation for not less than one year following the date of the end of the election cycle during which the contribution is received.

(II) Any contribution by a limited liability company, and the aggregate amount of contributions from multiple limited liability companies attributed to a single member of any such company under this subparagraph (II), shall be subject to the limits governing such contributions under section 3 of article XXVIII of the state constitution. A limited liability company that makes any contribution to a candidate committee, political committee, or political party shall, at the time it makes the contribution, provide information to the recipient committee or political party as to the amount of the total contribution attributed to each member of the limited liability company. The attribution shall reflect the capital each member of the limited liability company has invested in the company relative to the total amount of capital invested in the company as of the date the company makes the campaign contribution, and for a single member limited liability company, the contribution shall be attributed to that single member. The limited liability company shall then deduct the amount of the contribution attributed to each of its members from the aggregate contribution limit applicable to multiple limited liability companies under this

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

subparagraph (II) for purposes of ensuring that the aggregate amount of contributions from multiple limited liability companies attributed to a single member does not exceed the contribution limits in section 3 of article XXVIII of the state constitution. Nothing in this subparagraph (II) shall be construed to restrict a natural person from making a contribution in his or her own name to any committee or political party to the extent authorized by law.

(5.3) An issue committee or small-scale issue committee shall not knowingly accept contributions from:

(a) Any natural person who is not a citizen of the United States;

(b) A foreign government; or

(c) Any foreign corporation that does not have the authority to transact business in this state pursuant to article 115 of title 7 or any successor section.

(5.5) A natural person who is not a citizen of the United States, a foreign government, or a foreign corporation shall not establish, register, or maintain a political committee, small donor committee, political party, issue committee, or small-scale issue committee, or make an electioneering communication or regular biennial school electioneering communication.

(6) No nondomestic corporation may make any contribution under article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article that a domestic corporation is prohibited from making under article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article.

(6.5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a candidate committee established in the name of a candidate may expend contributions received and accepted by the committee during any particular election cycle to reimburse the candidate for reasonable and necessary expenses for the care of children or other dependents the candidate incurs directly in connection with the candidate's campaign activities during the election cycle. The candidate committee shall disclose the expenditures in the same manner as any other expenditures the committee is required to disclose under section 1-45-108 (1)(a)(I).

(7) (a) Any person who believes that a violation of subsection (1.5), (5), or (6) of this section has occurred may file a written complaint with the secretary of state in accordance with section 1-45-111.7.

(b) Any person who has violated subsection (1.5), (5)(a), (5)(b), (5)(c), or (6) of this section is subject to a civil penalty of at least double and up to five times the amount contributed or received in violation of the applicable provision.

(c) Any person who has violated any of the provisions of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (d) of subsection (5) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars per day for each day that the written affirmation regarding the membership of a limited liability company has not been filed with or retained by the candidate committee, political committee, or political party to

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

which a contribution has been made.

(8) As used in this section, "limited liability company" has the same meaning as "domestic limited liability company" as defined in section 7-90-102 (15) or "foreign limited liability company" as defined in section 7-90-102 (24).

(9) (a) The voters instruct the Colorado congressional delegation to propose and support, and the Colorado state legislature to ratify, an amendment to the United States Constitution that allows Congress and the states to limit campaign contributions and spending, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of wealth, can express their views to one another and their government on a level playing field.

(b) The provisions of this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 2013, and be applicable thereafter.

(10) For purposes of this section, the terms "unaffiliated", "major political party", and "minor political party" have the same meanings as specified in the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", articles 1 to 13 of this title.

(11) (a) If, within the six months before becoming a candidate for public office, a person actively solicits funds for an independent expenditure committee with the intent of benefiting his or her future candidacy, any expenditure made by that independent expenditure committee in that candidate's race is presumed to be controlled by or coordinated with that candidate and deemed to constitute both a contribution by the maker of the expenditures, and an expenditure by the candidate committee.

(b) If any complaint filed under section 1-45-111.7 for a violation of this subsection (11) fails to state sufficient facts to support the allegations of the complaint, upon a final agency action, the respondent to such a complaint may apply to the state district court for an award of the person's attorneys fees and costs in connection with defending against the complaint if the district court determines that the complaint was frivolous, vexatious, or for the purpose of harassment.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-103.7. Contribution limits - county offices - treatment of independent expenditure committees - contributions from limited liability companies - voter instructions on spending limits - definitions. / History

Source: L. 2003: Entire section added, p. 2160, § 6, effective June 3. **L. 2004:** Entire section amended, p. 863, § 1, effective May 21. **L. 2007:** (5), (6), (7), and (8) added, p. 1766, § 2, effective June 1. **L. 2008:** (5)(d)(II) amended, p. 440, § 1, effective April 14. **L. 2010:** (2.5) added and (6) and (8) amended, (SB 10-203), ch. 269, p. 1230, § 3, effective May 25. **Initiated 2012, (Amendment 65):** (9) added, L. 2013, p. 3301, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 1, 2013. **L. 2014:** IP(3) and (4) amended and (4.5) and (10) added, (HB

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BACK TO TOP

14-1335), ch. 145, p. 494, § 2, effective May 2. **L. 2018:** (2.5) and (8) amended, (HB 18-1047), ch. 155, p. 1092, § 2, effective April 23. **L. 2019:** (7)(a) amended, (SB 19-232), ch. 330, p. 3065, § 2, effective July 1; (1.5) added and (4.5)(a) and (7)(b) amended, (HB 19-1007), ch. 97, p. 356, § 1, effective August 2; (5.3), (5.5), and (11) added, (HB 19-1318), ch. 328, p. 3041, § 2, effective August 2; (6.5) added, (SB 19-229), ch. 354, p. 3260, § 1, effective September 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-103.7. Contribution limits - county offices - treatment of independent expenditure committees - contributions from limited liability companies - voter instructions on spending limits - definitions. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) Subsection (9) was added by initiative in 2012. The vote count on the measure at the general election held November 6, 2012, was as follows:

FOR: 1,276,432

AGAINST: 988,542

(2) Section 4(2) of chapter 97 (HB 19-1007), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or for the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

(3) Section 7(2) of chapter 328 (HB 19-1318), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or to the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

(4) Section 6(1) of chapter 330 (SB 19-232), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to complaints filed with the secretary of state on or after July 1, 2019.

(5) Section 3(2) of chapter 354 (SB 19-229), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or for the portion of the calendar year remaining after September 1, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after September 1, 2019, whichever is applicable.

Cross references: (1) For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act adding subsection (2.5) and amending subsections (6) and (8), see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

(2) For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1335, see section 1 of chapter 145, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

ANNOTATION

The classification in former subsections (3) and (4) (now subsections (3), (4), and (4.5)) violates the right to equal protection for individuals wishing to contribute to write-ins, unaffiliated candidates, and minor-party candidates when each candidate runs unopposed for the nomination.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

This statute does not set contribution limits based on who has a primary and who does not. It creates different contribution limits for individuals running against one another. It allows Republican and Democratic candidates to collect and spend $400 after the primary. Thus, a Republican or Democratic candidate can obtain $400 from a single contributor and spend all of the money in the general election. For the same general election, a write-in candidate can obtain only $200 from a single contributor. Riddle v. Hickenlooper, 742 F.3d 922 (10th Cir. 2014) (decided prior to 2014 amendment).

Under § 9(2)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution, a complaint alleging that a contribution exceeds the applicable limit, either on its own or when aggregated with previous contributions, must be filed within 180 days of that excess contribution. Lambert v. Ritter Inaugural Comm., Inc., 218 P.3d 1115 (Colo. App. 2009).

To give effect to both the contribution limit in § 3 of article XXVIII and the time limit in § 9(2)(a) of article XXVIII, a complaint may seek relief only as to contributions that, standing alone or aggregated, exceed the limit and are made within the preceding 180-day period, and the relief available under § 10(1) of article XXVIII or subsection (7)(b) of this section is limited to those excess contributions as to which the complaint is timely. Lambert v. Ritter Inaugural Comm., Inc., 218 P.3d 1115 (Colo. App. 2009).

An independent expenditure committee operating without the control or coordination of a political party is able to collect contributions or make independent expenditures -- expenditures not controlled by or coordinated with any candidate -- that are not subject to the source and contribution limits that restrict political parties under § 3(3) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and under this act. Colo. Republican Party v. Williams, 2016 COA 26, 370 P.3d 650.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-104. Contribution limits. (Repealed)

1-45-104. Contribution limits. (Repealed)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-104. Contribution limits. (Repealed) / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 98:** (13)(a)(II) amended, p. 632, § 2, effective May 6; (13)(c) amended, p. 950, § 1, effective May 27; (14) added, p. 955, § 2, effective May 27. **L. 99:** IP(2) amended, p. 1391, § 13, effective June 4. **L. 2000:** Entire section repealed, p. 129, § 12, effective March 15.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-104. Contribution limits. (Repealed) / Annotations

Editor's note: This section was similar to former § 1-45-111 as it existed prior to 1996.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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BACK TO TOP

REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105. Voluntary campaign spending limits. (Repealed)

1-45-105. Voluntary campaign spending limits. (Repealed)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105. Voluntary campaign spending limits. (Repealed) / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 98:** (3) amended, p. 951, § 2, effective May 27. **L. 2000:** Entire section repealed, p. 129, § 12, effective March 15.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105. Voluntary campaign spending limits. (Repealed) / Annotations

Editor's note: This section was similar to former § 1-45-112 as it existed prior to 1996.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105.3. Contribution limits. (Repealed)

1-45-105.3. Contribution limits. (Repealed)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105.3. Contribution limits. (Repealed) / History

Source: L. 2000: Entire section added with relocations, p. 118, § 1, effective March 15. **L. 2002:** (4)(a.5) added, p. 1929, § 1, effective June 7. **Initiated 2002:** Entire section repealed, effective upon proclamation of the Governor (see editor's note, (2)).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105.3. Contribution limits. (Repealed) / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) The provisions of this section were similar to several former provisions of § 1-45-104 as they existed prior to 2000.

(2) (a) Subsection (4) of section 1 of article V of the state constitution provides that initiated and referred measures shall take effect from and after the official declaration of the vote thereon by the proclamation of the Governor. The measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution takes effect

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BACK TO TOP

upon proclamation of the vote by the Governor. The Governor's proclamation was issued on December 20, 2002. However, section 13 of the measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution provides that the effective date of article XXVIII is December 6, 2002.

(b) This section was repealed by an initiated measure that was adopted by the people in the general election held November 5, 2002. Section 12 of article XXVIII provides for the repeal of this section. For the text of the initiative and the vote count, see Session Laws of Colorado 2003, p. 3609.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105.5. Contributions to members of general assembly and governor during consideration of legislation.

1-45-105.5. Contributions to members of general assembly and governor during consideration of legislation.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105.5. Contributions to members of general assembly and governor during consideration of legislation. / Statute text

(1) (a) No professional lobbyist, volunteer lobbyist, or principal of a professional lobbyist or volunteer lobbyist shall make or promise to make a contribution to, or solicit or promise to solicit a contribution for:

(I) A member of the general assembly or candidate for the general assembly, when the general assembly is in regular session;

(II) (A) The governor or a candidate for governor when the general assembly is in regular session or when any measure adopted by the general assembly in a regular session is pending before the governor for approval or disapproval; or

(B) The lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the attorney general, or a candidate for any of such offices when the general assembly is in regular session.

(b) As used in this subsection (1):

(I) "Principal" means any person that employs, retains, engages, or uses, with or without compensation, a professional or volunteer lobbyist. One does not become a principal, nor may one be considered a principal, merely by belonging to an organization or owning stock in a corporation that employs a lobbyist.

(II) The terms "professional lobbyist" and "volunteer lobbyist" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in section 24-6-301, C.R.S.

(c) (I) Nothing contained in this subsection (1) shall be construed to prohibit lobbyists and

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

their principals from raising money when the general assembly is in regular session or when regular session legislation is pending before the governor, except as specifically prohibited in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1).

(II) Nothing contained in this subsection (1) shall be construed to prohibit a lobbyist or principal of a lobbyist from participating in a fund-raising event of a political party when the general assembly is in regular session or when regular session legislation is pending before the governor, so long as the purpose of the event is not to raise money for specifically designated members of the general assembly, specifically designated candidates for the general assembly, the governor, or specifically designated candidates for governor.

(III) A payment by a lobbyist or a principal of a lobbyist to a political party to participate in such a fund-raising event shall be reported as a contribution to the political party pursuant to section 1-45-108; except that, if the lobbyist or principal of a lobbyist receives a meal in return for a portion of the payment, only the amount of the payment in excess of the value of the meal shall be considered a contribution to the political party. The political party shall determine the value of the meal received for such payment, which shall approximate the actual value of the meal.

(IV) A gift of a meal described in subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (c) by a lobbyist or a principal of a lobbyist to a candidate elected to any office described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) but who has not yet been sworn into such office shall be reported as follows:

(A) The lobbyist shall report the value of the meal in the lobbyist disclosure statement filed pursuant to section 24-6-302, C.R.S.

(B) The elected candidate who has not yet been sworn into office shall report the value of the meal in the public official disclosure statement filed pursuant to section 24-6-203, C.R.S.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105.5. Contributions to members of general assembly and governor during consideration of legislation. / History

Source: L. 2000: Entire section added with relocations, p. 118, § 1, effective March 15. **L. 2012:** IP(1)(c)(IV) and (1)(c)(IV)(B) amended, (HB 12-1070), ch. 167, p. 586, § 5, effective August 8.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-105.5. Contributions to members of general assembly and governor during consideration of legislation. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 1-45-104 (13) as it existed prior to 2000.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-106. Unexpended campaign contributions.

1-45-106. Unexpended campaign contributions.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-106. Unexpended campaign contributions. / Statute text

(1) (a) (I) Subject to the requirements of section 3 (3)(e) of article XXVIII of the state constitution, unexpended campaign contributions to a candidate committee may be:

(A) Contributed to a political party;

(B) Contributed to a candidate committee established by the same candidate for a different public office, subject to the limitations set forth in section 3 of article XXVIII of the state constitution, if the candidate committee making such a contribution is affirmatively closed by the candidate no later than ten days after the date such a contribution is made;

(C) Donated to a charitable organization recognized by the internal revenue service;

(D) Returned to the contributors, or retained by the committee for use by the candidate in a subsequent campaign.

(II) Except as authorized by section 1-45-103.7 (6.5), in no event shall contributions to a candidate committee be used for personal purposes not reasonably related to supporting the election of the candidate.

(III) A candidate committee for a former officeholder or a person not elected to office shall expend all of the unexpended campaign contributions retained by such candidate committee, for the purposes specified in this subsection (1), no later than nine years from the date such officeholder's term expired or from the date of the election at which such person was a candidate for office, whichever is later.

(b) In addition to any use described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), a person elected to a public office may use unexpended campaign contributions held by the person's candidate committee for any of the following purposes:

(I) Voter registration;

(II) Political issue education, which includes obtaining information from or providing information to the electorate;

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(III) Postsecondary educational scholarships;

(IV) To defray reasonable and necessary expenses related to mailings and similar communications to constituents;

(V) Any expenses that are directly related to such person's official duties as an elected official, including, but not limited to, expenses for the purchase or lease of office equipment and supplies, room rental for public meetings, necessary travel and lodging expenses for legislative education such as seminars, conferences, and meetings on legislative issues, and telephone and pager expenses.

(2) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2000, p. 123, § 4, effective March 15, 2000.)

(3) Unexpended contributions to an issue committee may be donated to any charitable organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service or returned to the contributor.

(4) This section shall apply to unexpended campaign contributions transferred from a political committee formed prior to January 15, 1997, to a candidate committee registering after January 15, 1997, pursuant to section 1-45-108.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any unexpended campaign contributions retained by a candidate committee for use in a subsequent election cycle shall be counted and reported as contributions from a political party in any subsequent election in accordance with the requirements of section 3 (3)(e) of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-106. Unexpended campaign contributions. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 98:** (1) amended, p. 955, § 3, effective May 27. **L. 2000:** (1)(a) and (2) amended, p. 123, § 4, effective March 15. **L. 2003:** IP(1)(a)(I) amended and (5) added, p. 2157, § 2, effective June 3. **L. 2010:** (1)(a)(I)(B) amended, (SB 10-041), ch. 151, p. 522, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2019:** (1)(a)(II) amended, (SB 19-229), ch. 354, p. 3260, § 2, effective September 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-106. Unexpended campaign contributions. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to § 1-45-109 as it existed prior to 1996.

(2) Section 3(2) of chapter 354 (SB 19-229), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or for the portion of the calendar year remaining after September 1, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after September 1, 2019, whichever is applicable.

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BACK TO TOP

ANNOTATION

Subsection (2) is constitutional. The state's interest in preventing avoidance of valid contribution limits by use of funds carried over from prior campaigns is both compelling and served by the restriction set forth in subsection (2). This provision is narrowly tailored to accomplish the state's legitimate interest. Citizens for Responsible Gov't State Political Action Comm. v. Buckley, 60 F. Supp. 2d 1066 (D. Colo. 1999).

Candidate's disclosure report not required to report unexpended campaign funds at the end of an election cycle as contributions from a political party. To accomplish the purpose of subsection (5), it is necessary only that a candidate committee report the amount of unexpended campaign funds on hand at the end of an election cycle. To report money already on hand as a fictional, new contribution from an unidentified political party would artificially inflate the amount of funds reportedly available to a candidate committee and would be confusing to those who read the report. Williams v. Teck, 113 P.3d 1255 (Colo. App. 2005).

Candidate committee permitted to use unexpended contributions to pay elected state senator's legal fees. Although legal fees are not specifically mentioned as permissible expenses under subsection (1)(b)(V), the words "including, but not limited to," indicate that the statute merely illustrates the kinds of expenses that may be regarded as directly related to an elected official's duties. Here, the legal fees may properly be characterized as directly related to official duties of elected state senator. The senator's duties include filing periodic reports with the secretary of state, and the fees were reasonably necessary to demonstrate that senator and his or her committee had properly performed this duty. Williams v. Teck, 113 P.3d 1255 (Colo. App. 2005).

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-107. Independent expenditures. (Repealed)

1-45-107. Independent expenditures. (Repealed)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-107. Independent expenditures. (Repealed) / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **Initiated 2002:** Entire section repealed, effective upon proclamation of the Governor (see editor's note, (2)).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-107. Independent expenditures. (Repealed) / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section was similar to former § 1-45-110.5 as it existed prior to 1996.

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BACK TO TOP

(2) (a) Subsection (4) of section 1 of article V of the state constitution provides that initiated and referred measures shall take effect from and after the official declaration of the vote thereon by the proclamation of the Governor. The measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution takes effect upon proclamation of the vote by the Governor. The Governor's proclamation was issued on December 20, 2002. However, section 13 of the measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution provides that the effective date of article XXVIII is December 6, 2002.

(b) This section was repealed by an initiated measure that was adopted by the people in the general election held November 5, 2002. Section 12 of article XXVIII provides for the repeal of this section. For the text of the initiative and the vote count, see Session Laws of Colorado 2003, p. 3609.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-107.5. Independent expenditures - restrictions on foreign corporations - registration - disclosure - disclaimer requirements - definitions.

1-45-107.5. Independent expenditures - restrictions on foreign corporations - registration - disclosure - disclaimer requirements - definitions.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-107.5. Independent expenditures - restrictions on foreign corporations - registration - disclosure - disclaimer requirements - definitions. / Statute text

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no natural person who is not a citizen of the United States, foreign government, or foreign corporation may expend moneys on an independent expenditure in connection with an election in the state, and no independent expenditure committee may knowingly accept a donation from any natural person who is not a citizen of the United States, any foreign government, or any foreign corporation.

(2) In accordance with the decision of the supreme court of Colorado in the case of *In re Interrogatories Propounded by Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., Concerning the Effect of Citizens United v. Federal Election Comm'n, 558 U.S. ___ (2010), on Certain Provisions of Article XXVIII of the Constitution of the State of Colorado,* 227 P.3d 892 (Colo. 2010), notwithstanding sections 3 (4)(a) and 6 (2) of article XXVIII of the state constitution, corporations and labor organizations shall not be prohibited from making independent expenditures. All such expenditures shall be disclosed in accordance with the requirements of this article and article XXVIII of the state constitution. For purposes of this article and article XXVIII of the state constitution, any use of the word "person" shall be construed to include, without limitation, any corporation or labor organization.

(3) (a) Any person that accepts a donation that is given for the purpose of making an independent expenditure in excess of one thousand dollars or that makes an independent expenditure in excess of one thousand dollars shall register with the appropriate officer within

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BACK TO TOP

two business days of the date on which an aggregate amount of donations accepted or expenditures made reaches or exceeds one thousand dollars.

(b) The registration required by paragraph (a) of this subsection (3) shall include a statement listing:

(I) The person's full name, spelling out any acronyms used therein;

(II) A natural person authorized to act as a registered agent;

(III) A street address and telephone number for the principal place of operations; and

(IV) The aggregate ownership interest in the person held by foreign persons calculated as of the time the person registers with the appropriate officer under paragraph (a) of this subsection (3).

(c) If the person identified in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (b) of this subsection (3) is a corporation, a subsidiary may register on behalf of its parent corporation or for other subsidiaries of the parent corporation, and the parent corporation may register on behalf of all of its subsidiaries. In each such case, the registered agent of the person registering shall serve as the registered agent for all such affiliated corporations. Registration of a subsidiary shall include the name of its parent corporation as well as any names under which the subsidiary does business.

(d) If the person identified in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (b) of this subsection (3) is a labor organization, a local labor organization may register on behalf of any affiliated local, national, or international labor organization that will be making independent expenditures, and a national or international labor organization may register on behalf of any affiliated local labor organization that will be making independent expenditures. In each such case, the registered agent of the labor organization that is registering shall serve as the registered agent for each affiliated local, national, or international labor organization.

(4) (a) In addition to any other applicable disclosure requirements specified in this article or in article XXVIII of the state constitution, any person making an independent expenditure in an aggregate amount in excess of one thousand dollars in any one calendar year shall report the following to the appropriate officer:

(I) The person's full name, or, if the person is a subsidiary of a parent corporation, the full name of the parent corporation, spelling out any acronyms used therein;

(II) All names under which the person does business in the state if such names are different from the name identified pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a);

(III) The address of the home office of the person, or, if the person is a subsidiary of a parent corporation, the home office of the parent corporation; and

(IV) The name and street address in the state of its registered agent.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(b) (I) Any person who expends an aggregate amount in excess of one thousand dollars or more per calendar year for the purpose of making an independent expenditure shall report to the appropriate officer, in accordance with the requirements of this section, the name and address of any person that, for the purpose of making an independent expenditure, donates more than two hundred fifty dollars per year to the person expending one thousand dollars or more on an independent expenditure.

(II) If the person making the donation of two hundred fifty dollars or more is a natural person, the disclosure required by subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) shall also include the donor's occupation and employer.

(III) If the person making the donation of two hundred fifty dollars or more is not a natural person, the disclosure required by this paragraph (b) shall also include:

(A) The donor's full name, or, if the donor is a subsidiary of a parent corporation, the full name of the parent corporation, spelling out any acronyms used therein;

(B) All names under which the donor does business in the state if such names are different from the name identified pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b);

(C) The address of the home office of the donor, or, if the donor is a subsidiary of a parent corporation, the home office of the parent corporation; and

(D) The name and street address in the state of the donor's registered agent.

(c) The information required to be disclosed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) must be reported in accordance with the schedule specified in section 1-45-108 (2) for political committees; except that any person making an independent expenditure in excess of one thousand dollars within thirty days before a primary, general, or regular biennial school election shall provide such report within forty-eight hours after obligating moneys for the independent expenditure.

(5) (a) In addition to any other applicable requirements provided by law, and subject to the provisions of this section, any communication that is broadcast, printed, mailed, delivered; placed on a website, streaming media service, or online forum for a fee; or that is otherwise distributed that constitutes an independent expenditure for which the person making the independent expenditure expends in excess of one thousand dollars on the communication shall include in the communication a statement that:

(I) The communication has been "paid for by (full name of the person paying for the communication)"; and

(II) Identifies a natural person who is the registered agent if the person identified in subsection (5)(a)(I) of this section is not a natural person.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(b) In the case of a broadcast or online video or audio communication, the statement required by subsection (5)(a) of this section shall satisfy all applicable requirements promulgated by the federal communications commission for size, duration, and placement.

(c) In the case of a nonbroadcast communication, including an online communication, the secretary of state shall, by rule, establish size and placement requirements for the disclaimer statement. If the size, format, or display requirements of the communication make it impracticable to include a disclaimer statement on the communication, the rules must require that the disclaimer statement be available by means of a direct link from the communication to the web page or application screen containing the statement.

(6) Any person that expends an aggregate amount in excess of one thousand dollars on an independent expenditure in any one calendar year shall deliver written notice to the appropriate officer that shall list with specificity the name of the candidate whom the independent expenditure is intended to support or oppose. Where the independent expenditure is made within thirty days before a primary, general, or regular biennial school election, the notice required by this subsection (6) must be delivered within forty-eight hours after the person obligates moneys for the independent expenditure.

(7) Any person that accepts any donation that is given for the purpose of making an independent expenditure or expends any moneys on an independent expenditure in an aggregate amount in excess of one thousand dollars in any one calendar year shall establish a separate account in a financial institution, and the title of the account shall indicate that it is used for such purposes. All such donations accepted by such person for the making of any such independent expenditures shall only be deposited into the account, and any moneys expended for the making of such independent expenditure shall only be withdrawn from the account. As long as the person uses a separate account for the purposes of this subsection (7), in any complaint relating to the use of the person's account, no discovery may be made of information relating to the identity of the person's members and general donors and any discovery is limited to the sources, amounts, and uses of donations deposited into and expenditures withdrawn from the account.

(8) Any person that expends moneys on an independent expenditure in excess of one thousand dollars, regardless of the medium of the communication produced by the expenditure, shall disclose to the secretary of state, in accordance with the schedule specified in section 1-45-108 (2) for political committees, any donation in excess of twenty dollars given in that reporting period for the purpose of making an independent expenditure.

(9) Repealed.

(10) Any earmarked donation given for the purpose of making an independent expenditure in excess of one thousand dollars shall be disclosed as a donation from both the original source of the donation and the person transferring the donation.

(11) On reports it files with the appropriate official, an independent expenditure committee

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

that obligates in excess of one thousand dollars for an independent expenditure shall disclose a good faith estimate of the fair market value of the expenditure if the committee does not know the actual amount of the expenditure as of the date that a report is required to be filed with the appropriate official.

(12) All information required to be disclosed to the secretary of state under this section shall be posted on the website of the secretary within two business days after its receipt by the secretary.

(13) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any requirement contained in this section that is applicable to a corporation shall also be applicable to a labor organization.

(14) (a) Any covered organization that contributes, donates, or transfers ten thousand dollars or more to any person, earmarked for the purpose of making an independent expenditure or electioneering communication, during any one calendar year, shall provide to the recipient of the contribution, donation, or transfer an affirmation, in writing, that includes the information listed in subsection (14)(d) of this section. After reaching the ten thousand dollar threshold, the covered organization shall provide a new affirmation statement for each qualifying subsequent contribution, donation, or transfer during that calendar year.

(b) Any covered organization that transfers ten thousand dollars or more to any person, earmarked for the purpose of that person making a contribution, donation, or transfer to pay for an independent expenditure or electioneering communication, during any one calendar year, shall provide to the recipient of the transfer an affirmation, in writing, that includes the information listed in subsection (14)(d) of this section. After reaching the ten thousand dollar threshold, the covered organization shall provide a new affirmation statement for each qualifying subsequent transfer during that calendar year.

(c) A person shall not accept a contribution, donation, or transfer as described in subsection (14)(a) or (14)(b) of this section from a covered organization unless the covered organization provides a written affirmation to the recipient satisfying the requirements of subsection (14)(d) of this section. The recipient shall include the written affirmation when reporting the independent expenditure or electioneering communication to the appropriate filing officer and shall retain the written affirmation for not less than one year following the date of the end of the election cycle during which the affirmation was received.

(d) The affirmation required by this subsection (14) must include:

(I) The name of the covered organization and its principal place of business;

(II) The amount of the contribution, donation, or transfer and the name of the person who received the contribution, donation, or transfer;

(III) (A) If the covered organization is a for-profit corporation, each beneficial owner's name and current residence or business address and, if a listed beneficial owner exercises control over

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

the entity through another legal entity, such as a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or trust, each such other legal entity and each such beneficial owner who will use that other entity to exercise control over the entity.

(B) For purposes of this subsection (14)(d)(III), "beneficial owner" means a corporation's officers, directors, and owners of more than five percent of the corporation.

(IV) (A) If the covered organization is not a for-profit corporation but is subject to disclosure under subsection (14)(a) or (14)(b) of this section, a list of any person who transferred five thousand dollars or more to the covered organization and who earmarked that transfer of funds for the purpose of making an independent expenditure or electioneering communication as determined by the earlier of either the preceding twelve-month period that ends on the date of the transmission of the independent expenditure or electioneering communication or that ends on the date of the transfer.

(B) A covered organization is not required to include a natural person's name if disclosure of that person would lead to a reasonable probability of harm, threats, harassment, or reprisals to the person or to individuals affiliated with that person.

(C) A covered organization may only redact a person's name from its report under subsection (14)(d)(IV)(B) of this section if the person has affirmed on a form provided by the secretary of state, under oath, that the person believes there is a reasonable probability that they will be subject to harm, threats, harassment, or reprisal if disclosed. The covered organization shall retain the affirmation for not less than one year and shall produce the affirmation to the secretary of state's office in response to a request for information related to any investigation of a campaign finance violation. The affirmation must remain confidential during the pendency of any investigation and complaint with a hearing officer under section 1-45-117.5. Following a final agency decision finding that the individual whose name was redacted does not meet the requirements of this subsection (14)(d)(IV)(C), including the applicable period for appeal, the affirmation is no longer confidential and is subject to public review.

(D) If the contribution, donation, or transfer under subsection (14)(a) or (14)(b) of this section is from another covered organization, the covered organization shall provide a list of persons who transferred to that covered organization consistent with subsections (14)(d)(IV)(B) and (14)(d)(IV)(C) of this section.

(V) A covered organization need not include a transfer made for a commercial transaction in the ordinary course of any trade or business conducting by the covered organization.

(VI) A certification by the chief executive officer or person who is the head of the covered organization stating that the contribution, donation, or transfer is not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with or at the request or suggestion of a candidate, authorized committee, or agent of a candidate, political party, or agent of a political party.

(e) For purposes of this subsection (14), "covered organization" means a corporation,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

including an entity organized under section 501(c) or 527 of the internal revenue code, a labor organization, or an independent expenditure committee. It does not include a small donor committee, political party committee, or candidate committee.

(f) For purposes of this subsection (14), "transfer", "donate", or "contribute" does not include the provision of funds to a vendor or in payment of a contract for goods or services.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-107.5. Independent expenditures - restrictions on foreign corporations - registration - disclosure - disclaimer requirements - definitions. / History

Source: L. 2010: Entire section added, (SB 10-203), ch. 269, p. 1231, § 4, effective May 25. **L. 2016:** (4)(c) and (6) amended, (HB 16-1282), ch. 267, p. 1106, § 2, effective August 10. **L. 2018:** (9) repealed, (HB 18-1047), ch. 155, p. 1092, § 3, effective April 23. **L. 2019:** (1) and (5) amended and (14) added, (HB 19-1318), ch. 328, p. 3042, § 3, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-107.5. Independent expenditures - restrictions on foreign corporations - registration - disclosure - disclaimer requirements - definitions. / Annotations

BACK TO TOP

Editor's note: Section 7(2) of chapter 328 (HB 19-1318), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or to the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act adding this section, see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

ANNOTATION

An independent expenditure committee operating without the control or coordination of a political party is able to collect contributions or make independent expenditures -- expenditures not controlled by or coordinated with any candidate -- that are not subject to the source and contribution limits that restrict political parties under § 3(3) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and under this act. Colo. Republican Party v. Williams, 2016 COA 26, 370 P.3d 650.

Independent expenditure committee not required to disclose payments made by state political party on its behalf as donations unless they were given for the purpose of making an independent expenditure. The payments were made to satisfy committee's administrative penalties and costs. Thus, payments were not given for the purpose of making an independent expenditure. Campaign Integrity v. Colo. Rep. Party, 2017 COA 32, 395 P.3d 1192.

Nor is the independent expenditure committee required to report the payments as

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BACK TO TOP

contributions. This section does not require an independent expenditure committee to disclose a "contribution". The definition of contribution does not include payments made to or for the benefit of an independent expenditure committee. Campaign Integrity v. Colo. Rep. Party, 2017 COA 32, 395 P.3d 1192.

Nor is the independent expenditure committee required to report the payments as expenditures. An "expenditure" generally means payments "expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or supporting or opposing a ballot issue or ballot question." The payments were not expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or supporting or opposing a ballot issue or ballot question; therefore, they did not satisfy the general definition of expenditure. Campaign Integrity v. Colo. Rep. Party, 2017 COA 32, 395 P.3d 1192.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108. Disclosure - definitions - repeal.

1-45-108. Disclosure - definitions - repeal.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108. Disclosure - definitions - repeal. / Statute text

(1) (a) (I) Subject to subsection (1.5) of this section, all candidate committees, political committees, issue committees, small donor committees, and political parties shall report to the appropriate officer their contributions received, including the name and address of each person who has contributed twenty dollars or more; expenditures made, and obligations entered into by the committee or party.

(II) Subject to subsection (1.5) of this section, in the case of contributions made to a candidate committee, political committee, issue committee, and political party, the disclosure required by this section shall also include the occupation and employer of each person who has made a contribution of one hundred dollars or more to such committee or party.

(III) Any person who expends one thousand dollars or more per calendar year on electioneering communications or regular biennial school electioneering communications shall report to the secretary of state, in accordance with the disclosure required by this section, the amount expended on the communications and the name and address of any person that contributes more than two hundred fifty dollars per year to the person expending one thousand dollars or more on the communications. If the person making a contribution of more than two hundred fifty dollars is a natural person, the disclosure required by this section must also include the person's occupation and employer. Electioneering communication reports must include the name of the candidate or candidates unambiguously referred to in the electioneering communication or regular biennial school electioneering communication. In accordance with section 1-45-103 (9), an electioneering communication includes any communication that

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

satisfies all other requirements set forth in section 2 (7) of article XXVIII of the state constitution but that is broadcast, printed, mailed, delivered, or distributed between the primary election and the general election.

(IV) In the case of a limited liability company, the disclosure required by this section shall include, in addition to any other information required to be disclosed, each contribution from the limited liability company regardless of the dollar amount of the contribution.

(V) Any disbursement not otherwise defined as an expenditure may be reported to the appropriate officer.

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2003, p. 2158, § 3, effective June 3, 2003.)

(c) A candidate committee in a special district election is not required to file reports under this section until the committee has received contributions or made expenditures exceeding two hundred dollars in the aggregate during the election cycle.

(d) For purposes of this section, a political party shall be treated as a separate entity at the state, county, district, and local levels.

(e) A candidate's candidate committee may reimburse the candidate for expenditures the candidate has made on behalf of the candidate committee. Any such expenditures may be reimbursed at any time. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any expenditure reimbursed to the candidate by the candidate's candidate committee within the election cycle during which the expenditure is made shall be treated only as an expenditure and not as a contribution to and an expenditure by the candidate's candidate committee. Notwithstanding the date on which any such expenditure is reimbursed, the expenditure shall be reported at the time it is made in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(1.5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in light of the opinion of the United States court of appeals for the tenth circuit in the case of Coalition for Secular Government v. Williams, no. 14-1469 (10th circuit March 2, 2016), that affirmed the order of the federal district court in the case of Coalition for Secular Gov't v. Gessler, case no. 12 CV 1708, the disclosure requirements specified in subsection (1)(a)(I) or (1)(a)(II) of this section and the reporting requirements specified in subsection (3.3) or (6) of this section shall not apply to a small-scale issue committee. A small-scale issue committee shall disclose or file reports about the contributions or expenditures it has made or received or otherwise register as an issue committee in connection with accepting or making such contributions or expenditures in accordance with the following alternative requirements:

(a) A small-scale issue committee that accepts or makes contributions or expenditures in an aggregate amount during any applicable election cycle that does not exceed two hundred dollars is not required to disclose or file reports about the contributions or expenditures it has made or received or otherwise register as an issue committee in connection with accepting or making such contributions or expenditures.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(b) (I) A small-scale issue committee that accepts or makes contributions or expenditures in an aggregate amount during any applicable election cycle of between two hundred dollars and five thousand dollars shall register with the appropriate officer within ten business days of the date on which the aggregate amount of contributions or expenditures exceeds two hundred dollars. The registration required by this subsection (1.5)(b)(I) must include a statement listing:

(A) The committee's full name, spelling out any acronyms used in the name;

(B) The name of a natural person authorized to act as a registered agent of the committee;

(C) A street address for the principal place of business of the committee;

(D) The purpose or nature of interest of the committee; and

(E) The name of the financial institution in which, in a separate account bearing the name of the committee, all contributions received by the committee are deposited.

(II) A small-scale issue committee described in subsection (1.5)(b)(I) of this section is not required to make any disclosure about any contributions or expenditures it has made or received.

(c) (I) At such time as an issue committee that began as a small-scale issue committee accepts or makes contributions or expenditures in an aggregate amount during any applicable election cycle that exceeds five thousand dollars, the committee shall report to the appropriate officer, for each particular contribution or expenditure accepted or made, the name and address of each person who has made such contribution and the amount of each specific contribution and expenditure accepted or made by the committee.

(II) At such time as any issue committee that began as a small-scale issue committee accepts or makes contributions or expenditures in an aggregate amount during any applicable election cycle that exceeds five thousand dollars, the committee shall make disclosure of any contributions or expenditures it accepts or makes on or after the date on which such aggregate amount exceeds five thousand dollars in compliance with all applicable requirements under this article 45 pertaining to the disclosure by an issue committee of its contributions or expenditures accepted or made.

(III) Within fifteen days of a small-scale issue committee becoming subject to the applicable requirements governing an issue committee under this article 45, the committee through its registered agent shall report this change in the committee's status to the secretary of state.

(2) (a) (I) Except as provided in subparagraph (V) of this paragraph (a) and subsections (2.5), (2.7), and (6) of this section, such reports that are required to be filed with the secretary of state must be filed:

(A) Quarterly in off-election years no later than the fifteenth calendar day following the end of the applicable quarter;

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(B) On the first Monday in May and on each Monday every two weeks thereafter before the primary election;

(C) On the first day of each month beginning the sixth full month before the major election; except that no monthly report shall be required on the first day of the month in which the major election is held;

(D) On the first Monday in September and on each Monday every two weeks thereafter before the major election;

(E) Thirty days after the major election in election years; and

(F) Fourteen days before and thirty days after a special legislative election held in an off-election year.

(II) Such reports that are required to be filed with the municipal clerk and such reports required to be filed pursuant to section 1-45-109 (1)(a)(II) and (1)(c) shall be filed on the twenty-first day and on the Friday before and thirty days after the primary election, where applicable, and the major election in election years and annually in off-election years on the first day of the month in which the anniversary of the major election occurs.

(III) For purposes of this section, "election year" means every even-numbered year for political parties and political committees and each year in which the particular candidate committee's candidate, or issue committee's issue, appears on the ballot, including a regular biennial school election; and "major election" means the election that decides an issue committee's issue, the election that elects a person to the public office sought by the candidate committee's candidate, and a regular biennial school election.

(IV) If the reporting day falls on a weekend or legal holiday, the report shall be filed by the close of the next business day.

(V) Any political committee, small donor committee, independent expenditure committee, or political organization that is participating in a regular biennial school election shall file its disclosure reports in accordance with the filing schedule specified in sub-subparagraphs (C) to (E) of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) as of the date the committee or organization, as applicable, makes an expenditure or undertakes spending in connection with that election.

(b) The reports required by this section shall also include the balance of funds at the beginning of the reporting period, the total of contributions received, the total of expenditures made during the reporting period, and the name and address of the financial institution used by the committee or party.

(c) All reports filed with the secretary of state pursuant to this subsection (2) shall be for the reporting periods established pursuant to rules promulgated by the secretary of state in accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(d) A candidate committee for a former officeholder or a person not elected to office that has no change in the balance of funds maintained by such committee, receives no contributions, makes no expenditures, and enters into no obligations during a reporting period shall not be required to file a report under this section for such period.

(e) The reporting period for all reports required to be filed with the municipal clerk and such reports required to be filed pursuant to section 1-45-109 (1)(a)(II) and (1)(c) shall close five calendar days prior to the effective date of filing.

(2.3) Repealed.

(2.5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2.5)(b) of this section, and in addition to any report required to be filed with the secretary of state or municipal clerk under this section, all candidate committees, issue committees, and political parties must file a report with the secretary of state of any contribution of one thousand dollars or more at any time within thirty days preceding the date of the primary election, general election, or regular biennial school election. This report shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than twenty-four hours after receipt of said contribution.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2.5)(a) of this section, the following committees need not file the reports described in subsection (2.5)(a) of this section in the following instances:

(I) An issue committee need not report a contribution of one thousand dollars or more preceding a primary election;

(II) A committee for a candidate not on the ballot need not report a contribution of one thousand dollars or more during the off-election year; and

(III) A candidate or candidate committee for school board need not report a contribution of one thousand dollars or more during the off-election year.

(2.7) Any candidate or candidate committee supporting any candidate, including an incumbent, in a recall election, shall file reports of contributions and expenditures with the appropriate officer fourteen and seven days before the recall election and thirty days after the recall election.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3.5) of this section, all candidate committees, political committees, small donor committees, and political parties shall register with the appropriate officer before accepting or making any contributions. Registration shall include a statement listing:

(a) The organization's full name, spelling out any acronyms used therein;

(b) A natural person authorized to act as a registered agent;

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(c) A street address and telephone number for the principal place of operations;

(d) All affiliated candidates and committees;

(e) The purpose or nature of interest of the committee or party.

(f) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2010, (SB 10-041), ch. 151, p. 522, § 2, effective July 1, 2010.)

(3.3) Subject to subsections (1.5) and (7) of this section, each issue committee shall register with the appropriate officer within ten calendar days of accepting or making contributions or expenditures in excess of two hundred dollars to support or oppose any ballot issue or ballot question or upon receipt of the notice from the secretary of state pursuant to section 1-40-113 (1)(b). If required to register under the requirements of this subsection (3.3), the registration of the issue committee must include a statement containing the items listed in paragraphs (a) to (e) of subsection (3) of this section in connection with other committees and a political party.

(3.5) Any political committee that has registered with the federal election commission may file with the appropriate officer a copy of the registration filed with the federal election commission and, insofar as such registration contains substantially the same information required by subsection (3) of this section, the political committee shall be considered to have registered with the appropriate officer for purposes of subsection (3) of this section and, therefore, shall be authorized to accept or make contributions as permitted by law. Any political committee that satisfies the requirements of this subsection (3.5) shall be subject to all other legal requirements pertaining to contributions and disclosure that are applicable to political committees.

(4) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2010, (SB 10-041), ch. 151, p. 522, § 2, effective July 1, 2010.)

(5) The registration and reporting requirements of this section shall not apply to that part of the organizational structure of a political party which is responsible for only the day-to-day operations of such political party at the national level if copies of the reports required to be filed with the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the "Federal Election Commission Act of 1971", as amended, are filed with the secretary of state and include the information required by this section.

(6) Subject to subsection (1.5) of this section, any issue committee whose purpose is the recall of any elected official shall register with the appropriate officer within ten calendar days of accepting or making contributions or expenditures in excess of two hundred dollars to support or oppose the recall. Reports of contributions and expenditures shall be filed with the appropriate officer within fifteen days of the filing of the committee registration and every thirty days thereafter until the date of the recall election has been established and then fourteen days and seven days before the recall election and thirty days following the recall election.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(7) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to subsection (7)(b) of this section, a matter is considered a ballot issue or a ballot question for the purpose of determining whether an issue committee has been formally established, thereby necessitating compliance with any disclosure and reporting requirements of this article 45 and article XXVIII of the state constitution, at the earliest of the following:

(I) A title for the matter has been designated and fixed in accordance with law and any motion for rehearing has been heard;

(II) The matter has been referred to the voters by the general assembly or the governing body of any political subdivision of the state with authorization to refer matters to the voters;

(III) In the case of a citizen referendum petition, the matter has been submitted for format approval in accordance with law;

(IV) A petition concerning the matter has been circulated and signed by at least one person; except that, where a matter becomes a ballot issue or ballot question upon such signing, any person opposing the matter shall not be considered to be an issue committee for purposes of this article and article XXVIII of the state constitution until one such person knows or has reason to know of the circulation; or

(V) A signed petition has been submitted to the appropriate officer in accordance with law.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (7), where a matter concerns a municipal annexation brought pursuant to article 12 of title 31, C.R.S., the matter shall not be considered to be a ballot issue or ballot question for the purpose of determining whether an issue committee has been formally established, thereby necessitating compliance with any disclosure and reporting requirements of this article and article XXVIII of the state constitution, unless and until the first notice of the annexation election has been published in accordance with the requirements of section 31-12-112 (6), C.R.S.

(8) (a) Any expenditure or spending on a covered communication that is controlled by or coordinated with a candidate or candidate's agent or a political party is considered both a contribution by the maker of the expenditure or spending, and an expenditure by the candidate committee.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (8), "covered communication" includes:

(I) A communication that expressly advocates for the election or defeat of a candidate;

(II) An electioneering communication as defined in section 2 (7) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and section 1-45-103 (9), or regular biennial electioneering communication as defined in section 1-45-103 (15.5); and

(III) A communication by a political organization that influences or attempts to influence the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

selection, nomination, election, or appointment of a candidate to public office.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108. Disclosure - definitions - repeal. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 98:** (1), (2)(a), and IP(3) amended, p. 223, § 2, effective April 10; (2)(c) added, p. 951, § 3, effective May 27. **L. 99:** (2)(a) amended and (2)(c)(V) and (2)(c)(VI) added, p. 1391, §§ 14, 15, effective June 4. **L. 2000:** (2)(a) and (2)(c) amended and (2)(d), (2.3), and (2.5) added, pp. 124, 125, §§ 5, 6, effective March 15; (1) amended, p. 1725, § 2, effective June 1; (2)(e) added, p. 791, § 2, effective August 2. **L. 2001:** (3)(f) added, p. 808, § 1, effective August 8; (2.3) amended, p. 1111, § 2, effective September 1. **L. 2002:** IP(2)(a)(I) and (6) amended and (2.7) added, p. 198, § 2, effective April 3; (1)(c) added, p. 1640, § 33, effective June 7. **L. 2003:** (1)(a), (1)(b), (2.3)(a), (2.5), IP(3), and (3)(f) amended and (1)(d) added, p. 2158, § 3, effective June 3. **L. 2004:** (1)(e) and (3.5) added and IP(3) amended, p. 864, §§ 2, 3, effective May 21. **L. 2007:** IP(2)(a)(I) amended, p. 2017, § 2, effective June 1; IP(2)(a)(I) and (2)(a)(I)(B) amended, p. 1299, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2008:** (1)(a)(IV) added, p. 441, § 2, effective April 14. **L. 2009:** (2)(a)(II), (2)(e), and (2.5) amended, (HB 09-1357), ch. 361, p. 1871, § 1, effective July 1; IP(3) and (3)(f) amended and (3.3) and (7) added, (HB 09-1153), ch. 174, p. 774, § 2, effective September 1. **L. 2010:** (1)(a)(III), (3)(f), (3.3), (4), and (6) amended, (SB 10-041), ch. 151, p. 522, § 2, effective July 1; (3.3) amended, (HB 10-1370), ch. 270, p. 1241, § 5, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2012:** (2)(a)(I)(B) amended, (SB 12-014), ch. 1, p. 1, § 1, effective January 30; (1)(c) amended, (HB 12-1269), ch. 83, p. 274, § 1, effective August 8. **L. 2016:** (1)(a)(I), (1)(a)(II), (3.3), and (6) amended and (1.5) added, (SB 16-186), ch. 269, p. 1114, § 2, effective June 10; (1)(a)(III), IP(2)(a)(I), (2)(a)(III), and (2.5) amended and (2)(a)(V) added, (HB 16-1282), ch. 267, p. 1106, § 3; effective August 10. **L. 2018:** (1)(a)(III), (2.5), IP(7)(a), and (7)(a)(I) amended and (1)(a)(V) added, (HB 18-1047), ch. 155, p. 1093, § 4, effective April 23. **L. 2019:** (1)(a)(III) amended, (SB 19-068), ch. 69, p. 250, § 2, effective August 2; (1.5) R&RE and (8) added, (HB 19-1318), ch. 328, p. 3044, § 4, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108. Disclosure - definitions - repeal. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 1-45-108 as it existed prior to 1996.

(2) The numbering of this section originated in an initiated measure. As a result of an amendment to this section by House Bill 00-1194, subsections (2)(a)(I) and (2)(a)(II) as they existed prior to March 15, 2000, were renumbered on revision as (2)(a)(III) and (2)(a)(IV).

(3) Subsection (2.3)(b) provided for the repeal of subsection (2.3), effective January 1, 2007. (See L. 2001, p. 1111.)

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(4) Amendments to subsection (3.3) by Senate Bill 10-041 and House Bill 10-1370 were harmonized.

(5) Prior to the reenactment of subsection (1.5) on August 2, 2019, subsection (1.5)(d) provided for the repeal of subsection (1.5), effective June 30, 2019. (See. L. 2016, p. 1114.)

(6) Section 4(2) of chapter 69 (SB 19-068), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or for the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

(7) Section 7(2) of chapter 328 (HB 19-1318), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or to the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act amending subsection (3.3), see section 1 of chapter 270, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

ANNOTATION

BACK TO TOP

Law reviews. For article, "Campaign Finance and 527 Organizations: Keeping Big Money in Politics", see 34 Colo. Law. 71 (July 2005).

Act is neither unconstitutionally vague nor unconstitutionally overbroad. As to candidate's vagueness argument, court finds that act provides sufficient notice to persons of ordinary intelligence that expenditures, regardless of the source of the funds, must be reported. As to candidate's arguments that act is unconstitutionally overbroad and inhibits basic first amendment freedoms, court finds that, construed to preserve its constitutionality, the act does not inhibit a candidate's expenditures of personal funds so long as those expenditures are made through a candidate committee and reported in accordance with this section. Hlavec v. Davidson, 64 P.3d 881 (Colo. App. 2002).

The disclosure requirements contained in this section do not violate the right to engage in anonymous speech and association. Disclosure of the contributors to ballot measures may constitutionally be required under the standards specified in Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976). Challengers to disclosure requirements must show a reasonable probability that the compelled disclosure of contributors' names would subject them to threats, harassment, or reprisals from either government officials or private parties. Independence Inst. v. Coffman, 209 P.3d 1130 (Colo. App. 2008), cert. denied, 558 U.S. 1024, 130 S. Ct. 625, 175 L. Ed. 2d 479 (2009).

Registration and disclosure requirements are unconstitutional as applied to ballot-initiative committee. There is virtually no proper governmental interest in imposing disclosure requirements on ballot-initiative committees that raise and expend minimal money, and limited interest cannot justify the burden that disclosure requirements impose on such a committee. Sampson v. Buescher, 625 F.3d 1247 (10th Cir. 2010); Coal. for Secular Gov't v. Williams, 815 F.3d 1267 (10th Cir. 2016).

The financial burden of state regulation on ballot initiative committee member's freedom of association approaches or exceeds the value of their financial contributions to their political effort; and the governmental interest in imposing those regulations is minimal, if not nonexistent, in light of the small size of the contributions. Therefore it is unconstitutional to impose that burden on the committee members. Sampson v. Buescher, 625 F.3d 1247 (10th Cir. 2010); Coal. for Secular Gov't v. Williams, 815 F.3d 1267

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BACK TO TOP

(10th Cir. 2016).

The reporting requirements of subsection (1)(a)(I) are not unconstitutional as applied to a political committee. The United States supreme court has consistently upheld disclosure and reporting requirements for political committees that exist primarily to influence elections. It makes no difference that the contributions were not used to directly influence an election -- any contribution to a political committee that has the major purpose of influencing an election is deemed to be campaign related and thus justifies the burden of disclosure and reporting. Camp. Integ. Watchdog v. Alliance for Safe, 2018 CO 7, 409 P.3d 357.

The $200 contribution and expenditure threshold for issue committees under § 2(10)(a)(II) of article XXVIII and the retrospective reporting requirements for issue committees under subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section were not facially invalidated by the tenth circuit's holding in Sampson v. Buescher, 625 F.3d 1247 (10th Cir. 2010). The secretary of state promulgated 8 Colo. Code Regs. 1505-6, § 4.1 (rule 4.1), in response to Sampson. Because rule 4.1's $5,000 threshold and its retrospective reporting exemption clearly conflict with the still-valid constitutional and statutory provisions, rule 4.1 is unlawful and set aside. The secretary of state exceeded his authority in promulgating the rule. Gessler v. CO Common Cause & Ethics Watch, 2014 CO 44, 327 P.3d 232.

Although in promulgating rule 4.27 (later codified as rule 4.1), the secretary was attempting to clarify the registration and reporting requirements in light of Sampson, Sampson did not facially invalidate any provision of the campaign finance law, and, to the extent Sampson impacts the future application of campaign finance laws on issue committees in a similar factual context, rule 4.27 exceeds the scope of Sampson. Colo. Common Cause v. Gessler, 2012 COA 147, 410 P.3d 451, aff'd, 2014 CO 44, 327 P.3d 232.

Under subsection (1)(a), candidate committees must disclose all expenditures and obligations, even if no contributions are received. Thus, if a candidate runs without a separate committee and finances the campaign from personal funds, the candidate is a candidate committee and must disclose expenditures and obligations as required by subsection (1)(a). Nothing in subsection (1)(a) indicates that expenditures must be reported only if drawn on outside contributions. Hlavec v. Davidson, 64 P.3d 881 (Colo. App. 2002).

Here, both candidate and the candidate committee made expenditures under the authority of the candidate. Thus, both the candidate and the committee were candidate committees or the candidate was acting through the formed committee. In either instance, the expenditures were subject to the disclosure requirements of subsection (1)(a). Hlavec v. Davidson, 64 P.3d 881 (Colo. App. 2002).

"Obligations entered into" as used in subsection (1)(a)(I) includes only obligations entered into for making expenditures and does not cover activities by a committee that incur debt. It would be absurd to require reporting of all obligations to spend money regardless of purpose yet require reporting of money actually spent only for a single narrow purpose, express advocacy. Moreover, the Fair Campaign Practices Act ties the meaning of obligation to expenditures when it expressly defines "obligating" to mean an agreement to make, or indirect provision of, an independent expenditure. The definition of "obligating" in § 1-45-103 (12.7) indicates that the legislature intended to treat obligations no more broadly than it did actual spending. Camp. Integ. Watchdog v. Alliance for Safe, 2018 CO 7, 409 P.3d 357.

Candidate's disclosure report not required to report unexpended campaign funds at the end of an election cycle as contributions from a political party. It is necessary only that a candidate committee report the amount of unexpended campaign funds on hand at the end of an election cycle. To report money already on hand as a fictional, new contribution from an unidentified political party would artificially inflate the amount of funds reportedly available to a candidate committee and would be

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

confusing to those who read the report. Williams v. Teck, 113 P.3d 1255 (Colo. App. 2005).

Payments to a law firm to defend political committee in a tort suit are a reportable contribution under § 2(5)(a)(II) of article XXVIII of the state constitution. Because the law firm that defended the political committee and the court of appeals were both third parties in relation to the political committee, the payment of filing fees to the court and of legal fees to the law firm were "payment[s] made to a third party". And the payments were "for the benefit" of the political committee because they furthered the committee's legal defense. Because the payments of the political committee's legal expenses were "contributions" to the committee under section 2(5)(a)(II), the committee was required to report them as contributions under subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section. Camp. Integ. Watchdog v. Alliance for Safe, 2018 CO 7, 409 P.3d 357.

Order by administrative law judge (ALJ) assessing penalty against nonprofit association engaging in political advocacy based upon determination by ALJ that association was a political committee is vacated and case remanded. Under controlling precedent, regulation under campaign finance laws should be tied to groups controlled by candidates or which have a "major purpose" of electing candidates. Here, record does not permit a determination of whether major purpose test satisfied as to association. On remand, ALJ instructed to determine whether association's "major purpose" in 2004 was the nomination or election of candidates. Alliance for Colorado's Families v. Gilbert, 172 P.3d 964 (Colo. App. 2007).

ALJ had authority to impose appropriate sanction under § 9(2)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution for violation of this section. The appropriate officer may either directly sanction the offending party under § 10(2)(b) of article XXVIII or initiate a complaint under § 9(2)(a). Patterson Recall Comm., Inc. v. Patterson, 209 P.3d 1210 (Colo. App. 2009).

Nowhere in this article or in rules promulgated by secretary of state is the filing requirement conditioned upon posting by or receiving electronic transmissions from the county clerk and recorder. Instead, the requirement to disclose and file reports is unconditionally imposed until a committee is terminated. Patterson Recall Comm., Inc. v. Patterson, 209 P.3d 1210 (Colo. App. 2009).

Section 9(2)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution authorizes ALJ to render a decision upon a complaint and, if ALJ concludes that a violation has occurred, "such decision shall include any appropriate order, sanction, or relief authorized by this article". Nothing in the article, however, recognizes or grants a defense of "good faith", and an ALJ is not at liberty to engraft any limitation or restriction not specifically provided. Patterson Recall Comm., Inc. v. Patterson, 209 P.3d 1210 (Colo. App. 2009).

While § 9(2)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution requires ALJ to include in the decision an appropriate order, sanction, or relief as authorized by the terms of this article, ALJ has discretion to impose no section at all if he or she reasonably concludes one would not be appropriate. Patterson Recall Comm., Inc. v. Patterson, 209 P.3d 1210 (Colo. App. 2009).

Adoption of 8 Colo. Code Regs, 1505-6, § 9.3 of the Colorado secretary of state's rules concerning campaign and political finance requiring the name of the candidate unambiguously referred to in the electioneering communication to be included in the electioneering report was within the rulemaking authority of the secretary of state under § 9(1)(b) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and §§ 1-1-107 (2)(a) and 1-45-111.5 (1). Colo. Citizens for Ethics in Gov't v. Comm. for the Am. Dream, 187 P.3d 1207 (Colo. App. 2008).

District court properly invalidated secretary of state's proposed rule, 8 Colo. Code Regs. 1505-6, § 18.1.8, that attempted to fill a gap in subsection (2.5) of this section by creating a uniform way to assess "good cause" and levy fines. The rule merely eliminates penalties after a

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

contribution is first disclosed and after election day regardless of a showing of good cause. The rule applies equally to those who intentionally avoid reporting obligations as well as those who do not report due to inadvertence. So, because the rule does not fill a gap, but applies irrespective of whether there is actually good cause to reduce or eliminate penalties, the rule is manifestly contrary to § 10(2)(c) of art. XXVIII of the state constitution, which requires the secretary to set aside or reduce a penalty only upon a showing of good cause. Colo. Ethics Watch v. Gessler, 2013 COA 172M, 363 P.3d 727.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108.3. Disclaimer statement - committees - electioneering communications.

1-45-108.3. Disclaimer statement - committees - electioneering communications.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108.3. Disclaimer statement - committees - electioneering communications. / Statute text

(1) A candidate committee, political committee, issue committee, small donor committee, political organization, political party, or other person making an expenditure in excess of or spending more than one thousand dollars per calendar year on a communication that must be disclosed under article XXVIII of the state constitution or under this article 45 or supports or opposes a ballot issue or ballot question, and that is broadcast, printed, mailed, delivered; placed on a website, streaming media service, or online forum for a fee; or that is otherwise distributed shall include in the communication a disclaimer statement in accordance with subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The disclaimer statement required by subsection (1) of this section must conform to the requirements specified in section 1-45-107.5 (5) for content, size, duration, and placement.

(3) In addition to any other applicable requirements provided by law, any person who expends one thousand dollars or more per calendar year on electioneering communications or regular biennial school electioneering communications shall, in accordance with the requirements specified in section 1-45-107.5 (5), state in the communication the name of the person making the communication. For purposes of this subsection (3), an "electioneering communication" also includes any communication that satisfies all other requirements set forth in section 2 (7) of article XXVIII of the state constitution but that is broadcast, printed, mailed, delivered, or distributed between the primary election and the general election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108.3. Disclaimer statement - committees - electioneering communications. / History

Source: L. 2010: Entire section added, (HB 10-1370), ch. 270, p. 1242, § 6, effective January 1,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

2011. **L. 2019:** (3) added, (SB 19-068), ch. 69, p. 251, § 3, effective August 2; entire section amended, (HB 19-1318), ch. 328, p. 3046, § 5, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108.3. Disclaimer statement - committees - electioneering communications. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) Section 4(2) of chapter 69 (SB 19-068), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or for the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

(2) Section 7(2) of chapter 328 (HB 19-1318), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to the portion of any election cycle or to the portion of the calendar year remaining after August 2, 2019, and for any election cycle or calendar year commencing after August 2, 2019, whichever is applicable.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act adding this section, see section 1 of chapter 270, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108.5. Political organizations - disclosure.

1-45-108.5. Political organizations - disclosure.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108.5. Political organizations - disclosure. / Statute text

(1) Any political organization shall report to the appropriate officer in accordance with the requirements of sections 1-45-108 and 1-45-109:

(a) Any contributions it receives, including the name and address of each person who has contributed twenty dollars or more to the political organization in the reporting period, and the occupation and employer of each natural person who has made a contribution of one hundred dollars or more to the political organization; and

(b) Any spending by the political organization that exceeds twenty dollars in any one reporting period.

(2) No political organization shall accept a contribution, or undertake spending, in currency or coin exceeding one hundred dollars.

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BACK TO TOP

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

(a) Require any political organization to make any additional disclosure pursuant to this section to the extent the political organization is already providing disclosure as a committee or political party in a manner that satisfies the requirements of sections 1-45-108 and 1-45-109; or

(b) Authorize the secretary of state to require disclosure of the name of any natural person that is a member of an entity unless the natural person has made a contribution to a political organization in the amount of twenty dollars or more in a reporting period.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108.5. Political organizations - disclosure. / History

Source: L. 2007: Entire section added, p. 1225, § 3, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-108.5. Political organizations - disclosure. / Annotations

BACK TO TOP

ANNOTATION

Uncompensated legal services are not contributions to a political organization under § 1-45-103 (6)(b). The constitutional definition of "contribution" does not address political organizations, and neither part of the definition in § 1-45-103 (6) covers legal services donated to political organizations. Section 1-45-103 (6)(b) does not apply to political organizations and the word "gift" in § 1-45-103 (6)(c)(I) does not include gifts of services. Coloradans Bet. Fut. v. Camp. Int. Watchdog, 2018 CO 6, 409 P.3d 350.

Payment by political organization of court costs did not meet the statutory definition of spending and, therefore, the political organization did not need to report it as such. The funds were not expended influencing or attempting to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any state or local public office in the state under the definition of "spending" in § 1-45-103 (16.5). Camp. Int. Watchdog v. Colo. Better Future, 2016 COA 56M, 378 P.3d 852.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-109. Filing - where to file - timeliness.

1-45-109. Filing - where to file - timeliness.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-109. Filing

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BACK TO TOP

- where to file - timeliness. / Statute text

(1) For the purpose of meeting the filing and reporting requirements of this article 45:

(a) The following shall file with the secretary of state:

(I) Candidates for statewide office, the general assembly, district attorney, district court judge, school district director, or any office representing more than one county; the candidate committees for such candidates; political committees in support of or in opposition to such candidates; issue committees in support of or in opposition to an issue on the ballot in more than one county; small donor committees making contributions to such candidates; and persons expending one thousand dollars or more per calendar year on electioneering communications.

(II) Candidates in special district elections; the candidate committees of such candidates; political committees in support of or in opposition to such candidates; issue committees supporting or opposing a special district ballot issue; and small donor committees making contributions to such candidates.

(b) Candidates in municipal elections, their candidate committees, any political committee in support of or in opposition to such candidate, an issue committee supporting or opposing a municipal ballot issue, and small donor committees making contributions to such candidates shall file with the municipal clerk.

(c) All other candidates, candidate committees, issue committees, political committees, and small donor committees shall file with the secretary of state.

(2) (a) Reports required to be filed by this article 45 are timely if received by the appropriate officer not later than the close of business on the due date.

(b) A person upon whom a penalty has been imposed for failure to file a statement or other information required to be filed pursuant to section 5, 6, or 7 of article XXVIII of the state constitution or section 1-45-108, this section, or section 1-45-110 by the due date may appeal the penalty by filing a written appeal with the appropriate officer no later than thirty days after the date on which notification of the imposition of the penalty was mailed to the person's last-known address. Upon receipt of an appeal pursuant to this paragraph (b), the appropriate officer shall set aside or reduce the penalty upon a showing of good cause.

(3) In addition to any other reporting requirements of this article, every incumbent in public office and every candidate elected to public office is subject to the reporting requirements of section 24-6-203, C.R.S.

(4) (a) All reports required to be filed by this article 45 are public records and are open to inspection by the public during regular business hours. A copy of the report must be kept by the appropriate officer and a copy shall be made available immediately in a file for public inspection. When the secretary of state is the appropriate officer, the secretary shall make reports

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

viewable on the secretary of state's official website.

(b) and (c) Repealed.

(5) (a) The secretary of state shall operate and maintain a website so as to allow any person who wishes to review reports filed with the secretary of state's office pursuant to this article electronic read-only access to such reports free of charge.

(b) All reports required to be filed by this article that are electronically filed pursuant to subsection (6) of this section shall be made available immediately on the website.

(c) The website shall enable a user to produce summary reports based on search criteria that shall include, but not be limited to the reporting period, date, name of the person making a contribution or expenditure, candidate, and committee.

(d) At the earliest practicable date, the secretary of state shall develop and implement improvements to the website's design and structure to improve the public's ability to navigate, search, browse, download, and analyze information. Such improvements shall include but need not be limited to:

(I) Enhanced searching and summary reporting, including additional search fields such as zip code, employer, and vendor, the ability to search across multiple committees and all filers, the ability to filter or limit searches, such as by election cycle or candidate, the inclusion of smart-search features such as "name sounds like" or "name contains", and numerical totaling of amounts shown on search results;

(II) Features that facilitate the ability to download raw data and search results in one or more common formats to enable offline sorting and analyzing;

(III) Detailed, technical instructions for users;

(IV) Information to help users determine the scope of candidates' and committees' reports and campaign data available online, including explanations of which types of reports are available, the period covered by the online data, and which specific reports can be viewed for each campaign committee; and

(V) Resources that give the public comparative context when viewing campaign finance data, such as compilations of the total amounts of money raised and spent by individual candidates, lists of total amounts raised and spent by all statewide and legislative candidates, and compilations of fundraising and spending across candidates and election cycles.

(e) The secretary of state may promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of this subsection (5). Such rules shall be promulgated in accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.

(6) (a) The secretary of state shall establish, operate, and maintain a system that enables electronic filing using the internet of the reports required by this article to be filed with the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

secretary of state's office. In accordance with the provisions of section 24-21-111 (1), C.R.S., the secretary may require any filing under this section to be made by electronic means as determined by the secretary. The rules for use of the electronic filing system shall be promulgated by the secretary in accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.

(b) Any person required to file with the secretary of state's office shall use the electronic filing system described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (6) in order to meet the filing requirements of this article, if so required by the secretary in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection (6), except insofar as an alternate method of filing may be permitted by the secretary. Where a person uses such electronic filing system to meet the filing requirements of this article, the secretary of state shall acknowledge by electronic means the receipt of such filing.

(7) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 1296, § 1, effective July 1, 2007.)

(8) (a) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 1296, § 1, effective July 1, 2007.)

(b) (I) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 1296, § 1, effective July 1, 2007.)

(II) and (III) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1357), ch. 361, p. 1872, § 2, effective July 1, 2009.)

(c) (I) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 1296, § 1, effective July 1, 2007.)

(II) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (HB 09-1357), ch. 361, p. 1872, § 2, effective July 1, 2009.)

(9) Subsection (1) of this section shall not be construed to require the secretary of state to review reports electronically filed by persons beyond the duties specified in section 9 of article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(10) to (12) Repealed.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-109. Filing - where to file - timeliness. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 2000:** (4), (5), and (6) amended, p. 125, § 7, effective March 15. **L. 2001:** (1) amended and (7), (8), and (9) added, p. 808, § 2, effective August 8; (6)(b) amended, p. 1111, § 3, effective September 1. **L. 2002:** (1) and (4)(a) amended, p. 1640, § 34, effective June 7. **L. 2003:** (1) and (7)(b) amended, p. 2159, § 4, effective June 3. **L. 2005:** (9) amended, p. 760, § 7, effective June 1. **L. 2007:** (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9) amended, p. 1296, § 1, effective July 1; (2) amended, p. 1983, § 37, effective August 3. **L. 2009:** (1), (5)(a), (6), (8)(b)(II), (8)(b)(III), (8)(c)(II), and (9) amended and (10) added, (HB 09-1357), ch. 361, p. 1872, § 2, effective July 1.

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BACK TO TOP

L. 2010: (11) added, (SB 10-203), ch. 269, p. 1235, § 5, effective May 25; (4)(b) and (6) amended, (SB 10-041), ch. 151, p. 523, § 3, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (4)(b) amended and (4)(c) and (12) added, (HB 17-1155), ch. 236, p. 966, § 1, effective August 9. **L. 2018:** IP(1), (1)(a)(I), (2)(a), (4)(a), (4)(b), and (4)(c)(I) amended, (HB 18-1047), ch. 155, p. 1094, § 5, effective April 23. **L. 2019:** (4)(b), (4)(c), (11), and (12) repealed, (SB 19-232), ch. 330, p. 3065, § 3, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-109. Filing - where to file - timeliness. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 1-45-104 as it existed prior to 1996.

(2) Subsection (10)(e) provided for the repeal of subsection (10), effective January 1, 2011. (See L. 2009, p. 1872.)

(3) Section 6(1) of chapter 330 (SB 19-232), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act changing this section applies to complaints filed with the secretary of state on or after July 1, 2019.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act adding subsection (11), see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

BACK TO TOP

ANNOTATION

Administrative law judge (ALJ) correctly dismissed appellants' agency appeal under § 10 (2)(b)(I) of article XXVIII of the state constitution for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. No question that appellants were required to file reports with secretary of state under subsection (1) of this section once appellant-candidate became a candidate for the general assembly. This does not mean, however, appellants acquired right to appeal penalty to secretary of state. Report at issue was filed not in connection with appellant-candidate's candidacy for the general assembly but solely in connection with position as a county commissioner. Thus, ALJ correctly determined that, for purposes of report and penalty at issue, appellants were persons required to file appeal with county clerk and recorder, not with secretary of state. Sullivan v. Bucknam, 140 P.3d 330 (Colo. App. 2006).

Although appellants could have been required to file a report with the secretary of state in certain circumstances, those circumstances were not present in instant case. Appellants do not qualify as persons required to file with secretary of state under § 10 (2)(b)(I) of article XXVIII of the state constitution for purposes of underlying action merely because they could have been required to so file in other circumstances. Sullivan v. Bucknam, 140 P.3d 330 (Colo. App. 2006).

Nowhere in this article or in rules promulgated by secretary of state is the filing requirement conditioned upon posting by or receiving electronic transmissions from the county clerk and recorder. Instead, the requirement to disclose and file reports is unconditionally imposed until a committee is terminated. Patterson Recall Comm., Inc. v. Patterson, 209 P.3d 1210 (Colo. App. 2009).

ALJ had jurisdiction to impose penalty for violation of Rule 9.3 and did not err by imposing a $1,000 penalty on political committee. Section (2)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution grants an ALJ authority to conduct hearings on alleged violations of the article and the "Fair Campaign Practices

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BACK TO TOP

Act" and to impose penalties if a violation has occurred. Rule 9.3 is necessary to implement former § 1-45-109 (5), and, under subsection (2)(a) of this section, sanctions can be imposed for violations of this section. Colo. Citizens for Ethics in Gov't v. Comm. for the Am. Dream, 187 P.3d 1207 (Colo. App. 2008).

An organization that supports or opposes the retention of a judicial officer is a political committee because it supports or opposes the election of a candidate and because it is recognized as such by subsection (1)(a)(I). Organization accepted contributions and made expenditures of over $200 to oppose the retention of three justices of the Colorado supreme court. It is, therefore, a political committee. Organization cannot be both a political committee and issue committee because the two are defined under subsections (10) and (12) of art. XXVIII of the state constitution to be mutually exclusive. Colo. Ethics Watch v. Clear the Bench, 2012 COA 42, 277 P.3d 931.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-110. Candidate affidavit - disclosure statement.

1-45-110. Candidate affidavit - disclosure statement.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-110. Candidate affidavit - disclosure statement. / Statute text

(1) When any individual becomes a candidate, such individual shall certify, by affidavit filed with the appropriate officer within ten days, that the candidate is familiar with the provisions of this article; except that an individual who is a candidate in a special legislative election that filed a candidate affidavit for the preceding general election shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this section, and except that a candidate in a special district election shall file the candidate affidavit or, alternatively, a copy of the candidate's self-nomination and acceptance form or letter submitted in accordance with section 1-13.5-303, if such form or letter contains a statement that the candidate is familiar with the provisions of this article, no later than the date established for certification of the special district's ballot pursuant to section 1-5-203 (3)(a). A candidate in a municipal election may comply with this section by filing a candidate affidavit pursuant to section 31-10-302 (6), C.R.S., if such affidavit contains a statement that the candidate is familiar with the provisions of this article.

(2) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, each candidate for the general assembly, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state treasurer, secretary of state, state board of education, regent of the University of Colorado, and district attorney shall file a statement disclosing the information required by section 24-6-202 (2) with the appropriate officer, on a form approved by the secretary of state, within ten days of filing the affidavit required by subsection (1) of this section.

(b) No candidate listed in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be required to file another disclosure statement if the candidate had already filed such a statement less than ninety days

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

prior to filing the affidavit required by subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If any person fails to file the affidavit or the disclosure statement required by subsection (2) of this section, the designated election official certifying the ballot in accordance with section 1-5-203 (3)(a) shall send a notice to the person by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person's mailing address. The notice must state that the person will be disqualified as a candidate if the person fails to file the appropriate document within five business days of the receipt of the notice. If the person fails to file the appropriate document within that time frame, the designated election official shall disqualify the candidate.

(4) Any disclosure statement required by subsection (2) of this section shall be amended no more than thirty days after any termination or acquisition of interests as to which disclosure is required.

(5) If a person is defeated as a candidate or withdraws from the candidacy, that person shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this section after the withdrawal or defeat.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-110. Candidate affidavit - disclosure statement. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 99:** (1) amended, p. 1392, § 16, effective June 4. **L. 2002:** (1) amended, p. 1641, § 35, effective June 7. **L. 2010:** (3) amended, (SB 10-041), ch. 151, p. 524, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2014:** (1) amended, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 74, § 44, effective February 18. **L. 2018:** (3) amended, (HB 18-1047), ch. 155, p. 1095, § 6, effective April 23.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-110. Candidate affidavit - disclosure statement. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 1-45-105 as it existed prior to 1996.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement. (Repealed)

1-45-111. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement. (Repealed)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement. (Repealed) / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 2000:** (1)(a.5) added and (1)(b) and (2) amended, p. 126, § 8, effective March 15; (2)(d) added, p. 1725, § 3, effective June 1. **Initiated 2002:** Entire section repealed, effective upon proclamation of the Governor (see editor's note, (2)).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement. (Repealed) / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section was similar to former §§ 1-45-113 and 1-45-114 as they existed prior to 1996.

(2) (a) Subsection (4) of section 1 of article V of the state constitution provides that initiated and referred measures shall take effect from and after the official declaration of the vote thereon by the proclamation of the Governor. The measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution takes effect upon proclamation of the vote by the Governor. The Governor's proclamation was issued on December 20, 2002. However, section 13 of the measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution provides that the effective date of article XXVIII is December 6, 2002.

(b) This section was repealed by an initiated measure that was adopted by the people in the general election held November 5, 2002. Section 12 of article XXVIII provides for the repeal of this section. For the text of the initiative and the vote count, see Session Laws of Colorado 2003, p. 3597.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111.5. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement - sanctions - definitions.

1-45-111.5. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement - sanctions - definitions.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111.5. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement - sanctions - definitions. / Statute text

(1) The secretary of state shall promulgate such rules, in accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., as may be necessary to enforce and administer any provision of this article.

(1.5) (a) Any person who believes that a violation of article XXVIII of the state constitution, the secretary of state's rules concerning campaign and political finance, or this article 45 has occurred may file a written complaint with the secretary of state in accordance with section 1-45-111.7.

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BACK TO TOP

(b) Any person who commits a violation of either the secretary of state's rules concerning campaign and political finance or this article that is not specifically listed in article XXVIII of the state constitution shall be subject to any of the sanctions specified in section 10 of article XXVIII of the state constitution or in this section.

(c) In addition to any other penalty authorized by article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article 45, a hearing officer may impose a civil penalty of fifty dollars per day for each day that a report, statement, or other document required to be filed under this article 45 that is not specifically listed in article XXVIII of the state constitution is not filed by the close of business on the day due. Any person who fails to file three or more successive committee registration reports or reports concerning contributions, expenditures, or donations in accordance with the requirements of section 1-45-107.5 shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to five hundred dollars for each day that a report, statement, or other document required to be filed by an independent expenditure committee is not filed by the close of business on the day due. Any person who knowingly and intentionally fails to file three or more reports due under section 1-45-107.5 shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars per day for each day that the report, statement, or other document is not filed by the close of business on the day due. Imposition of any penalty under this subsection (1.5)(c) shall be subject to all applicable requirements specified in section 10 of article XXVIII of the state constitution governing the imposition of penalties.

(d) In connection with a complaint brought to enforce any requirement of article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article 45, a hearing officer may order disclosure of the source and amount of any undisclosed donations or expenditures.

(e) In connection with any action brought to enforce any provision of article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article 45, the membership lists of a membership organization, a labor organization or, in the case of a publicly held corporation, a list of the shareholders of the corporation, shall not be disclosed by means of discovery or by any other manner.

(f) Any person who is fined up to one thousand dollars per day for a knowing and intentional failure to file under paragraph (c) of this subsection (1.5) shall, if the person has shareholders or members, notify such shareholders or members of the penalty and the adjudicated violations on its publicly accessible website in a prominent manner for not less than one hundred eighty days after the final adjudication. A copy of this notice, with the website address used, shall be filed with the secretary of state and shall be a public record.

(g) The secretary of state has, as a matter of right, the right to intervene in any action pending before the office of administrative courts or the court of appeals that is brought to enforce the provisions of article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article.

(2) A party in any action brought to enforce the provisions of article XXVIII of the state constitution or of this article 45 is entitled to the recovery of the party's reasonable attorney fees

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

and costs from any attorney or party who has brought or defended the action, either in whole or in part, upon a determination by the hearing officer that the action, or any part thereof, lacked substantial justification or that the action, or any part thereof, was commenced for delay or harassment or if it finds that an attorney or party unnecessarily expanded the proceeding by other improper conduct, including abuses of discovery procedures available under the Colorado rules of civil procedure. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection (2), no attorney fees may be awarded under this subsection (2) unless the court or hearing officer, as applicable, has first considered and issued written findings regarding the provisions of section 13-17-102 (5) and (6). Either party in an action in which the hearing officer awarded attorney fees and costs may apply to a district court to convert an award of attorney fees and costs into a district court judgment. Promptly upon the conversion of the award of attorney fees and costs into a district court judgment, the clerk of the district court shall mail notice of the filing of the judgment to the judgment debtor at the address given and shall make a note of the mailing in the docket. The notice must include the name and post-office address of the judgment creditor and the judgment creditor's lawyer, if any, in this state. In addition, the judgment creditor may mail a notice of the filing of the judgment to the judgment debtor and may file proof of mailing with the clerk. Lack of mailing notice of filing by the clerk shall not affect the enforcement proceedings if proof of mailing by the judgment creditor has been filed. For purposes of this subsection (2), "lacked substantial justification" means substantially frivolous, substantially groundless, or substantially vexatious.

(3) Upon a determination by the hearing officer that an issue committee failed to file a report required pursuant to section 1-45-108, the hearing officer shall direct the issue committee to file any such report within ten days containing all required disclosure of any previously unreported contributions or expenditures and may, in addition to any other penalty, impose a penalty not to exceed twenty dollars for each contribution received and expenditure made by the issue committee that was not timely reported.

(4) (a) Upon failure of a witness or party to comply with an administrative subpoena issued in relation to an alleged campaign finance violation pursuant to article XXVIII of the state constitution or this article, the party that requested the administrative subpoena or the issuing agency may petition the district court ex parte with a copy of the petition sent to the subpoenaed witness or party and the administrative law judge by regular mail, for an order directing the witness or party to comply with the administrative subpoena.

(b) If the petition required by paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shows to the district court's satisfaction that the administrative subpoena was properly served pursuant to rule 4 of the Colorado rules of civil procedure, the district court shall order the subpoenaed witness or party to appear before the district court and show cause why the witness or party should not be ordered to comply with the administrative subpoena. A copy of the petition and the court order shall be served, pursuant to rule 5 of the Colorado rules of civil procedure, on the witness or party at least fifteen days before the date designated for the witness or party to appear before the district court.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(c) At a show cause hearing ordered by the district court pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (4), the court shall review the administrative subpoena and any evidence presented by the parties to determine compliance with the Colorado rules of civil procedure. The subpoenaed witness or party shall bear the burden of showing good cause as to why he or she should not be ordered to comply with the administrative subpoena.

(d) If the court determines that the subpoenaed witness or party is required to comply with the administrative subpoena:

(I) The district court shall order compliance forthwith and may impose remedial and punitive fines, including attorneys' fees and costs, for the witness's or party's failure to comply with the administrative subpoena; and

(II) The hearing officer shall schedule a hearing on the complaint to occur on a day after the occurrence of the required deposition and such other discovery as may be warranted due to such deposition.

(e) If the subpoenaed witness or party fails to appear at the show cause hearing, the district court may issue a bench warrant for the arrest of the subpoenaed witness or party and may impose other sanctions pursuant to the Colorado rules of civil procedure.

(5) Repealed.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111.5. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement - sanctions - definitions. / History

Source: L. 2003: Entire section added, p. 2160, § 6, effective June 3. **L. 2005:** (2) amended, p. 852, § 4, effective June 1. **L. 2008:** (1.5) added and (2) amended, p. 349, § 1, effective April 10. **L. 2010:** (1.5)(c), (1.5)(d), (1.5)(e), and (1.5)(f) added, (SB 10-203), ch. 269, p. 1236, § 6, effective May 25; (3) added, (HB 10-1370), ch. 270, p. 1242, § 7, effective January 1, 2011. **L. 2011:** (4) added, (HB 11-1117), ch. 35, p. 97, § 1, effective March 21. **L. 2016:** (5) added, (SB 16-106), ch. 290, p. 1175, § 1, effective August 10. **L. 2018:** (1.5)(a) and (2) amended and (1.5)(g) added, (HB 18-1047), ch. 155, p. 1095, § 7, effective April 23. **L. 2019:** (1.5)(a) to (1.5)(e), (2), (3), and (4)(d)(II) amended and (5) repealed, (SB 19-232), ch. 330, p. 3066, § 4, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111.5. Duties of the secretary of state - enforcement - sanctions - definitions. / Annotations

Editor's note: Section 6(1) of chapter 330 (SB 19-232), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides

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BACK TO TOP

that the act changing this section applies to complaints filed with the secretary of state on or after July 1, 2019.

Cross references: (1) For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act adding subsections (1.5)(c), (1.5)(d), (1.5)(e), and (1.5)(f), see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

(2) For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act adding subsection (3), see section 1 of chapter 270, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

ANNOTATION

District court did not abuse its discretion by entering preliminary injunction against secretary of state enjoining implementation of administrative rule defining "member" for purposes of constitutional provisions governing small donor committees. Proposed rule would force labor and other covered organizations to get written permission before using an individual's dues or contributions to fund political campaigns. Plaintiffs demonstrated reasonable probability of success on the merits in challenging secretary's authority to enact proposed rule. Secretary's "definition" of term "member" in proposed rule is much more than an effort to define term. It can be read effectively to add, modify, and conflict with constitutional provision by imposing new condition not found in text of article XXVIII. Secretary's stated purpose in enacting proposed rule not furthered by "definition" contained in proposed rule. Proposed rule does not further secretary's stated goal of achieving transparency of political contributions. Sanger v. Dennis, 148 P.3d 404 (Colo. App. 2006).

Plaintiffs demonstrated reasonable probability of success on the merits in alleging that administrative rule promulgated by secretary of state violated their constitutional rights to freedom of association as applied to them. Secretary's immediate enforcement of administrative rule forcing labor and other covered organizations to get written permission before using an individual's dues or contributions to fund political campaigns would have effectively prevented plaintiffs from exercising their first amendment rights in general election. Administrative rule was not narrowly tailored. Rationale justifying administrative rule was based upon speculation there would be dissenters, thereby impermissibly penalizing constitutional rights of the many for the speculative rights of the few. Accordingly, district court did not abuse its discretion by entering preliminary injunction against implementation of administrative rule. Sanger v. Dennis, 148 P.3d 404 (Colo. App. 2006).

Adoption of Rule 9.3 of the Colorado secretary of state's rules concerning campaign and political finance requiring the name of the candidate unambiguously referred to in the electioneering communication to be included in the electioneering report, was within the rulemaking authority of the secretary of state under § 9(1)(b) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and subsection (1) of this section. Colo. Citizens for Ethics in Gov't v. Comm. for the Am. Dream, 187 P.3d 1207 (Colo. App. 2008).

ALJ had jurisdiction to impose penalty for violation of Rule 9.3 and did not err by imposing a $1,000 penalty on political committee. Section (2)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution grants an ALJ authority to conduct hearings on alleged violations of the article and the "Fair Campaign Practices Act" and to impose penalties if a violation has occurred. Rule 9.3 is necessary to implement former § 1-45-109 (5), and, under § 10(2)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution, sanctions can be imposed for violations of § 1-45-109. Colo. Citizens for Ethics in Gov't v. Comm. for the Am. Dream, 187 P.3d 1207 (Colo. App. 2008).

ALJ did not err in determining that membership contribution claim was groundless and in

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

awarding attorney fees against litigant. ALJ did not misinterpret subsection (2) by rejecting litigant's defense based on voluntary dismissal of its membership contributions claim under § 13-17-102 (5). Although § 1-45-111.5 (2) contains the same operative language and definitions as § 13-17-102 (4), at the time of the action, the FCPA did not incorporate § 13-17-102 (5) and contained no exception for dismissal of a groundless claim prior to hearing. Moreover, although § 13-17-102 applies to any civil action commenced or appealed in any court of record, "court of record" does not include administrative courts. Finally, the record showed that the ALJ considered litigant's arguments about the efforts it made after the filing of the action to reduce or dismiss claims it found to be invalid. Colo. Citizens for Ethics in Gov't v. Comm. for the Am. Dream, 187 P.3d 1207 (Colo. App. 2008).

Given that identical terms "substantially frivolous, substantially groundless, or substantially vexatious" are found in this section and in § 13-17-102, case law construing that section may be examined for guidance in construing terms used in this section. Colo. Ethics Watch v. Senate Major. Fund, 275 P.3d 674 (Colo. App. 2010), aff'd on other grounds, 2012 CO 12, 269 P.3d 1248.

A claim is frivolous if its proponents can present no rational argument based on the evidence or the law to support it. A claim is vexatious if it is brought or maintained in bad faith to annoy or harass another. Colo. Ethics Watch v. Senate Major. Fund, 275 P.3d 674 (Colo. App. 2010), aff'd on other grounds, 2012 CO 12, 269 P.3d 1248.

Subsection (2) of this section and § 9(2)(a) of article XXVIII of the state constitution do not permit a respondent who has been awarded attorney fees in an action under the Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) to enforce the action in the district court. The plain language of subsection (2) and subsection 9(2)(a) of article XXVIII read together creates a nonreciprocal right to enforce an ALJ's award ordered in a campaign finance violation action and leaves a respondent without a remedy under either article XXVIII or the FCPA to enforce that award. While this may create an unintended result, the legislature or the people must determine the remedy and the court is not a board of editors with power to rewrite statutes or the constitution to improve them. Because respondent was not authorized by subsection 9(2)(a) of article XXVIII to seek enforcement of the ALJ's attorney fees order in the district court, the district court did not err when it dismissed her petition for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. McGihon v. Cave, 2016 COA 78, 410 P.3d 647.

Subsection (2) does not apply to costs on appeal. Camp. Int. Watchdog v. Colo. Better Future, 2016 COA 51, rev'd on other grounds, 2018 CO 6, 409 P.3d 350; Camp. Int. Watchdog v. Colo. Better Future, 2016 COA 56M, 378 P.3d 852.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111.7. Campaign finance complaints - initial review - curing violations - investigation and enforcement - hearings - advisory opinions - document review - collection of debts resulting from campaign finance penalties - definitions.

1-45-111.7. Campaign finance complaints - initial review - curing violations - investigation and enforcement - hearings - advisory opinions - document review - collection of debts resulting from campaign finance penalties - definitions.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111.7.

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BACK TO TOP

Campaign finance complaints - initial review - curing violations - investigation and enforcement - hearings - advisory opinions - document review - collection of debts resulting from campaign finance penalties - definitions. / Statute text

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Article XXVIII" means article XXVIII of the state constitution.

(b) "Deputy secretary" means the deputy secretary of state appointed pursuant to section 24-21-105 or the deputy secretary's designee.

(c) "Division" means the division within the office of the secretary responsible for administering the state's laws governing campaign and political finance.

(d) "Hearing officer" means a person authorized to conduct a hearing under section 24-4-105 (3).

(e) "Rules" means the rules of the secretary concerning campaign and political finance.

(f) "Secretary" means the secretary of state or the secretary's designate.

(2) **Filing complaints.** (a) Any person who believes that a violation has occurred of article XXVIII, this article 45, or the rules may file a complaint with the secretary.

(b) A complaint must be filed no later than one hundred eighty days after the date on which the complainant either knew or should have known, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, of the alleged violation.

(c) Any complaint must be filed in writing and signed by the complainant on the form provided by the secretary. The complaint must identify one or more respondents and include the information required to be provided on the form.

(d) Upon receipt of a complaint, the division shall notify the respondent of the complaint by e-mail or by regular mail if e-mail is unavailable.

(e) The division shall forward any complaint made against a candidate for secretary or the secretary to the department of law for the review of the complaint by the attorney general to act on behalf of the division in accordance with applicable requirements of this section.

(3) **Initial review.** (a) The division shall conduct an initial review of a complaint filed under subsection (2) of this section to determine whether the complaint:

(I) Was timely filed under subsection (2)(b) of this section;

(II) Specifically identifies one or more violations of article XXVIII, this article 45, or the rules; and

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(III) Alleges sufficient facts to support a factual and legal basis for the violations of law alleged in the complaint.

(b) Within ten business days of receiving a complaint, the division shall take one or more of the actions specified in this subsection (3)(b):

(I) If the division makes an initial determination that the complaint was not timely filed, has not specifically identified one or more violations of article XXVIII, this article 45, or the rules, or does not assert facts sufficient to support a factual or legal basis for an alleged violation, the division shall prepare and file with the deputy secretary a motion to dismiss the complaint. The deputy secretary shall make a determination on the motion to dismiss within five business days, which must be provided to the complainant and the respondent by e-mail or by regular mail if e-mail is unavailable. If the deputy secretary denies the motion, the division shall determine whether to conduct a review under subsection (3)(b)(II) or (3)(b)(III) of this section. The final determination by the deputy secretary on the motion to dismiss constitutes final agency action and is subject to judicial review by a state district court under section 24-4-106.

(II) If the division makes an initial determination that the complaint alleges one or more curable violations as addressed in subsection (4) of this section, the division shall notify the respondent and provide the respondent an opportunity to cure the violations.

(III) If the division makes an initial determination that the complaint has specifically identified one or more violations of article XXVIII, this article 45, or the rules, and has alleged facts sufficient to support a factual or legal basis for each alleged violation, and that either a factual finding or a legal interpretation is required, the division shall conduct additional review under subsection (5) of this section within thirty days to determine whether to file a complaint with a hearing officer.

(4) **Curing violations.** (a) Upon the division's initial determination that a complaint alleges a failure to file or otherwise disclose required information, or alleges another curable violation, the division shall notify the respondent by e-mail or by regular mail if e-mail is unavailable of the curable deficiencies alleged in the complaint.

(b) The respondent has ten business days from the date the notice is e-mailed or mailed to file an amendment to any relevant report that cures any deficiencies specified in the notice.

(c) The respondent shall provide the division with notice of the respondent's intent to cure on the form provided by the secretary and include a copy of any amendments to any report containing one or more deficiencies.

(d) Upon receipt of the respondent's notice of an intent to cure, the division may ask the respondent to provide additional information and may grant the respondent an extension of time to file an amended notice of intent to cure in order to respond to any such request.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(e) (I) After the period for cure has expired, the division shall determine whether the respondent has cured any violation alleged in the complaint and, if so, whether the respondent has substantially complied with its legal obligations under article XXVIII, this article 45, and the rules in accordance with subsection (4)(f) of this section.

(II) If the division determines that the respondent has substantially complied with its legal obligations, the division shall prepare and file with the deputy secretary a motion to dismiss the complaint. The motion must be accompanied by a draft order specifying the manner in which the respondent has satisfied the factors specified in subsection (4)(f) of this section. The deputy secretary shall make a determination on the motion to dismiss, which must be provided to the complainant and the respondent by e-mail or by regular mail if e-mail is unavailable. If the deputy secretary denies the motion, the division shall determine whether to conduct a review under subsection (3)(b)(II) or (3)(b)(III) of this section. The determination by the deputy secretary under this subsection (4)(e)(II) is final agency action and is subject to judicial review by a state district court under section 24-4-106.

(III) If the division determines that the respondent has failed to substantially comply under subsection (4)(f) of this section, the division shall conduct an additional review under subsection (5)(a) of this section to determine whether to file the complaint with a hearing officer.

(f) In determining whether an entity substantially complied with its legal obligations under article XXVIII, this article 45, or the rules the division must consider:

(I) The extent of the respondent's noncompliance;

(II) The purpose of the provision violated and whether that purpose was substantially achieved despite the noncompliance; and

(III) Whether the noncompliance may properly be viewed as an intentional attempt to mislead the electorate or election officials.

(g) If the division determines that the respondent failed to cure any alleged deficiency, the division shall conduct an additional review under subsection (5)(a) of this section to determine whether to file a complaint with a hearing officer.

(5) **Investigations and enforcement.** (a) (I) The division shall investigate each complaint that was not dismissed during either its initial review or by means of the cure proceedings in accordance with subsection (3) or (4) of this section to determine whether to file a complaint with a hearing officer. The division may also initiate an investigation under subsection (7)(b) of this section.

(II) For the purpose of an investigation relating to a complaint filed under subsection (2)(a) of this section or an investigation initiated by the division under subsection (7)(b) of this section, the division may request the production of any documents or other tangible things that are

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

believed to be relevant or material to the investigation, and shall establish the relevance and materiality in writing. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, documents or other tangible things provided to the division during the course of an investigation under this subsection (5) are not subject to inspection or copying under the "Colorado Open Records Act", part 2 of article 72 of title 24. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, documents or other tangible things provided to the division during the course of an investigation under this subsection (5) and other materials prepared or assembled to assist the secretary's designee in reaching a decision are work product as defined in section 24-72-202 (6.5)(a) and are not public records subject to inspection under part 2 of article 72 of title 24.

(III) If the division receives a person's membership list or donor list during the course of the division's initial review under subsection (3) of this section, investigation under this subsection (5), or the cure process, including the determination of substantial compliance, as described in subsection (4) of this section, the division shall not disclose such list or the identity of any member or donor to any person. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such membership or donor list is not a public record subject to inspection, copying, or any other form of reproduction under part 2 of article 72 of title 24.

(IV) The division shall determine whether it will file a complaint with a hearing officer within thirty days after initiating an investigation. If the division makes a determination that a complaint should not be filed with a hearing officer because there is not sufficient information to support the allegations contained in the complaint or for any other reason, it shall prepare and file with the deputy secretary a motion to dismiss the complaint. The deputy secretary shall make a determination on the motion to dismiss within thirty-five days of the initial determination of the division under this subsection (5)(a)(IV), or the initiation of an investigation by the division under subsection (7)(b) of this section, which must be provided to the complainant and the respondent by e-mail or by regular mail if e-mail is unavailable. If the deputy secretary denies the motion, the division has fourteen business days to file a complaint with a hearing officer under this subsection (5).

(V) If the division files a complaint with a hearing officer under this subsection (5), it is responsible for conducting such discovery as may be necessary for effectively prosecuting the complaint, supplementing or amending the complaint with such additional or alternative claims or allegations as may be supported by the division's investigation, amending the complaint to strike allegations or claims that are not supported by the division's investigation, and in all other respects prosecuting the complaint.

(b) A complainant or any other nonrespondent is not a party to the division's initial review, cure proceedings, investigation, or any proceedings before a hearing officer as described in this section. A complainant may seek permission from the hearing officer to file a brief as an amicus curiae. A person's status as a complainant is not sufficient to establish that he or she may be affected or aggrieved by the secretary's action on the complaint. To the extent this subsection (5)(b) conflicts in any respect with section 24-4-105 or 24-4-106, this subsection (5)(b) controls.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

A complainant may also seek judicial review by a state district court of a final agency action under section 24-4-106.

(6) **Conduct of hearings.** (a) Any hearing conducted by a hearing officer under this section must be in accordance with section 24-4-105; except that a hearing officer shall schedule a hearing within thirty days of the filing of the complaint, which hearing may be continued upon the motion of any party for up to thirty days or a longer extension of time upon a showing of good cause.

(b) Any initial determination made by a hearing officer must be made in accordance with section 24-4-105 and is subject to review by the deputy secretary. The final agency decision is subject to review under section 24-4-106.

(7) **Document review.** (a) In addition to any other powers and duties it possesses under law, the division may also review any document the secretary receives for filing under article XXVIII, this article 45, or the rules.

(b) In connection with the review of other available information regarding a potential violation under this subsection (7):

(I) If the division determines that a person violated or potentially violated any of the provisions of article XXVIII, this article 45, or the rules, the division shall either notify the person of his or her opportunity to cure the identified deficiencies in accordance with subsection (4) of this section or notify the person that the division is initiating an investigation under subsection (5) of this section. The division shall send the notification by e-mail or by regular mail if e-mail is unavailable.

(II) If the division initiates an investigation or files a complaint with a hearing officer in connection with its review, the procedures described in subsections (5) and (6) of this section apply.

(c) As used in this subsection (7), "review" means the factual inspection of any document required to be filed with the secretary for campaign finance registration, reporting, or disclosure in order to assess the document's accuracy and completeness and the timeliness of the document's filing.

(8) **Advisory opinions.** (a) Any person seeking guidance on the application of article XXVIII, this article 45, or the rules may request that the secretary issue an advisory opinion regarding that person's specific activity.

(b) The secretary shall determine, at the secretary's discretion, whether to issue an advisory opinion under subsection (8)(a) of this section. In making this determination, the secretary shall consider factors including whether:

(I) The advisory opinion will terminate a controversy or remove one or more uncertainties as

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

to the application of the law to the requestor's situation;

(II) The request involves a subject, question, or issue that concerns a formal or informal matter or investigation currently pending before the secretary or a court; and

(III) The request seeks a ruling on a moot or hypothetical question.

(c) A person may rely on an advisory opinion issued by the secretary as an affirmative defense to any complaint filed under this section.

(d) A refusal by the secretary to issue an advisory opinion does not constitute a final agency action that is subject to appeal.

(9) **Miscellaneous matters - debt collection - municipal complaints.** (a) The secretary may send to the state controller for collection any outstanding debt resulting from a campaign finance penalty that the secretary deems collectible.

(b) Any complaint arising out of a municipal campaign finance matter must be exclusively filed with the clerk of the applicable municipality.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111.7. Campaign finance complaints - initial review - curing violations - investigation and enforcement - hearings - advisory opinions - document review - collection of debts resulting from campaign finance penalties - definitions. / History

Source: L. 2019: Entire section added, (SB 19-232), ch. 330, p. 3059, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-111.7. Campaign finance complaints - initial review - curing violations - investigation and enforcement - hearings - advisory opinions - document review - collection of debts resulting from campaign finance penalties - definitions. / Annotations

Editor's note: Section 6(1) of chapter 330 (SB 19-232), Session Laws of Colorado 2019, provides that the act adding this section applies to complaints filed with the secretary of state on or after July 1, 2019.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-112. Duties of municipal clerk.

1-45-112. Duties of municipal clerk.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-112. Duties of municipal clerk. / Statute text

(1) The municipal clerk shall:

(a) Develop a filing and indexing system for their offices consistent with the purposes of this article;

(b) Keep a copy of any report or statement required to be filed by this article for a period of one year from the date of filing. In the case of candidates who were elected, those candidate's reports and filings shall be kept for one year after the candidate leaves office;

(c) Make reports and statements filed under this article available to the public for inspection and copying no later than the end of the next business day after the date of filing. No information copied from such reports and statements shall be sold or used by any person for the purpose of soliciting contributions or for any commercial purpose.

(d) Upon request by the secretary of state, transmit records and statements filed under this article to the secretary of state;

(e) Notify any person under their jurisdiction who has failed to fully comply with the provisions of this article and notify any person if a complaint has been filed with the secretary of state alleging a violation of this article.

(f) Repealed.

(2) The secretary of state shall reimburse the municipal clerk of each municipality at the rate of two dollars per candidate per election to help defray the cost of implementing this article.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-112. Duties of municipal clerk. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 2008:** (1)(f) repealed, p. 350, § 2, effective April 10. **L. 2009:** IP(1) and (2) amended, (HB 09-1357), ch. 361, p. 1874, § 3, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-112. Duties of municipal clerk. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 1-45-115 as it existed prior to 1996.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-112.5. Immunity from liability.

1-45-112.5. Immunity from liability.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-112.5. Immunity from liability. / Statute text

(1) Any individual volunteering his or her time on behalf of a candidate or candidate committee shall be immune from any liability for a fine or penalty imposed pursuant to section 10 (1) of article XXVIII of the state constitution in any proceeding that is based on an act or omission of such volunteer if:

(a) The volunteer was acting in good faith and within the scope of such volunteer's official functions and duties for the candidate or candidate committee; and

(b) The violation was not caused by willful and intentional misconduct by such volunteer.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall be administered in a manner that is consistent with section 1 of article XXVIII of the state constitution and with the legislative declaration set forth in section 1-45-102.

(3) Any media outlet shall be immune from civil liability in any court where the media outlet:

(a) Withdraws advertising time reserved by an independent expenditure committee that fails to register in accordance with the requirements of section 1-45-107.5 (3)(a); or

(b) Elects to void an advertising contract and the advertisement:

(I) Is paid for by an independent expenditure committee that fails to register under section 1-45-107.5 (3)(a);

(II) Is paid for by an independent expenditure committee that is registered under section 1-45-107.5 (3)(a) but the committee fails to file a disclosure report under section 1-45-108 (2) through the date of the most recent required report; or

(III) Fails to satisfy the requirements of section 1-45-107.5 (5)(a).

(4) An affected media outlet may void a contract that implicates paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section in the sole discretion of the media outlet.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-112.5. Immunity from liability. / History

Source: L. 2003: Entire section added, p. 2160, § 6, effective June 3. **L. 2010:** (3) and (4) added, (SB 10-203), ch. 269, p. 1237, § 7, effective May 25.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-112.5. Immunity from liability. / Annotations

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act adding subsections (3) and (4), see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-113. Sanctions. (Repealed)

1-45-113. Sanctions. (Repealed)

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-113. Sanctions. (Repealed) / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 98:** (6) added, p. 633, § 3, effective May 6; (6) added, p. 952, § 4, effective May 27. **L. 2000:** (1), (2), (3), and (4) amended, p. 127, § 9, effective March 15. **L. 2001:** (4) amended, p. 1110, § 1, effective September 1. **Initiated 2002:** Entire section repealed, effective upon proclamation of the Governor (see editor's note, (2)).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-113. Sanctions. (Repealed) / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section was similar to former § 1-45-121 as it existed prior to 1996.

(2) (a) Subsection (4) of section 1 of article V of the state constitution provides that initiated and referred measures shall take effect from and after the official declaration of the vote thereon by the proclamation of the Governor. The measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution takes effect upon proclamation of the vote by the Governor. The Governor's proclamation was issued on December 20, 2002. However, section 13 of the measure enacting article XXVIII of the state constitution provides that the effective date of article XXVIII is December 6, 2002.

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BACK TO TOP

(b) This section was repealed by an initiated measure that was adopted by the people in the general election held November 5, 2002. Section 12 of article XXVIII provides for the repeal of this section. For the text of the initiative and the vote count, see Session Laws of Colorado 2003, p. 3609.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-114. Expenditures - political advertising - rates and charges.

1-45-114. Expenditures - political advertising - rates and charges.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-114. Expenditures - political advertising - rates and charges. / Statute text

(1) No candidate shall pay to any radio or television station, newspaper, periodical, or other supplier of materials or services a higher charge than that normally required for local commercial customers for comparable use of space, materials, or services. Any such rate shall not be rebated, directly or indirectly.

(2) Any radio or television station, newspaper, or periodical that charges a candidate committee a lower rate for use of space, materials, or services than the rate such station, newspaper, periodical, or supplier charges another candidate committee for the same public office for comparable use of space, materials, or services shall report the difference in such rate as a contribution to the candidate committee that is charged such lower rate pursuant to section 1-45-108.

(3) Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent an adjustment in rates related to frequency, volume, production costs, and agency fees if such adjustments are offered consistently to other advertisers.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-114. Expenditures - political advertising - rates and charges. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 2000:** Entire section amended, p. 128, § 10, effective March 15. **L. 2003:** (2) amended, p. 2160, § 5, effective June 3.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-114. Expenditures - political advertising - rates and charges. / Annotations

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 1-45-118 as it existed prior to 1996.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-115. Encouraging withdrawal from campaign prohibited.

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Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-115. Encouraging withdrawal from campaign prohibited. / Statute text

No person shall offer or give any candidate or candidate committee any money or any other thing of value for the purpose of encouraging the withdrawal of the candidate's candidacy, nor shall any candidate offer to withdraw a candidacy in return for money or any other thing of value.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-115. Encouraging withdrawal from campaign prohibited. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-115. Encouraging withdrawal from campaign prohibited. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 1-45-119 as it existed prior to 1996.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-116. Home rule counties and municipalities.

1-45-116. Home rule counties and municipalities.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-116. Home rule counties and municipalities. / Statute text

Any home rule county or municipality may adopt ordinances or charter provisions with

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

respect to its local elections that are more stringent than any of the provisions contained in this act. Any home rule county or municipality which adopts such ordinances or charter provisions shall not be entitled to reimbursement pursuant to subsection 1-45-112 (2). The requirements of article XXVIII of the state constitution and of this article shall not apply to home rule counties or home rule municipalities that have adopted charters, ordinances, or resolutions that address the matters covered by article XXVIII and this article.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-116. Home rule counties and municipalities. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 2003:** Entire section amended, p. 2161, § 7, effective June 3.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-116. Home rule counties and municipalities. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 1-45-120 (1) as it existed prior to 1996.

ANNOTATION

Because Colorado Springs, as a home rule municipality, enacted a campaign practices ordinance, this section expressly provides that neither the campaign finance provisions of the state constitution nor this article applies to a complaint submitted to the secretary of state (secretary) alleging that certain candidates for city council had violated the ordinance. Accordingly, an administrative law judge to whom the complaint had been forwarded by the secretary lacks subject matter jurisdiction over campaign practices arising out of the city's elections and properly dismissed the complaint. The attempted referral of the complaint to the secretary conflicts with the clear intent of the general assembly to exclude home rule municipality elections from state disclosure requirements when the home rule municipality has adopted its own ordinances regulating campaign practices. In re City of Colo. Springs, 2012 COA 55, 277 P.3d 937.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-117. State and political subdivisions - limitations on contributions.

1-45-117. State and political subdivisions - limitations on contributions.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-117. State and political subdivisions - limitations on contributions. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(1) (a) (I) No agency, department, board, division, bureau, commission, or council of the state or any political subdivision of the state shall make any contribution in campaigns involving the nomination, retention, or election of any person to any public office, nor shall any such entity make any donation to any other person for the purpose of making an independent expenditure, nor shall any such entity expend any moneys from any source, or make any contributions, to urge electors to vote in favor of or against any:

(A) Statewide ballot issue that has been submitted for the purpose of having a title designated and fixed pursuant to section 1-40-106 (1) or that has had a title designated and fixed pursuant to that section;

(B) Local ballot issue that has been submitted for the purpose of having a title fixed pursuant to section 31-11-111 or that has had a title fixed pursuant to that section;

(C) Referred measure, as defined in section 1-1-104 (34.5);

(D) Measure for the recall of any officer that has been certified by the appropriate election official for submission to the electors for their approval or rejection.

(II) However, a member or employee of any such agency, department, board, division, bureau, commission, or council may respond to questions about any such issue described in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) if the member, employee, or public entity has not solicited the question. A member or employee of any such agency, department, board, division, bureau, commission, or council who has policy-making responsibilities may expend not more than fifty dollars of public moneys in the form of letters, telephone calls, or other activities incidental to expressing his or her opinion on any such issue described in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a).

(b) (I) Nothing in this subsection (1) shall be construed as prohibiting an agency, department, board, division, bureau, commission, or council of the state, or any political subdivision thereof from expending public moneys or making contributions to dispense a factual summary, which shall include arguments both for and against the proposal, on any issue of official concern before the electorate in the jurisdiction. Such summary shall not contain a conclusion or opinion in favor of or against any particular issue. As used herein, an issue of official concern shall be limited to issues that will appear on an election ballot in the jurisdiction.

(II) Nothing in this subsection (1) shall be construed to prevent an elected official from expressing a personal opinion on any issue.

(III) Nothing in this subsection (1) shall be construed as prohibiting an agency, department, board, division, bureau, commission, or council of the state or any political subdivision thereof from:

(A) Passing a resolution or taking a position of advocacy on any issue described in

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1); or

(B) Reporting the passage of or distributing such resolution through established, customary means, other than paid advertising, by which information about other proceedings of such agency, department, board, division, bureau, or council of the state or any political subdivision thereof is regularly provided to the public.

(C) Nothing in this subsection (1) shall be construed as prohibiting a member or an employee of an agency, department, board, division, bureau, commission, or council of the state or any political subdivision thereof from expending personal funds, making contributions, or using personal time to urge electors to vote in favor of or against any issue described in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1).

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to:

(a) An official residence furnished or paid for by the state or a political subdivision;

(b) Security officers who are required to accompany a candidate or the candidate's family;

(c) Publicly owned motor vehicles provided for the use of the chief executive of the state or a political subdivision;

(d) Publicly owned aircraft provided for the use of the chief executive of the state or of a political subdivision or the executive's family for security purposes; except that, if such use is, in whole or in part, for campaign purposes, the expenses relating to the campaign shall be reported and reimbursed pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(3) If any candidate who is also an incumbent inadvertently or unavoidably makes any expenditure which involves campaign expenses and official expenses, such expenditures shall be deemed a campaign expense only, unless the candidate, not more than ten working days after the such expenditure, files with the appropriate officer such information as the secretary of state may by rule require in order to differentiate between campaign expenses and official expenses. Such information shall be set forth on a form provided by the appropriate officer. In the event that public moneys have been expended for campaign expenses and for official expenses, the candidate shall reimburse the state or political subdivision for the amount of money spent on campaign expenses.

(4) (a) Any violation of this section shall be subject to the provisions of sections 9 (2) and 10 (1) of article XXVIII of the state constitution or any appropriate order or relief, including an order directing the person making a contribution or expenditure in violation of this section to reimburse the fund of the state or political subdivision, as applicable, from which such moneys were diverted for the amount of the contribution or expenditure, injunctive relief, or a restraining order to enjoin the continuance of the violation.

(b) If a board, commission, or council is found to have made a contribution or expenditure in

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

violation of this section, an individual member of the board, commission, or council who voted in favor of or otherwise authorized the contribution or expenditure may be ordered to reimburse an amount pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of this section as long as the amount does not exceed the amount ordered to be reimbursed by any other individual of the board, commission, or council who voted in favor or otherwise authorized the contribution or expenditure.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-117. State and political subdivisions - limitations on contributions. / History

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997. **L. 2002:** (4) added, p. 280, § 1, effective August 7. **L. 2008:** (4) amended, p. 350, § 3, effective April 10. **L. 2010:** IP(1)(a)(I) amended, (SB 10-203), ch. 269, p. 1237, § 8, effective May 25. **L. 2015:** (4) amended, (HB 15-1074), ch. 89, p. 256, § 1, effective August 5. **L. 2018:** (4)(b) amended, (HB 18-1047), ch. 155, p. 1096, § 8, effective April 23.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-117. State and political subdivisions - limitations on contributions. / Annotations

BACK TO TOP

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 1-45-116 as it existed prior to 1996.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act amending the introductory portion to subsection (1)(a)(I), see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

ANNOTATION

Annotator's note. Since § 1-45-117 is similar to § 1-45-116 as it existed prior to the 1997 repeal and reenactment of this article, relevant cases construing that provision have been included in the annotations to this section.

The purpose of this section is to prohibit the state government and its officials from spending public funds to influence the outcome of campaigns for political office or ballot issues. Colo. Common Cause v. Coffman, 85 P.3d 551 (Colo. App. 2003), aff'd, 102 P.3d 999 (Colo. 2004).

This section must be strictly construed. It is an established principle that statutes regarding the use of public funds to influence the outcome of elections are strictly construed. Coffman v. Colo. Common Cause, 102 P.3d 999 (Colo. 2004).

A contribution under § 2(5)(a)(IV) of article XXVIII of the state constitution and as incorporated by reference into § 1-45-103 (6)(a) requires that: (1) a thing of value (2) be given to a candidate, either directly or indirectly, (3) in order to promote the candidate's nomination, retention, recall, or election. Keim v. Douglas County Sch. Dist., 2017 CO 81, 397 P.3d 377.

Moneys in fund administered by the Colorado compensation insurance authority that consisted primarily of premiums paid into the fund by employers constituted "public moneys" for

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BACK TO TOP

purposes of this section. Denver Area Labor Fed'n v. Buckley, 924 P.2d 524 (Colo. 1996).

While the term "public moneys" is not defined, the all-inclusive language "from any source" indicates that the general assembly intended an expansive definition of the phrase. Thus, the term "public moneys" may not be construed to refer only to sums realized from the imposition of taxes. Denver Area Labor Fed'n v. Buckley, 924 P.2d 524 (Colo. 1996).

Although moneys collected by the political subdivision were not derived from state-imposed sales, use, property, or income taxes, those moneys may be spent by the political subdivision only for authorized public purposes. The general assembly has in essence declared that the expenditure of moneys in the fund for purposes prohibited by this section are not authorized expenditures for public purposes. Denver Area Labor Fed'n v. Buckley, 924 P.2d 524 (Colo. 1996).

This section prohibits the use of "public moneys from any source," not the use of "public funds". The general assembly thus selected a phrase not previously construed in seeking to limit the expenditure of funds by various governmental entities for certain purposes. Denver Area Labor Fed'n v. Buckley, 924 P.2d 524 (Colo. 1996).

This section tends to promote public confidence in government by prohibiting the use of moneys authorized for expenditure by political subdivisions for specified public purposes to advance the personal viewpoint of one group over another. A political subdivision's use of moneys that were authorized for expenditure for the benefit of an insured to oppose the passage of an amendment proposed by an insured is the type of conduct the general assembly intended to prohibit by the enactment of this section. Denver Area Labor Fed'n v. Buckley, 924 P.2d 524 (Colo. 1996).

Subsection (4), and not § 10(1) of article XXVIII of state constitution, provides basis for sanctions against special district that allegedly violated subsection (1)(b)(I) by urging voters to support ballot issue. Plaintiff's sole argument to ALJ was that special district violated subsection (1)(b)(I) by urging voters to support ballot issue. Plaintiff made no argument that expenditure violated a contribution or spending limit nor did plaintiff make any other argument concerning the amount district spent. Sherritt v. Rocky Mtn. Fire Dist., 205 P.3d 544 (Colo. App. 2009).

No abuse of discretion by administrative law judge (ALJ) in refusing to sanction special district at higher amount requested by plaintiff. Under subsection (4), ALJ had discretion to determine "any appropriate order or relief". In sanctioning district, ALJ cited district's attempt to comply with the law and the absence of prior violations. ALJ found that public funds would be used to satisfy the penalty and, therefore, a large fine would compound the problem. In exercising his or her discretion, ALJ properly considered needs of the public. Additionally, ALJ's findings have record support and were neither arbitrary, capricious, unsupported by the evidence, nor contrary to law. Sherritt v. Rocky Mtn. Fire Dist., 205 P.3d 544 (Colo. App. 2009).

What is of "official concern" to school district board of education is to be determined by reference to the official powers and duties delegated by the general assembly in the school laws. Mtn. States Legal Found. v. Denver Sch. Dist. No. 1, 459 F. Supp. 357 (D. Colo. 1978).

A matter of official concern is one which at the very least involves questions which come before the officials for an official decision. Campbell v. Joint Dist. 28-J, 704 F.2d 501 (10th Cir. 1983).

Proposed constitutional amendment not of official concern. A proposed amendment to the state constitution on a general election ballot is not a matter of official concern. Campbell v. Joint Dist. 28-J, 704 F.2d 501 (10th Cir. 1983).

Not determined solely by board. The characterization of a campaign issue as being of "official

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

concern" is not a judgment which can be made solely by the board of education; such an interpretation of this section would give unlimited discretion to the school board to use school funds and school facilities whenever it suited the personal preference of the majority of the members. Mtn. States Legal Found. v. Denver Sch. Dist. No. 1, 459 F. Supp. 357 (D. Colo. 1978).

This section allows an employee with policy-making responsibility to expend public funds up to the $50 limit in expressing an opinion about a pending ballot issue. Regents of the Univ. of Colo. v. Meyer, 899 P.2d 316 (Colo. App. 1995).

Paid staff time is a contribution in kind for purposes of this section. Time spent by the state treasurer's staff during work hours on a non-volunteer basis preparing and disseminating press releases expressing the state treasurer's opposition to a statewide ballot issue therefore violated this section to the extent that the value of that time exceeded $50. Coffman v. Colo. Common Cause, 102 P.3d 999 (Colo. 2004).

State treasurer's press conference and press releases opposing a statewide ballot issue violated this section. The press releases were not balanced factual summaries of the ballot issue and were not resolutions because they were not formal expressions of a voting body. The state treasurer expended more than $50 in preparing the press releases and was not permitted to expend more than that to take a position of advocacy. Colo. Common Cause v. Coffman, 85 P.3d 551 (Colo. App. 2003), aff'd, 102 P.3d 999 (Colo. 2004).

Public school payroll deduction system for teachers' union dues, a portion of which was given by the union to a political action committee, did not constitute a "contribution in kind" because it did not support a specific "issue" or "candidate" that the political action committee supported or opposed during the time that the district made the payroll deductions. Mtn. States v. Secretary of State, 946 P.2d 586 (Colo. App. 1997) (decided under law in effect prior to 1997 amendment).

Brochure mailed by metropolitan districts explaining proposed improvements violated this section. The brochure, when read in its entirety, did not present arguments for and against the issue. In fact, it took a position exclusively in favor of the issue, presented no contrary arguments, and expressly advocated the passage of the bond initiative that was titled only days after the mailing of the brochure. Thus, it urged voters to vote for the initiative. Skruch v. Highlands Ranch Metro. Dists., 107 P.3d 1140 (Colo. App. 2004).

Although brochure did not mention ballot initiative by name, administrative law judge appropriately concluded that the language of this section does not require that level of specificity. The section prohibits "the urging of electors to vote a certain way." Skruch v. Highlands Ranch Metro. Dists., 107 P.3d 1140 (Colo. App. 2004).

School district did not make a prohibited contribution to a campaign under § 2(5)(a)(IV) of article XXVIII and subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section. A research report from a national think tank supportive of a school district's educational reform efforts that the district commissioned and paid for with public funds constitutes a "thing of value" for purposes of the definition of "contribution". The district did not make a prohibited contribution to a campaign, however, when it broadly disseminated an email of the report to county residents. Something of value is not given to a candidate when it is publicly distributed, even if the candidate happens to be among the public to which the thing of value has been made available. Keim v. Douglas County Sch. Dist., 2017 CO 81, 397 P.3d 377.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-117.5. Media outlets - political records.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1-45-117.5. Media outlets - political records.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-117.5. Media outlets - political records. / Statute text

Any media outlet that is subject to the provisions of 47 U.S.C. sec. 315 (e) shall maintain and make available for public inspection such records as the outlet is required to maintain to comply with federal law or rules.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-117.5. Media outlets - political records. / History

Source: L. 2010: Entire section added, (SB 10-203), ch. 269, p. 1231, § 4, effective May 25.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-117.5. Media outlets - political records. / Annotations

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in the 2010 act adding this section, see section 1 of chapter 269, Session Laws of Colorado 2010.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-118. Severability.

1-45-118. Severability.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-118. Severability. / Statute text

If any provision of this article or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the article which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this article are declared to be severable.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 1 ELECTIONS / ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS / ARTICLE 45 FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT / 1-45-118. Severability. / History

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BACK TO TOP

Source: Initiated 96: Entire article R&RE, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 15, 1997.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-101. Short title.

32-1-101. Short title.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-101. Short title. / Statute text

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Special District Act".

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-101. Short title. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1542, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-101. Short title. / Annotations

ANNOTATION

Law reviews. For article, "1985 Special District Legislation", see 14 Colo. Law. 2178 (1985). For article, "Colorado Special Districts and Chapter 9 -- Parts I and II", see 20 Colo. Law. 2475 (1991) and 21 Colo. Law. 1 (1992).

Special district act not applicable to special districts organized under law preceding the 1965 Special District Control Act. Senior Corp. v. Bd. of Assessment Appeals, 702 P.2d 732 (Colo. 1985).

General assembly has plenary power to create quasi-municipal corporations, whether by creating such districts directly or making the creation of such districts contingent upon future and uncertain events. State Farm v. City of Lakewood, 788 P.2d 808 (Colo. 1990).

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-102. Legislative declaration.

32-1-102. Legislative declaration.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-102. Legislative declaration. / Statute text

(1) The general assembly hereby declares that the organization of special districts providing the services and having the purposes, powers, and authority provided in this article will serve a public use and will promote the health, safety, prosperity, security, and general welfare of the inhabitants of such districts and of the people of the state of Colorado.

(2) The general assembly further declares that the procedures contained in part 2 of this article are necessary for the coordinated and orderly creation of special districts and for the logical extension of special district services throughout the state. It is the purpose of part 2 of this article to prevent unnecessary proliferation and fragmentation of local government and to avoid excessive diffusion of local tax sources.

(3) The general assembly further declares that the purpose of part 5 of this article is to facilitate the elimination of the overlapping of services provided by local governments and the double taxation which may occur because of annexation or otherwise when all or part of the taxable property of an area lies within the boundaries of both a municipality and a special district.

(4) The general assembly further declares that it is the policy of this state to provide for and encourage the consolidation of special districts and to provide the means therefor by simple procedures in order to prevent or reduce duplication, overlapping, and fragmentation of the functions and facilities of special districts; that such consolidation will better serve the people of this state; and that consolidated districts will result in reduced costs and increased efficiency of operation.

(5) The general assembly further declares that the purpose of part 7 of this article is to facilitate dissolution of special districts in order to reduce the proliferation, fragmentation, and overlapping of local governments and to encourage assumption of services by other governmental entities.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-102. Legislative declaration. / History

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1542, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-102. Legislative declaration. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

ANNOTATION

Applied in Groditsky v. Pinckney, 661 P.2d 279 (Colo. 1983).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-103. Definitions.

32-1-103. Definitions.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-103. Definitions. / Statute text

As used in this article 1, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Ambulance district" means a special district which provides emergency medical services and the transportation of sick, disabled, or injured persons by motor vehicle, aircraft, or other form of transportation to and from facilities providing medical services. For the purpose of this subsection (1), "emergency medical services" means services engaged in providing initial emergency medical assistance, including, but not limited to, the treatment of trauma and burns and respiratory, circulatory, and obstetrical emergencies.

(1.5) "Board" means the board of directors of a special district.

(2) "Court" means the district court in any county in which the petition for organization of the special district was originally filed and which entered the order organizing said district or the district court to which the file pertaining to the special district has been transferred pursuant to section 32-1-303 (1)(b).

(2.5) "Depository institution" means:

(a) A person that is organized or chartered, or is doing business or holds an authorization

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BACK TO TOP

certificate, under the laws of a state or of the United States which authorize the person to receive deposits, including deposits in savings, shares, certificates, or other deposit accounts, and that is supervised and examined for the protection of depositors by an official or agency of a state or the United States; and

(b) A trust company or other institution that is authorized by federal or state law to exercise fiduciary powers of the type that a national bank is permitted to exercise under the authority of the comptroller of the currency and that is supervised and examined by an official or agency of a state or the United States. The term does not include an insurance company or other organization primarily engaged in the insurance business.

(3) "Director" means a member of the board.

(4) "Division" means the division of local government in the department of local affairs.

(4.5) "Early childhood development service district" means a special district created pursuant to article 21 of this title 32 to provide, directly or indirectly, early childhood development services to children from birth through eight years of age.

(5) (a) "Eligible elector" means a person who, at the designated time or event, is registered to vote pursuant to the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", articles 1 to 13 of title 1, C.R.S., and:

(I) Who is a resident of the special district or the area to be included in the special district; or

(II) Who, or whose spouse or civil union partner, owns taxable real or personal property situated within the boundaries of the special district or the area to be included in the special district, whether said person resides within the special district or not.

(b) A person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property situated within the boundaries of the special district or the area to be included within the special district shall be considered an owner within the meaning of this subsection (5).

(c) Repealed.

(d) For all elections and petitions that require ownership of real property or land, a mobile home as defined in section 38-12-201.5 (2) or 5-1-301 (29), C.R.S., or a manufactured home as defined in section 42-1-102 (106)(b), C.R.S., shall be deemed sufficient to qualify as ownership of real property or land for the purpose of voting rights and petitions.

(e) In the event that the board, by resolution, ends business personal property taxation by the district pursuant to subsection (8)(b) of section 20 of article X of the state constitution, persons owning such property and spouses or civil union partners of such persons shall not be eligible electors of the district on the basis of ownership of such property.

(6) Repealed.

(6.5) "Financial institution or institutional investor" means any of the following, whether

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

acting for itself or others in a fiduciary capacity:

(a) A depository institution;

(b) An insurance company;

(c) A separate account of an insurance company;

(d) An investment company registered under the federal "Investment Company Act of 1940";

(e) A business development company as defined in the federal "Investment Company Act of 1940";

(f) Any private business development company as defined in the federal "Investment Company Act of 1940";

(g) An employee pension, profit-sharing, or benefit plan if the plan has total assets in excess of five million dollars or its investment decisions are made by a named fiduciary, as defined in the federal "Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974", that is a broker-dealer registered under the federal "Securities Exchange Act of 1934", an investment adviser registered or exempt from registration under the federal "Investment Advisers Act of 1940", a depository institution, or an insurance company;

(h) An entity, but not an individual, a substantial part of whose business activities consists of investing, purchasing, selling, or trading in securities of more than one issuer and not of its own issue and that has total assets in excess of five million dollars as of the end of its last fiscal year; and

(i) A small business investment company licensed by the federal small business administration under the federal "Small Business Investment Act of 1958".

(7) "Fire protection district" means a special district which provides protection against fire by any available means and which may supply ambulance and emergency medical and rescue services.

(7.5) "Forest improvement district" means a special district created pursuant to article 18 of this title that protects communities from wildfires and improves the condition of forests in the district.

(8) "Governing body" means a city council or board of trustees and includes a body or board where the operation and management of service is under the control of a municipal body or board other than a city council or board of trustees.

(8.5) "Health assurance district" means a special district that is created to organize, operate, control, direct, manage, contract for, furnish, or provide, directly or indirectly, health care services to residents of the district and family members of such residents who are in need of such services.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(9) "Health service district" means a special district that may establish, maintain, or operate, directly or indirectly through lease to or from other parties or other arrangement, public hospitals, convalescent centers, nursing care facilities, intermediate care facilities, emergency facilities, community clinics, or other facilities licensed or certified pursuant to section 25-1.5-103 (1)(a), C.R.S., providing health and personal care services and may organize, own, operate, control, direct, manage, contract for, or furnish ambulance service.

(9.3) "Inactive special district" means a special district in a predevelopment stage that has no residents other than those who lived within the district boundaries prior to the formation of the district, no business or commercial ventures or facilities within its boundaries, has not issued any general obligation or revenue debt and does not have any financial obligations outstanding or contracts in effect that require performance by the district during the time the district is inactive, has not imposed a mill levy for tax collection in that fiscal year, anticipates no receipt of revenue and has no planned expenditures, except for statutory compliance, in that fiscal year, has no operation or maintenance responsibility for any facilities, has initially filed a notice of inactive status pursuant to section 32-1-104 (3), and, each year thereafter, has filed a notice of continuing inactive status pursuant to section 32-1-104 (4).

(9.5) "Mental health care service district" means a special district created pursuant to this article to provide, directly or indirectly, mental health care services to residents of the district who are in need of mental health care services and to family members of such residents.

(10) "Metropolitan district" means a special district that provides for the inhabitants thereof any two or more of the following services:

(a) Fire protection;

(b) Mosquito control;

(c) Parks and recreation;

(d) Safety protection;

(e) Sanitation;

(f) Solid waste disposal facilities or collection and transportation of solid waste;

(g) Street improvement;

(h) Television relay and translation;

(i) Transportation;

(j) Water.

(11) "Municipality" means a municipality as defined in section 31-1-101 (6), C.R.S.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(12) "Net effective interest rate" means the net interest cost of securities issued by a public body divided by the sum of the products derived by multiplying the principal amount of the securities maturing on each maturity date by the number of years from their date to their respective maturities. In all cases, net effective interest rate shall be computed without regard to any option of redemption prior to the designated maturity dates of the securities.

(13) "Net interest cost" means the total amount of interest to accrue on securities issued by a public body from their date to their respective maturities, less the amount of any premium above par, or plus the amount of any discount below par, at which said securities are being or have been sold. In all cases net interest cost shall be computed without regard to any option of redemption prior to the designated maturity dates of the securities.

(14) "Park and recreation district" means a special district which provides parks or recreational facilities or programs within said district.

(14.5) "Property owners' list" means the list furnished by the county assessor in accordance with section 1-5-304, C.R.S., showing each property owner within the district, as shown on a deed or contract of record.

(15) "Publication" means printing one time, in one newspaper of general circulation in the special district or proposed special district if there is such a newspaper, and, if not, then in a newspaper in the county in which the special district or proposed special district is located. For a special district with territory within more than one county, if publication cannot be made in one newspaper of general circulation in the special district, then one publication is required in a newspaper in each county in which the special district is located and in which the special district also has fifty or more eligible electors.

(16) "Quorum" means more than one-half of the number of directors serving on the board of a special district.

(17) **[** ***Editor's note: This version of subsection (17) is effective until July 1, 2022.*** **]** "Regular special district election" means the election on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of May in every even-numbered year, held for the purpose of electing members to the boards of special districts and for submission of other public questions, if any.

(17) **[** ***Editor's note: This version of subsection (17) is effective July 1, 2022.*** **]** "Regular special district election" means the election on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of May in every odd-numbered year, held for the purpose of electing members to the boards of special districts and for submission of other public questions, if any.

(17.5) (Deleted by amendment, L. 92, p. 874, § 105, effective January 1, 1993.)

(18) "Sanitation district" means a special district that provides for storm or sanitary sewers, or both, flood and surface drainage, treatment and disposal works and facilities, or solid waste

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

disposal facilities or waste services, and all necessary or proper equipment and appurtenances incident thereto.

(19) "Secretary" means the secretary of the board.

(19.5) "Solid waste" shall have the same definition as specified in section 30-20-101 (6), C.R.S.

(20) "Special district" means any quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision organized or acting pursuant to the provisions of this article. "Special district" does not include any entity organized or acting pursuant to the provisions of article 8 of title 29, article 20 of title 30, article 25 of title 31, or articles 41 to 50 of title 37, C.R.S.

(21) "Special election" means any election called by the board for submission of public questions and other matters. The election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February, May, October, or December, in November of even-numbered years or on the first Tuesday in November of odd-numbered years. Any special district may petition a district court judge who has jurisdiction in such district for permission to hold a special election on a day other than those specified in this subsection (21). The district court judge may grant permission only upon a finding that an election on the days specified would be impossible or impracticable or upon a finding that an unforeseeable emergency would require an election on a day other than those specified.

(22) "Taxable property" means real or personal property subject to general ad valorem taxes. "Taxable property" does not include the ownership of property on which a specific ownership tax is paid pursuant to law.

(23) (a) "Taxpaying elector" means an eligible elector of a special district who, or whose spouse or civil union partner, owns taxable real or personal property within the special district or the area to be included in or excluded from the special district, whether the person resides within the special district or not.

(b) A person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property within the special district shall be considered an owner within the meaning of this subsection (23).

(c) For all elections and petitions that require ownership of real property or land, a mobile home as defined in section 38-12-201.5 (2) or 5-1-301 (29), C.R.S., or a manufactured home as defined in section 42-1-102 (106)(b), C.R.S., shall be deemed sufficient to qualify as ownership of real property or land for the purpose of voting rights and petitions.

(23.2) "Tunnel" means one or more holes under or through the ground, mountains, rock formations, or other natural or man-made material, including roads, railroads, pipelines, and other means of transporting vehicles, people, or goods through any such tunnel, whether located in the tunnel or, to the extent the same connects the tunnel to other similar facilities, located

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

outside the tunnel. "Tunnel" also means any ventilation, drainage, and support facilities, toll collection facilities, administrative facilities, and other facilities necessary or convenient to the acquisition, construction, improvement, equipping, operation, or maintenance of the tunnel or to the operation of the tunnel district, whether located within or without the tunnel.

(23.5) "Tunnel district" means a special district which provides a tunnel.

(24) "Water and sanitation district" means a special district which provides both water district and sanitation district services.

(25) "Water district" means a special district which supplies water for domestic and other public and private purposes by any available means and provides all necessary or proper reservoirs, treatment works and facilities, equipment, and appurtenances incident thereto.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-103. Definitions. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1543, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 82:** (5)(d) and (23)(c) added, p. 546, §§ 5, 6, effective April 15. **L. 83:** (1) R&RE and (1.5) added, p. 412, §§ 2, 3, effective June 1. **L. 85:** (20) amended, p. 1097, § 1, effective April 30; (21) amended, p. 1027, § 4, effective July 1; IP(5)(a) and (5)(a)(I) amended and (14.5) and (17.5) added, p. 1083, § 1, effective July 1, 1986. **L. 86:** (5)(c) repealed and (21) amended, pp. 1068, 814, §§ 3, 6, effective July 1. **L. 87:** (23.2) and (23.5) added, p. 1232, § 1, effective May 13; IP(5)(a), (5)(a)(I), (5)(b), and (14.5) amended, p. 333, § 100, effective July 1. **L. 89:** (6) repealed, p. 1135, § 85, effective July 1. **L. 90:** (5)(d) amended, p. 1848, § 46, effective May 31. **L. 91:** (2.5) and (6.5) added, p. 780, § 2, effective June 4. **L. 92:** IP(5)(a), (17), (17.5), (21), and (23)(a) amended, p. 874, § 105, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** (5)(a)(I) and (21) amended, p. 1438, § 133, effective July 1. **L. 94:** (5)(d) and (23)(c) amended, p. 706, § 10, effective April 19; (14.5) and (15) amended, p. 1194, § 97, effective July 1; (5)(a)(I) amended, p. 1775, § 45, effective January 1, 1995; (5)(d) and (23)(c) amended, p. 2565, § 79, effective January 1, 1995. **L. 96:** (5)(e) added and (9) and (14.5) amended, pp. 1771, 470, §§ 72, 1, 73, effective July 1. **L. 98:** (10) and (18) amended and (19.5) added, p. 1069, § 1, effective June 1. **L. 2001:** (5)(d) and (23)(c) amended, p. 1276, § 42, effective June 5. **L. 2003:** (9) amended, p. 715, § 58, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (9.5) added, p. 1035, § 1, effective June 2. **L. 2007:** (7.5) added, p. 425, § 1, effective April 9; (8.5) added, p. 1186, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (20) amended, (SB 09-292), ch. 369, p. 1979, § 109, effective August 5. **L. 2010:** (9.3) added, (HB 10-1362), ch. 360, p. 1710, § 1, effective August 11. **L. 2014:** (5)(a), (5)(e), and (23)(a) amended, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 70, § 29, effective February 18. **L. 2018:** IP and (17) amended, (HB 18-1039), ch. 29, p. 330, § 3, effective July 1, 2022. **L. 2019:** IP amended and (4.5) added, (HB 19-1052), ch. 72, p. 257, § 1, effective August 2.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT

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BACK TO TOP

ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-103. Definitions. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

(2) Amendments to subsection (5)(d) by Senate Bill 94-092 and Senate Bill 94-001 were harmonized. Amendments to subsection (23)(c) by Senate Bill 94-092 and Senate Bill 94-001 were harmonized.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

ANNOTATION

Constitutional challenge to subsection (5) of this section on grounds that denying corporate entities the right to vote on the formation of a special district violates the equal protection clause was premature when no petition for organization was pending before district court. State Farm v. City of Lakewood, 788 P.2d 808 (Colo. 1990).

District organizers' contracts did not make them eligible electors under subsection (5). The purpose of requiring a district to gain approval from persons who own property within a district before it imposes a new tax is to allow the people who will have to pay the tax to decide whether the tax should be levied. The organizers' contracts did not comport with this purpose because they were illusory. Landmark Towers Ass'n v. UMB Bank, 2016 COA 61, __ P.3d __, rev'd on other grounds, 2017 CO 107, 408 P.3d 836.

Organizers' contracts for options to purchase parcels were sham agreements. The size of the individual parcels was so small that ownership of such a parcel would not permit any beneficial use thereof; though the contracts purported to obligate the option holder to pay property taxes, they also waived any right to specific performance of the obligation to pay and any right to seek damages for any failure to pay, making the obligation to pay taxes illusory; one of the organizers testified, without contradiction, that the organizers agreed amongst themselves that none of them would have to pay taxes on the parcels; none of the organizers paid the down payment required by the option contracts; none of the organizers paid any property taxes; none of the organizers exercised their options to purchase; and none of the contracts was ever recorded in the real property records. Landmark Towers Ass'n v. UMB Bank, 2016 COA 61, __ P.3d __, rev'd on other grounds, 2017 CO 107, 408 P.3d 836.

Nothing in subsection (5)(b) indicates that a current obligation to pay property taxes at closing would not qualify a person with such an obligation as an eligible elector. Subsection (5)(b) qualifies those who are obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property within a special district as eligible electors in that district. The contracts required buyers to begin paying property taxes on their units at the time of closing. This obligation existed at the time of the TABOR election. Thus, buyers under contract to purchase units located in the special district were eligible electors. Landmark Towers Ass'n v. UMB Bank, 2016 COA 61, __ P.3d __, rev'd on other grounds, 2017 CO 107, 408 P.3d 836.

Because the buyers were eligible electors, they should have received notice of the election as constitutionally required by TABOR. Landmark Towers Ass'n v. UMB Bank, 2016 COA 61, __ P.3d __,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

rev'd on other grounds, 2017 CO 107, 408 P.3d 836.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104. Establishment of a special districts file.

32-1-104. Establishment of a special districts file.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104. Establishment of a special districts file. / Statute text

(1) The division shall promptly establish and maintain on a current basis, as a public record, a file listing by name all special districts, listing the names and addresses of all the members of the boards of the special districts, and recording all changes in the names or boundaries of the special districts. The file shall also list the names of the officers of each special district and a business address, a telephone number, and the name of a contact person for each district. Annually, the division shall compile and maintain a current and revised list of special districts for public inspection. Each special district shall register its business address, its telephone number, and the name of a contact person with the division when certifying the results of a district election pursuant to section 1-11-103, C.R.S.

(2) On or before January 15 of each year, a special district shall file a copy of the notice required pursuant section 32-1-809 (1) with the board of county commissioners, the county assessor, the county treasurer, and the county clerk and recorder of each county in which the special district is located, the governing body of any municipality in which the special district is located, and the division.

(3) (a) The board of directors of an inactive special district may adopt a resolution that describes and affirms its qualifications for its inactive status and may direct that a notice of inactive status be filed with the board of county commissioners and the city council of each county and city that approved its service plan pursuant to section 32-1-204 or 32-1-204.5; the treasurer, assessor, and the clerk and recorder of the county or counties in which the inactive special district is located; the district court having jurisdiction over the formation of the special district; the state auditor; and the division of local government. The notice of inactive status shall be filed on or before December 15 of the year in which the board adopts a resolution of inactive status. At the time of filing the notice of inactive status, the district shall be in compliance with each of the requirements specified in subsection (5) of this section.

(b) When the board of directors of a district on inactive status determines that the district shall return to active status, the board shall adopt a resolution that declares the district's return to active status and authorizes the filing of a notice of the district's determination to return to active status with the same such entities that received the notice of inactive status under paragraph (a)

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

of this subsection (3). The district's board of directors shall cause the district to be brought into compliance for the remainder of the fiscal year in which the district returns to active status with all legal requirements specified in this section for which the district has otherwise been exempt while on inactive status. The district shall be in compliance with such requirements within ninety days of delivery of notice of the board's determination to return to active status pursuant to this paragraph (b). The notices delivered pursuant to this subsection (3) shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested, except where electronic filing is required by the receiving entity.

(c) The notice of inactive status, notice of continuing inactive status, and notice of return to active status shall be standard forms developed by the division and shall be made available on the division's website.

(d) A special district shall not return to active status until it has filed an information statement under section 32-1-104.8.

(4) The special district shall be on inactive status during the period commencing with the filing of its notice of inactive status pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of this section until such time as it has issued a notice of its determination to return to active status pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section. During the period that a district is on inactive status, it shall not issue any debt, impose a mill levy, or conduct any other official business other than to conduct elections and to undertake procedures necessary to implement the district's intention to return to active status. Inactive special districts shall file with the state auditor and the division on or before December 15 of each year in which the district is on inactive status a notice that it is continuing in such status for the next fiscal year.

BACK TO TOP

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, inactive special districts shall be exempt from compliance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section; sections 32-1-306, 32-1-809, and 32-1-903; parts 1, 2, and 6 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S.; and part 1 of article 1 and part 1 of article 5 of title 39, C.R.S.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104. Establishment of a special districts file. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1545, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** Entire section amended, p. 1020, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 92:** (1) amended, p. 875, § 106, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** (1) amended, p. 1790, § 77, effective June 6. **L. 94:** (1) amended, p. 1194, § 98, effective July 1. **L. 2010:** (3), (4), and (5) added, (HB 10-1362), ch. 360, p. 1710, § 2, effective August 11. **L. 2013:** (3)(d) added, (HB 13-1186), ch. 102, p. 325, § 3, effective August 7. **L. 2015:** (1) and (2) amended, (HB 15-1092), ch. 87, p. 250, § 2, effective August 5.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL

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BACK TO TOP

PROVISIONS / 32-1-104. Establishment of a special districts file. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-103 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104.5. Audit and budget requirements - election results - description on state websites.

32-1-104.5. Audit and budget requirements - election results - description on state websites.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104.5. Audit and budget requirements - election results - description on state websites. / Statute text

(1) The division shall post on its official website in a form that is readily accessible to the public:

(a) A general description in plain, nontechnical language of the requirements for a special district to have an annual audit of the district's financial statements prepared in accordance with the "Colorado Local Government Audit Law", part 6 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., and information about where a copy of the audit report is available for public inspection;

(b) A general description in plain, nontechnical language of the process and requirements for a special district to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the "Local Government Budget Law of Colorado", part 1 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., and information about where a copy of the budget is available for public inspection; and

(c) The election results certified to the division pursuant to section 1-11-103 (3), C.R.S.

(2) The secretary of state shall provide a link to the election results posted by the division pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section on the official website of the department of state.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104.5. Audit and budget requirements - election results - description on state websites. / History

Source: L. 2009: Entire section added, (SB 09-087), ch. 325, p. 1731, § 1, effective September 1. **L. 2015:** (2) amended and (1)(c) added, (HB 15-1092), ch. 87, p. 251, § 3, effective August 5.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104.8. Information statement regarding taxes and debt.

32-1-104.8. Information statement regarding taxes and debt.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104.8. Information statement regarding taxes and debt. / Statute text

(1) Every special district shall record a special district public disclosure document and a map of the boundaries of the district with the county clerk and recorder of each county in which the district is located that provides the following information:

(a) The name of the district;

(b) The powers of the district as authorized by section 32-1-1004 and the district's service plan or, as appropriate, the district's statement of purpose as described in section 32-1-208, current as of the time of the filing;

(c) A statement indicating that the district's service plan or, as appropriate, the district's statement of purpose as described in section 32-1-208, which can be amended from time to time, includes a description of the district's powers and authority, and that a copy of the service plan or statement of purpose is available from the division; and

(d) The following statement:

[Name of the district] is authorized by title 32 of the Colorado Revised Statutes to use a number of methods to raise revenues for capital needs and general operations costs. These methods, subject to the limitations imposed by section 20 of article X of the Colorado constitution, include issuing debt, levying taxes, and imposing fees and charges. Information concerning directors, management, meetings, elections, and current taxes are provided annually in the Notice to Electors described in section 32-1-809 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, which can be found at the district office, on the district's website, on file at the division of local government in the state department of local affairs, or on file at the office of the clerk and recorder of each county in which the special district is located.

(2) Special districts existing as of August 7, 2013, shall record the special district public disclosure document required by subsection (1) of this section on or before December 31, 2014. The disclosure document for any district organized after August 7, 2013, or for any inclusion of additional real property within an existing district, shall be recorded at the same time the decree or order confirming the action is recorded as required by section 32-1-105. The requirement to record the disclosure document may be enforced by the board of county commissioners or the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

governing body of any municipality that has approved the service plan of the district in the same manner as the enforcement of information reporting requirements under section 32-1-209. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, failure to record a disclosure document does not invalidate the organization of, or change the boundaries of, a district or provide a cause of action against the district or any other person, nor does it invalidate or reduce any debt issued at any time by the district, nor does it reduce for any property the mill levy or its responsibility for the proportionate share of the district's outstanding debt.

(3) This section does not apply to any special district while it is on inactive status under section 32-1-104 (4).

(4) Nothing contained in the special district public disclosure document required by this section constitutes the basis for a title defect or creation of an unmarketable title.

(5) Recording a special district public disclosure document and map is subject to the fee payment requirements set forth in section 30-1-103 (1), C.R.S.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-104.8. Information statement regarding taxes and debt. / History

Source: L. 2013: Entire section added, (HB 13-1186), ch. 102, p. 324, § 2, effective August 7.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-105. Notice of organization, dissolution, name change, or boundary change.

32-1-105. Notice of organization, dissolution, name change, or boundary change.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-105. Notice of organization, dissolution, name change, or boundary change. / Statute text

No organization, dissolution, or change in the name or boundaries of any special district shall be effective until the decree or order confirming such action, together with a description of the area concerned, is recorded by the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the organization, dissolution, or change in the name or boundaries took place. The county clerk and recorder shall notify the county assessor of any such action. A certified copy of such notice shall also be filed with the division by the county clerk and recorder.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-105. Notice of organization, dissolution, name change, or boundary change. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1546, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2015:** Entire section amended, (HB 15-1092), ch. 87, p. 251, § 4, effective August 5.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-105. Notice of organization, dissolution, name change, or boundary change. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 32-1-104 as it existed prior to 1981.

(2) This section was amended in House Bill 81-1312. Those amendments were superseded by the repeal and reenactment of the entire article in House Bill 81-1320.

Cross references: For notice required prior to the levy of a tax by a special district, see § 39-1-110.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-106. Repetitioning of elections - time limits.

32-1-106. Repetitioning of elections - time limits.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-106. Repetitioning of elections - time limits. / Statute text

(1) If, after any election for the organization or dissolution of any special district or for the inclusion of territory into a special district pursuant to section 32-1-401 (2) or for the exclusion of property within a municipality from a special district pursuant to section 32-1-502, it appears that the proposal was defeated, no new petition for the organization or dissolution, as the case may be, of such a special district embracing the same or substantially the same area and no new petition for inclusion or exclusion, as the case may be, of territory pursuant to sections 32-1-401 (2) and 32-1-502 shall be submitted again until the expiration of eight months after the date of the election at which the proposal was defeated.

(2) If, after any election submitting to the electors of any special district the proposition of creating any indebtedness of the special district, it appears that the proposition was defeated, no new proposition for creating such indebtedness of the special district shall be submitted until the

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BACK TO TOP

expiration of five months after the date of the election at which the proposal was defeated.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-106. Repetitioning of elections - time limits. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1546, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 94:** Entire section amended, p. 1195, § 99, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-106. Repetitioning of elections - time limits. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-105 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-107. Service area of special districts.

32-1-107. Service area of special districts.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-107. Service area of special districts. / Statute text

(1) A special district may be entirely within or entirely without, or partly within and partly without, one or more municipalities or counties, and a special district may consist of noncontiguous tracts or parcels of property.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, no special district may be organized wholly or partly within an existing special district providing the same service. Nothing in this subsection (2) shall prevent a special district providing different services from organizing wholly or partly within an existing special district. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a metropolitan district may be organized wholly or partly within an existing special district, but a metropolitan district shall not provide the same service as the existing special district.

(3) (a) For purposes of this subsection (3), "overlapping special district" means a new or existing special or metropolitan district located wholly or partly within an existing special or metropolitan district.

(b) An overlapping special district may be authorized to provide the same service as the existing special or metropolitan district that the overlapping special district overlaps or will overlap if:

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BACK TO TOP

(I) Where the service plan of such overlapping special district is subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, the board of county commissioners of the county or counties in which the overlapping territory is located approves by resolution the inclusion of such service as part of the service plan of said overlapping special district; and

(II) Where the service plan of such overlapping special district is subject to the approval of the governing body of a municipality, the governing body of any municipality that has adopted a resolution of approval of the overlapping special district pursuant to section 32-1-204.5 (1)(a) or 32-1-204.7 approves by resolution the inclusion of such service as part of the service plan of said overlapping special district; and

(III) The improvements or facilities to be financed, established, or operated by the overlapping special district for the provision of the same service as the existing special or metropolitan district do not duplicate or interfere with any other improvements or facilities already constructed or planned to be constructed within the portion of the existing special or metropolitan district that the overlapping special district overlaps or will overlap; and

(IV) The board of directors of any special district or metropolitan district authorized to provide a service within the boundaries of the overlapping area consents to the overlapping special district providing the same service.

(c) Nothing in this subsection (3) shall be construed to encourage the unnecessary proliferation, duplication, overlapping, or fragmentation of special or metropolitan districts.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-107. Service area of special districts. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1546, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 97:** (2) amended and (3) added, p. 1415, § 1, effective June 3. **L. 2003:** (3)(b)(II) amended, p. 1315, § 1, effective August 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-107. Service area of special districts. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-3-103 (1) and (2) as it existed prior to 1981.

ANNOTATION

Law reviews. For article, "Survey of Colorado Tax Liens", see 14 Colo. Law. 1765 (1985).

Agricultural property previously excluded from a recreational district may be reincluded within

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BACK TO TOP

that district when the property use changes to residential and upon proper notice to property owners as required in this section, notwithstanding the fact that the change in use occurred seven years earlier and the property could have been reincluded in the district at that time. Front Range Partners v. Hyland Hills Metro., 706 P.2d 1279 (Colo. 1985).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-108. Correction of faulty notices.

32-1-108. Correction of faulty notices.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-108. Correction of faulty notices. / Statute text

In any case where a notice is provided for in this article, if the court finds for any reason that due notice was not given, the court shall not thereby lose jurisdiction, and the proceeding in question shall not thereby be void or be abated; but the court, in that case, shall order due notice to be given and shall continue the hearing until such time as notice has been properly given, and thereupon it shall proceed as though notice had been properly given in the first instance.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-108. Correction of faulty notices. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1546, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-108. Correction of faulty notices. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-109. Early hearings.

32-1-109. Early hearings.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL

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BACK TO TOP

PROVISIONS / 32-1-109. Early hearings. / Statute text

All cases in which there arises a question of the validity of the organization of a special district or a question of the validity of any proceeding under this article shall be advanced as a matter of immediate public interest and concern and heard at the earliest practicable moment. The courts shall be open at all times for the purposes of this article.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-109. Early hearings. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1547, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-109. Early hearings. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-110. Construction with other laws.

32-1-110. Construction with other laws.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-110. Construction with other laws. / Statute text

If any provisions of this article are inconsistent with the provisions of any other law, the provisions of this article 1 control; except that the water conservation policy set forth in section 37-60-126 (11) applies to all land within a special district that is not used as a playing surface for organized sports activities.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-110. Construction with other laws. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1547, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2019:** Entire section amended, (HB 19-1050), ch. 25, p. 84, § 2, effective March 7.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-110. Construction with other laws. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-4-131 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-111. Validation of special districts - bonds.

32-1-111. Validation of special districts - bonds.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-111. Validation of special districts - bonds. / Statute text

The organization pursuant to law of any special district, by decree of a court of competent jurisdiction entered prior to July 1, 1981, and the obligations incurred by and the bonds of such districts issued prior to July 1, 1981, and the proceedings related thereto, are hereby validated.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-111. Validation of special districts - bonds. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1547, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-111. Validation of special districts - bonds. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-112. Validation of boundaries of metropolitan districts.

32-1-112. Validation of boundaries of metropolitan districts.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT

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BACK TO TOP

ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-112. Validation of boundaries of metropolitan districts. / Statute text

All changes or purported changes to the corporate boundaries of existing metropolitan districts, which changes were initiated prior to March 1, 1981, and are completed prior to July 1, 1981, are hereby validated notwithstanding any lack of power or authority, other than constitutional. Such boundary changes shall be the valid boundaries of the respective districts in accordance with their terms and authorization proceedings. This section shall not operate to validate any boundary change which was determined in any legal proceedings to be illegal, void, or ineffective prior to March 1, 1981, or any boundary change the validity of which is the subject of a legal proceeding instituted prior to March 1, 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-112. Validation of boundaries of metropolitan districts. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1547, § 1, effective July 1.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-113. Liberal construction.

32-1-113. Liberal construction.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-113. Liberal construction. / Statute text

This article, being necessary to secure the public health, safety, convenience, and welfare, shall be liberally construed to effect its purposes.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-113. Liberal construction. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1547, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS / 32-1-113. Liberal construction. / Annotations

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BACK TO TOP

Editor's note: This section is similar to former §§ 32-1-111 and 32-4-130 as they existed prior to 1981.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 2
CONTROL ACT

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / Annotations

Law reviews: For article, "Metropolitan District Service Plans: An Overview of Municipal Review", see 33 Colo. Law. 63 (April 2004).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-201. Applicability.

32-1-201. Applicability.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-201. Applicability. / Statute text

This part 2 shall be applicable to any petition for the organization of any proposed special district filed in any district court of competent jurisdiction, except where a petition for the organization of a special district confined exclusively within the boundaries of any existing municipality has been approved by a resolution of the governing body of the municipality.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-201. Applicability. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1547, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-201. Applicability. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-203 as it existed prior to 1981.

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BACK TO TOP

ANNOTATION

Law reviews. For article, "1974 Land Use Legislation in Colorado", see 51 Den. L.J. 467 (1974).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-202. Filing of service plan required - report of filing - contents - fee.

32-1-202. Filing of service plan required - report of filing - contents - fee.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-202. Filing of service plan required - report of filing - contents - fee. / Statute text

(1) (a) Persons proposing the organization of a special district, except for a special district that is contained entirely within the boundaries of a municipality and subject to the provisions of section 32-1-204.5, shall submit a service plan to the board of county commissioners of each county that has territory included within the boundaries of the proposed special district prior to filing a petition for the organization of the proposed special district in any district court. The service plan shall be filed with the county clerk and recorder for the board of county commissioners at least ten days prior to a regular meeting of the board of county commissioners, the division, and the state auditor. Within five days after the filing of any service plan, the county clerk and recorder, on behalf of the board of county commissioners, shall report to the division on forms furnished by the division the name and type of the proposed special district for which the service plan has been filed. If required by county policy adopted pursuant to the procedure provided in section 30-28-112, C.R.S., the service plan shall be referred to the planning commission which shall consider and make a recommendation on the service plan to the board of county commissioners within thirty days after the plan was filed with the county clerk and recorder. At the next regular meeting of the board of county commissioners that is held at least ten days after the final planning commission action on the service plan, the board of county commissioners shall set a date within thirty days of the meeting for a public hearing on the service plan of the proposed special district. The board of county commissioners shall provide written notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing to the division. The board of county commissioners may continue the hearing for a period not to exceed thirty days unless the proponents of the special district and the board agree to continue the hearing for a longer period.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section, the service plan of a proposed health service district, health assurance district, or early childhood development service district shall not be referred to the county planning commission for consideration or recommendations. At the next regular meeting of the board of county commissioners that is held at least ten days after the filing of the service plan with the county clerk and recorder, the board

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

of county commissioners shall set a date within thirty days of such filing for a public hearing on the service plan of the proposed district. The board of county commissioners shall provide written notice of the meeting pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this section.

(2) The service plan shall contain the following:

(a) A description of the proposed services;

(b) A financial plan showing how the proposed services are to be financed, including the proposed operating revenue derived from property taxes for the first budget year of the district, which shall not be materially exceeded except as authorized pursuant to section 32-1-207 or 29-1-302, C.R.S. All proposed indebtedness for the district shall be displayed together with a schedule indicating the year or years in which the debt is scheduled to be issued. The board of directors of the district shall notify the board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality of any alteration or revision of the proposed schedule of debt issuance set forth in the financial plan.

(c) A preliminary engineering or architectural survey showing how the proposed services are to be provided;

(d) A map of the proposed special district boundaries and an estimate of the population and valuation for assessment of the proposed special district;

(e) A general description of the facilities to be constructed and the standards of such construction, including a statement of how the facility and service standards of the proposed special district are compatible with facility and service standards of any county within which all or any portion of the proposed special district is to be located, and of municipalities and special districts which are interested parties pursuant to section 32-1-204 (1);

(f) A general description of the estimated cost of acquiring land, engineering services, legal services, administrative services, initial proposed indebtedness and estimated proposed maximum interest rates and discounts, and other major expenses related to the organization and initial operation of the district;

(g) A description of any arrangement or proposed agreement with any political subdivision for the performance of any services between the proposed special district and such other political subdivision, and, if the form contract to be used is available, it shall be attached to the service plan;

(h) Information, along with other evidence presented at the hearing, satisfactory to establish that each of the criteria set forth in section 32-1-203, if applicable, is met;

(i) Such additional information as the board of county commissioners may require by resolution on which to base its findings pursuant to section 32-1-203;

(j) For a mental health care service district, any additional information required by section

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

32-17-107 (2) that is not otherwise required by paragraphs (a) to (i) of this subsection (2);

(k) For a health assurance district, any additional information required by section 32-19-106 (2) that is not otherwise required by paragraphs (a) to (i) of this subsection (2);

(l) For an early childhood development service district, any additional information required by section 32-21-105 (2) that is not otherwise required by subsections (2)(a) to (2)(i) of this section.

(2.1) No service plan shall be approved if a petition objecting to the service plan and signed by the owners of taxable real and personal property, which property equals more than fifty percent of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable real and personal property to be included in such district, is filed with the board of county commissioners no later than ten days prior to the hearing under section 32-1-204, unless such property has been excluded by the board of county commissioners under section 32-1-203 (3.5).

(3) Each service plan filed shall be accompanied by a processing fee set by the board of county commissioners not to exceed five hundred dollars, which shall be deposited into the county general fund; except that the board of county commissioners may waive such fee. Such processing fee shall be utilized to reimburse the county for reasonable direct costs related to processing such service plan and the hearing prescribed by section 32-1-204, including the costs of notice, publication, and recording of testimony. If the board of county commissioners determines that special review of the service plan is required, the board may impose an additional fee to reimburse the county for reasonable direct costs related to such special review. If the board imposes such an additional fee, it shall not be less than five hundred dollars, and it shall not exceed one one-hundredth of one percent of the total amount of the debt to be issued by the district as indicated in the service plan or the amended service plan or ten thousand dollars, whichever is less. The board may waive all or any portion of the additional fee.

(4) In the case of a proposed health service district, submission to the board of county commissioners by the petitioners of a license or certificate of compliance or evidence of a pending application for a license or certificate of compliance issued by the department of public health and environment shall constitute compliance with subsection (2) of this section.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-202. Filing of service plan required - report of filing - contents - fee. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1547, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 82:** (1) amended, p. 491, § 1, effective February 19. **L. 85:** (1) amended, (2) R&RE, and (4) added, pp. 1098, 1099, §§ 1-3, effective May 3; (2.1) added, p. 1104, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 86:** (2)(b) amended, p. 1030, § 13, effective January 1, 1987. **L. 90:** (3) amended, p. 1452, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 91:** (1), (2)(b), and (3) amended, p. 781, § 3, effective June 4. **L. 94:** (4) amended, p. 2802, § 566, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (4) amended, p. 473, § 8, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (2)(j) added, p. 1035, § 2, effective

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BACK TO TOP

June 2. **L. 2007:** (1) amended and (2) (k) added, pp. 1186, 1187, §§ 2, 3, effective July 1. **L. 2019:** (1)(b) amended and (2)(l) added, (HB 19-1052), ch. 72, p. 257, § 2, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-202. Filing of service plan required - report of filing - contents - fee. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-204 as it existed prior to 1981.

ANNOTATION

Excess mill levy was illegal under subsection (2)(b) of this section and §§ 32-1-204 and 29-1-302. Under subsection (2)(b), before a special district can be organized, the board of county commissioners must receive and approve a special district service plan. This subsection sets an upper limit on operating revenue derived from property taxes, subject to authorization to materially exceed this value. If mill levy caps were unenforceable, the phrase "which shall not be materially exceeded as authorized" in subsection (2)(b) would be meaningless. Prospect 34, LLC v. Gunnison County Bd., 2015 COA 160, 363 P.3d 819.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-203. Action on service plan - criteria.

32-1-203. Action on service plan - criteria.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-203. Action on service plan - criteria. / Statute text

(1) The board of county commissioners of each county which has territory included within the proposed special district, other than a proposed special district which is contained entirely within the boundaries of a municipality, shall constitute the approving authority under this part 2 and shall review any service plan filed by the petitioners of any proposed special district. With reference to the review of any service plan, the board of county commissioners has the following authority:

(a) To approve without condition or modification the service plan submitted;

(b) To disapprove the service plan submitted;

(c) To conditionally approve the service plan subject to the submission of additional information relating to or the modification of the proposed service plan.

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BACK TO TOP

(2) The board of county commissioners shall disapprove the service plan unless evidence satisfactory to the board of each of the following is presented:

(a) There is sufficient existing and projected need for organized service in the area to be serviced by the proposed special district.

(b) The existing service in the area to be served by the proposed special district is inadequate for present and projected needs.

(c) The proposed special district is capable of providing economical and sufficient service to the area within its proposed boundaries.

(d) The area to be included in the proposed special district has, or will have, the financial ability to discharge the proposed indebtedness on a reasonable basis.

(2.5) The board of county commissioners may disapprove the service plan if evidence satisfactory to the board of any of the following, at the discretion of the board, is not presented:

(a) Adequate service is not, or will not be, available to the area through the county or other existing municipal or quasi-municipal corporations, including existing special districts, within a reasonable time and on a comparable basis.

(b) The facility and service standards of the proposed special district are compatible with the facility and service standards of each county within which the proposed special district is to be located and each municipality which is an interested party under section 32-1-204 (1).

(c) The proposal is in substantial compliance with a master plan adopted pursuant to section 30-28-106, C.R.S.

(d) The proposal is in compliance with any duly adopted county, regional, or state long-range water quality management plan for the area.

(e) The creation of the proposed special district will be in the best interests of the area proposed to be served.

(3) The board of county commissioners may conditionally approve the service plan of a proposed special district upon satisfactory evidence that it does not comply with one or more of the criteria enumerated in subsection (2) of this section. Final approval shall be contingent upon modification of the service plan to include such changes or additional information as shall be specifically stated in the findings of the board of county commissioners.

(3.5) (a) The board of county commissioners may exclude territory from a proposed special district prior to approval of the service plan submitted by the petitioners of a proposed special district. The petitioners shall have the burden of proving that the exclusion of the property is not in the best interests of the proposed special district. Any person owning property in the proposed special district who requests that his or her property be excluded from the special district prior to

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

approval of the service plan shall submit the request to the board of county commissioners no later than ten days prior to the hearing held under section 32-1-204, but the board of county commissioners shall not be limited in its action with respect to exclusion of territory based upon the request. Any request for exclusion shall be acted upon before final action of the county commissioners under section 32-1-205.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (3.5)(a) of this section, if the service plan submitted by the petitioners of a proposed special district is for a health service district, health assurance district, or early childhood development service district, the board of county commissioners shall not accept or act upon the request of a person owning property in the proposed special district that his or her property be excluded from the special district.

(4) The findings of the board of county commissioners shall be based solely upon the service plan and evidence presented at the hearing by the petitioners, planning commission, and any interested party.

(5) In the case of a proposed health service district, submission to the board of county commissioners by the petitioners of a license or certificate of compliance or evidence of a pending application for a license or certificate of compliance issued by the department of public health and environment shall constitute compliance with subsections (2) and (2.5) of this section.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-203. Action on service plan - criteria. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1548, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (1) amended, (2) R&RE, and (2.5) and (5) added, pp. 1099, 1100, §§ 4, 5, effective May 3; (3.5) added, p. 1104, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 94:** (5) amended, p. 2802, § 567, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (5) amended, p. 473, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (3.5) amended, p. 1187, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 2019:** (3.5)(b) amended, (HB 19-1052), ch. 72, p. 258, § 3, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-203. Action on service plan - criteria. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204. Public hearing on service plan - procedures - decision.

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BACK TO TOP

32-1-204. Public hearing on service plan - procedures - decision.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204. Public hearing on service plan - procedures - decision. / Statute text

(1) The board of county commissioners shall provide written notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing to the petitioners and the governing body of any existing municipality or special district that has levied an ad valorem tax within the next preceding tax year and that has boundaries within a radius of three miles of the proposed special district boundaries, which governmental units shall be interested parties for the purposes of this part 2. The board of county commissioners shall make publication of the date, time, location, and purpose of the hearing, the first of which shall be at least twenty days prior to the hearing date. The board of county commissioners shall include in the notice a general description of the land contained within the boundaries of the proposed special district and information outlining methods and procedures pursuant to section 32-1-203 (3.5) concerning the filing of a petition for exclusion of territory; except that, if the hearing is to review a service plan for a health service district, health assurance district, or early childhood development service district, the notice shall not include information regarding filing a petition for exclusion of territory. The publications shall constitute constructive notice to the residents and property owners within the proposed special district who shall also be interested parties at the hearing.

(1.5) Not more than thirty days nor less than twenty days prior to the hearing held pursuant to this section, the petitioners for the organization of the special district shall send letter notification of the hearing to the property owners within the proposed special district as listed on the records of the county assessor on the date requested unless the petitioners represent one hundred percent of the property owners. The notification shall indicate that it is a notice of a hearing for the organization of a special district and shall indicate the date, time, location, and purpose of such hearing, a reference to the type of special district, the maximum mill levy, if any, or stating that there is no maximum that may be imposed by the proposed special district, and procedures for the filing of a petition for exclusion pursuant to section 32-1-203 (3.5). Except when no mailing is required, the mailing of the letter notification to all addresses or post office box addresses within the proposed special district shall constitute a good-faith effort to comply with this subsection (1.5), and failure to notify all electors thereby shall not provide grounds for a challenge to the hearing being held.

(2) (a) If there is a county planning commission or a regional planning commission in lieu thereof, the service plan submitted by the petitioners for the organization of the proposed special district shall be delivered by the county clerk and recorder to such planning commission. The county planning commission or regional planning commission shall study such service plan and present its recommendations consistent with this part 2 to the board of county commissioners

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

within thirty days following the filing of the service plan with the county clerk and recorder.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(a) of this section, the service plan of a proposed health service district, health assurance district, or early childhood development service district shall not be delivered to the planning commission for study or recommendations unless specifically requested by the petitioners. If the petitioners do not request that the service plan be delivered to the planning commission, the clerk and recorder shall deliver the service plan to the board of county commissioners and the planning commission shall not be required to study the service plan or to present recommendations to the board of county commissioners pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(3) The hearing held by the board of county commissioners shall be open to the public, and a record of the proceedings shall be made. All interested parties as defined in this section shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard under such rules of procedure as may be established by the board of county commissioners. Any testimony or evidence which in the discretion of the board of county commissioners is relevant to the organization of the proposed special district shall be considered.

(4) Within twenty days after the completion of the hearing, the board of county commissioners shall advise the petitioners for the organization of the proposed special district in writing of its action on the service plan. If the service plan is approved as submitted, a resolution of approval shall be issued to the petitioners. If the service plan is disapproved, the specific detailed reasons for such disapproval shall be set forth in writing. If the service plan is conditionally approved, the changes or modifications to be made in, or additional information relating to, the service plan, together with the reasons for such changes, modifications, or additional information, shall also be set forth in writing, and the proceeding shall be continued until such changes, modifications, or additional information is incorporated in the service plan. Upon the incorporation of such changes, modifications, or additional information in the service plan of the proposed special district, the board of county commissioners shall issue a resolution of approval to the petitioners.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204. Public hearing on service plan - procedures - decision. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1549, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (1.5) added, p. 1106, § 1, effective January 1, 1986. **L. 91:** (1), (1.5), and (2) amended, p. 782, § 4, effective June 4. **L. 96:** (1.5) amended, p. 309, § 7, effective April 15. **L. 2007:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 1188, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 2019:** (1) and (2)(b) amended, (HB 19-1052), ch. 72, p. 258, § 4, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT /

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BACK TO TOP

32-1-204. Public hearing on service plan - procedures - decision. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-208 as it existed prior to 1981.

ANNOTATION

Excess mill levy was illegal under subsection (1.5) of this section and §§ 32-1-202 and 29-1-302. Subsection (1.5) contemplates the existence of a "maximum mill levy". The section sets out notice requirements for hearings on proposed taxes. If the general assembly did not intend for mill levy caps to be enforceable, the statute would not need to mandate notice of the maximum mill levy. Prospect 34, LLC v. Gunnison County Bd., 2015 COA 160, 363 P.3d 819.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204.5. Approval by municipality.

32-1-204.5. Approval by municipality.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204.5. Approval by municipality. / Statute text

(1) No special district shall be organized if its boundaries are wholly contained within the boundaries of a municipality or municipalities, except upon adoption of a resolution of approval by the governing body of each municipality. The information required and criteria applicable to such approval shall be the information required and criteria set forth in sections 32-1-202 (2) and 32-1-203 (2). With reference to the review of any service plan, the governing body of each municipality has the following authority:

(a) To approve without condition or modification, the service plan submitted;

(b) To disapprove the service plan submitted;

(c) To conditionally approve the service plan subject to the submission of additional information relating to, or the modification of, the proposed service plan or by agreement with the proponents of the proposed service plan.

(2) In the case of a proposed health service district, submission to the governing body of the municipality of a license or certificate of compliance or evidence of a pending application for a license or certificate of compliance issued by the department of public health and environment shall constitute compliance with the requirements of sections 32-1-202 (2) and 32-1-203 (2) and (2.5) as required by subsection (1) of this section.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204.5. Approval by municipality. / History

Source: L. 85: Entire section added, p. 1101, § 6, effective May 3. **L. 94:** (2) amended, p. 2802, § 568, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (2) amended, p. 473, § 10, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204.7. Approval by an annexing municipality.

32-1-204.7. Approval by an annexing municipality.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204.7. Approval by an annexing municipality. / Statute text

(1) If a special district that was originally approved by a board of county commissioners becomes wholly contained within the boundaries of a municipality or municipalities by annexation or boundary adjustment, the governing body of the special district may petition the governing body of any such municipality to accept a designation as the approving authority for the special district. The municipality may accept the designation through the adoption of a resolution of approval by the governing body of the municipality.

(2) Upon the adoption of the resolution by the governing body of any municipality pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, all powers and authorities vested in the board of county commissioners pursuant to this article shall be transferred to the governing body of the municipality, which shall constitute the approving authority for the special district for all purposes under this article.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-204.7. Approval by an annexing municipality. / History

Source: L. 2003: Entire section added, p. 1315, § 2, effective August 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-205. Resolution of approval required.

32-1-205. Resolution of approval required.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-205. Resolution of approval required. / Statute text

(1) A petition for the organization of a special district filed in any district court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of section 32-1-301 shall be accompanied by a resolution approving the service plan of the proposed special district by the board of county commissioners of each county where the territory of the proposed special district lies or, where required pursuant to section 32-1-204.5, by a resolution of approval by the governing body of each municipality. If the boundaries of a proposed special district include territory within two or more counties, a resolution approving the service plan for such special district shall be required from the board of county commissioners of each county which has territory included in the proposed special district; but the board of county commissioners of each of the respective counties, in their discretion, may hold a joint hearing on the proposed special district in accordance with section 32-1-204.

(2) Except as provided in section 32-1-206, no petition for the organization of a special district shall be considered by any court in this state without the resolution of approval and the service plan required by this part 2. The approved service plan and the resolution of approval required by this part 2 shall be incorporated by reference in and appended to the order establishing the special district after all other legal procedures for the organization of the proposed special district have been complied with.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-205. Resolution of approval required. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1550, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (1) amended, p. 1101, § 7, effective May 3. **L. 91:** (1) amended, p. 783, § 5, effective June 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-205. Resolution of approval required. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former §§ 32-1-206 and 32-1-209 (1) as they existed prior to 1981.

ANNOTATION

Change from sanitation district to metropolitan district is organization of a new and different special district, not just a mechanical name change. Therefore, approval of the service plan for new

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BACK TO TOP

district is required by the boards of county commissioners of all counties within the district's boundaries. In re Org. of Upper Bear Creek, 682 P.2d 61 (Colo. App. 1983), aff'd on other grounds, 715 P.2d 799 (Colo. 1986).

Authority of city council to approve initial petition for formation of quasi-municipal corporation does not constitute unconstitutional delegation of power because such authority constitutes an exercise of city's police power, which includes implied standard of "reasonableness", and additional procedural steps exist pursuant to this act before such district may be formed. State Farm v. City of Lakewood, 788 P.2d 808 (Colo. 1990) (decided under law in effect prior to 1985 amendment).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-206. Judicial review.

32-1-206. Judicial review.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-206. Judicial review. / Statute text

(1) If the petitioners for the organization of a proposed special district fail to secure such resolution of approval in the first instance or on remand from any board of county commissioners or, where required pursuant to section 32-1-204.5, from the governing body of any municipality, the petitioners may request the court to review such action. If the court determines such action to be arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable, the court shall remand the matter back to the board of county commissioners or to the governing board of the municipality for further action with specific direction as necessary to avoid the arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable result. Another public hearing shall be held with notice to interested parties as defined in section 32-1-204 (1).

(2) If the service plan is approved by the board of county commissioners, any interested party as defined in section 32-1-204 (1), if such party had appeared and presented its objections before the board of county commissioners, shall be given notice and have the right to appear and be heard at the hearing on the court petition for the organization of the special district, and the court may dismiss the court petition upon a determination that the decision of the board of county commissioners was arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-206. Judicial review. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1550, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 91:** (1) amended, p. 783, § 6, effective June 4.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-206. Judicial review. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-209 (1) as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-207. Compliance - modification - enforcement.

32-1-207. Compliance - modification - enforcement.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-207. Compliance - modification - enforcement. / Statute text

(1) Upon final approval by the court for the organization of the special district, the facilities, services, and financial arrangements of the special district shall conform so far as practicable to the approved service plan.

(2) (a) After the organization of a special district pursuant to the provisions of this part 2 and part 3 of this article, material modifications of the service plan as originally approved may be made by the governing body of such special district only by petition to and approval by the board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality that has adopted a resolution of approval of the special district pursuant to section 32-1-204.5 or 32-1-204.7 in substantially the same manner as is provided for the approval of an original service plan; but the processing fee for such modification procedure shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars. Such approval of modifications shall be required only with regard to changes of a basic or essential nature, including but not limited to the following: Any addition to the types of services provided by the special district; a decrease in the level of services; a decrease in the financial ability of the district to discharge the existing or proposed indebtedness; or a decrease in the existing or projected need for organized service in the area. Approval for modification shall not be required for changes necessary only for the execution of the original service plan or for changes in the boundary of the special district; except that the inclusion of property that is located in a county or municipality with no other territory within the special district may constitute a material modification of the service plan or the statement of purposes of the special district as set forth in section 32-1-208. In the event that a special district changes its boundaries to include territory located in a county or municipality with no other territory within the special district, the special district shall notify the board of county commissioners of such county or the governing body of the municipality of such inclusion. The board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality may review such inclusion and, if it determines that the inclusion constitutes a

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

material modification, may require the governing body of such special district to file a modification of its service plan in accordance with the provisions of this subsection (2).

(b) Except as otherwise described in paragraph (d) of this subsection (2), a special district shall not furnish domestic water or sanitary sewer service directly to residents and property owners in unincorporated territory located in a county that has not approved the special district's service plan unless the special district notifies the board of county commissioners of the county of its plan to furnish domestic water or sanitary sewer service directly to residents and property owners in the county and receives approval from the board to do so. Within forty-five days of receiving the notification, the board may review the special district's planned action and may, in its own discretion and following notice by the board, require a public hearing prior to giving approval of the planned action, prior to which hearing the governing body of the special district shall provide such information and data as the board reasonably requests. Failure to provide information as requested by the board is grounds for the board to delay the public hearing until the board receives the information. The board shall either approve or deny the proposed action within one hundred twenty days of the public hearing.

(c) Before approving a planned special district action described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), the board of county commissioners of a county shall, not less than forty-five days prior to the first meeting of the board at which the approval specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2) may be given, provide public notice in the manner that the county requires of the possible approval within the newly described area to be served. The notice is required to include specific notification that any property owner wishing to have his or her property excluded from the proposed area to be served shall, not later than forty days from the first public notice, request that his or her property be excluded from the proposed area to be served by the special district. The board is not limited in its action with respect to exclusion of territory based on the request. A request for exclusion shall include a legal description of the property subject to the request, and the board shall act upon the request before taking final action on the request for approval pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (2).

(d) The requirements detailed in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection (2) do not apply in the following circumstances:

(I) A special district provides domestic water or sanitary sewer service only to private property owners pursuant to written agreement between the special district and the property owners;

(II) A special district provides domestic water or sanitary sewer service within the boundaries of another governmental entity, including, without limitation, a city, a municipality, or another special district, pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement;

(III) A special district provides any storm drainage or storm sewer services or facilities within the county; or

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(IV) Domestic water service and sanitary sewer service is being provided, or a water or sanitary sewer service area extension has been approved by the county into which the service area is to be expanded, within unincorporated territory located in the county as of May 11, 2012.

(3) (a) Any material departure from the service plan as originally approved or, if the same has been modified, from the service plan as modified, which constitutes a material modification thereof as set forth in subsection (2) of this section, may be enjoined by the court approving the organization of such special district upon its own motion, upon the motion of the board of county commissioners or governing body of a municipality from which a resolution of approval is required by this part 2, or upon the motion of any interested party as defined in section 32-1-204 (1).

(b) No action may be brought to enjoin the construction of any facility, the issuance of bonds or other financial obligations, the levy of taxes, the imposition of rates, fees, tolls and charges, or any other proposed activity of the special district unless such action is commenced within forty-five days after the special district has published notice of its intention to undertake such activity. Such notice shall describe the activity proposed to be undertaken by the special district and provide that any action to enjoin such activity as a material departure from the service plan must be brought within forty-five days from publication of the notice. The notice shall be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The district shall also provide notice to the district court. On or before the date of publication of the notice, the district shall also mail notice to the board of county commissioners or governing body of a municipality from which a resolution is required by this part 2.

BACK TO TOP

(c) A board of county commissioners may request any special district located wholly or partially within the county's unincorporated area, and the governing body of any municipality may request any special district located wholly or partially within the municipality's boundaries, to file, not more than once a year, a special district annual report. The annual report shall be filed with the board of county commissioners, any municipality in which the special district is wholly or partially located, the division, and the state auditor, and such report shall be deposited with the county clerk and recorder for public inspection, and a copy of the report shall be made available by the special district to any interested party pursuant to section 32-1-204 (1). If a special district files an annual report pursuant to this paragraph (c), such report shall include but shall not be limited to information on the progress of the special district in the implementation of the service plan. The board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality may review the annual reports in a regularly scheduled public meeting, and such review shall be included as an agenda item in the public notice for such meeting.

(d) Any special district created on or after July 1, 1991, shall annually file the report specified in paragraph (c) of this subsection (3) with the board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality that has adopted a resolution of approval of the special district pursuant to section 32-1-204.5 or 32-1-204.7 for five years after its organization and for succeeding annual periods, if so requested by the board of county commissioners or the

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BACK TO TOP

governing body of the municipality. The annual report shall also be filed with the division and with the state auditor. The state auditor shall review the annual report and report any apparent decrease in the financial ability of the district to discharge its existing or proposed indebtedness in accordance with the service plan to the division. In such event, the division shall confer with the board of the special district and the board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality regarding such condition. The division may establish a standard form for the annual report that the board of a special district may elect to use.

(4) In the case of a health service district, a change in service by the district shall not be deemed material unless the change affects the license or certificate of compliance issued by the department of public health and environment. A health service district shall be exempt from paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (3) of this section.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-207. Compliance - modification - enforcement. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1551, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (3) amended and (4) added, p. 1102, §§ 8, 9, effective May 3. **L. 90:** (2) amended, p. 1452, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 91:** (2) and (3)(c) amended and (3)(d) added, p. 784, § 7, effective June 4. **L. 94:** (4) amended, p. 2803, § 569, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (4) amended, p. 473, § 11, effective July 1. **L. 2003:** (2) and (3)(d) amended, p. 1316, § 3, effective August 6. **L. 2009:** (3)(d) amended, (SB 09-087), ch. 325, p. 1732, § 2, effective September 1. **L. 2012:** (2) amended, (HB 12-1239), ch. 175, p. 628, § 1, effective May 11.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-207. Compliance - modification - enforcement. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-209 as it existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the table located in the back of the index.

ANNOTATION

Statute not applicable to special districts organized under law preceding the 1965 Special District Control Act. Senior Corp. v. Bd. of Assessment Appeals, 702 P.2d 732 (Colo. 1985).

This section contains no procedure for "reorganization", and in the absence of any legislatively created procedure for such, the court will not superimpose a judicially crafted "reorganization" procedure. Upper Bear Creek v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 715 P.2d 799 (Colo. 1986).

When determining whether there was a "material modification", the word "shall" in the service plan is part of the phrase "shall have the power and authority to finance, design, construct, acquire, install, maintain and provide services" and cannot be construed to relate to the infinitive verb forms of

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BACK TO TOP

finance, design, construct, acquire, install, maintain, and provide. Thus, "shall" does not obligate the special district to acquire or operate the plan, but, instead, grants unconditional authority to the district to do so. Indian Mtn. v. Indian Mtn. Metro., 2016 COA 118M, 412 P.3d 881.

It is a material modification of a service plan when a special district expands its sanitation service authority to include water service and thus, pursuant to subsection (2), approval by the boards of county commissioners of the counties in which the special district is located is required. Upper Bear Creek v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 715 P.2d 799 (Colo. 1986).

This section requires ultimate rather than delegated action by the board of county commissioners for a material modification of a service plan. Approval from other county entities, such as the county attorney, the county planning commission, and the county community and economic development director, do not constitute approval from the board of county commissioners. Bill Barrett Corp. v. Lembke, 2018 COA 134, __ P.3d __.

District's geographic shifts, failure to implement services articulated in the service plan, and action to expand the service constituted material modifications to the service plan. Accordingly, the district must give notice to and seek approval for the modifications. Bill Barrett Corp. v. Sand Hills Metro., 2016 COA 144, 411 P.3d 1086.

The board of county commissioners' approval was needed for material modification related to unincorporated area of a district whose original plan required approval only by the town within which it was contained entirely. Bill Barrett Corp. v. Sand Hills Metro., 2016 COA 144, 411 P.3d 1086.

A service plan providing that the special district "will" build specified recreation facilities obligates the special district to build those facilities unless the special district can demonstrate that plan compliance is no longer practicable. Plains Metro. Dist. v. Ken-Caryl Ranch, 250 P.3d 697 (Colo. App. 2010).

Special district's violation of its service plan can be remedied under subsection (3)(a). Although the claims alleging that the special district did not comply with its duty did not specifically allege a statutory cause of action or cite provisions governing "compliance" with and judicial "enforcement" of service plans, the substance of the requested relief was clear and consistent with the statute. Plains Metro. Dist. v. Ken-Caryl Ranch, 250 P.3d 697 (Colo. App. 2010).

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-208. Statement of purposes - districts without service plans.

32-1-208. Statement of purposes - districts without service plans.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-208. Statement of purposes - districts without service plans. / Statute text

(1) On or before July 1, 1986, any special district which does not have a service plan approved pursuant to this part 2 shall file a statement of purposes in the form set forth in subsection (2) of this section with the board of county commissioners of each county and governing body of each municipality which has territory included within the boundaries of the

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BACK TO TOP

special district and with the division. The statement of purposes shall be accepted by such board of county commissioners and by such governing body of each municipality without any requirement for hearing thereon. The following documents shall be deemed to be the statement of purposes required by this section for any special district which does not have a service plan approved pursuant to this part 2 because it was at the time of organization confined exclusively within the boundaries of a municipality, and no new statement of purposes need be filed by the special district except as required by subsection (3) of this section:

(a) The petition for organization;

(b) The resolution or ordinance of the governing body of the municipality approving the special district;

(c) Any agreements between the municipality and the district; and

(d) Any plans filed with the municipality describing the services to be provided by the special district.

(2) The statement of purposes required under this section shall describe the purposes for which the special district was organized, the services and facilities provided or to be provided by the special district, and the areas served or to be served by the special district.

(3) Any statement of purposes filed by a special district pursuant to this section shall be subject to the requirements of and may be modified in the manner provided in section 32-1-207. The board shall notify the board of county commissioners or the governing body of any municipality in which the special district is wholly or partially located of any proposed increase in the indebtedness of the district.

(4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to health service districts.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-208. Statement of purposes - districts without service plans. / History

Source: L. 85: Entire section added, p. 1103, § 10, effective May 3. **L. 91:** (3) amended, p. 786, § 8, effective June 4. **L. 96:** (4) amended, p. 474, § 12, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-209. Submission of information.

32-1-209. Submission of information.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT

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BACK TO TOP

ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-209. Submission of information. / Statute text

If a special district fails either to file a special district annual report pursuant to section 32-1-207 (3)(c) or to provide any information required to be submitted pursuant to section 32-1-104 (2) within nine months of the date of the request for such information, the board of county commissioners of any county or the governing body of any municipality in which the special district is located, after notice to the affected special district, may notify any county treasurer holding moneys of the special district and authorize the county treasurer to prohibit release of any such moneys until the special district complies with such requirements.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 2 CONTROL ACT / 32-1-209. Submission of information. / History

Source: L. 91: Entire section added, p. 786, § 9, effective June 4.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 3
ORGANIZATION

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-301. Petition for organization.

32-1-301. Petition for organization.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-301. Petition for organization. / Statute text

(1) After approval of the service plan pursuant to section 32-1-205 or 32-1-206 or after approval of the petition by the governing body of a municipality pursuant to section 32-1-205, the persons proposing the organization of a special district may file a petition for organization in the district court vested with jurisdiction of the county in which all or part of the real property in the proposed special district is situated. The petition shall be signed by not less than thirty percent or two hundred of the taxpaying electors of the proposed special district, whichever number is smaller. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, only those signatures obtained after the approval of the service plan pursuant to section 32-1-205 or 32-1-206 or after approval of the petition by the governing body of a municipality pursuant to section 32-1-205 shall be considered by the district court in making the evidentiary finding concerning the required number of taxpaying electors of the proposed special district that is required by section 32-1-305 (1).

(2) The petition shall set forth:

(a) The type of service to be provided by the proposed special district and the name of the proposed special district, consisting of a chosen name preceding one of the following phrases:

(I) Ambulance district;

(I.1) Fire protection district;

(II) Health service district;

(III) Metropolitan district;

(IV) Park and recreation district;

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(V) Sanitation district;

(VI) Water and sanitation district;

(VII) Water district;

(VIII) Tunnel district;

(IX) Mental health care service district;

(X) Health assurance district;

(XI) Early childhood development service district.

(b) A general description of the facilities and improvements, if any, to be constructed, installed, or purchased for the special district;

(c) A statement as to whether the proposed special district lies wholly or partly within another special district or municipality;

(d) The estimated cost of the proposed facilities and improvements;

(d.1) The estimated property tax revenues for the district's first budget year;

(e) A general description of the boundaries of the special district or the territory to be included therein, with such certainty as to enable a property owner to determine whether or not his property is within the special district;

(f) If selected by the petitioners, a general description of the boundaries of director districts which shall have, as nearly as possible, the same number of eligible electors, which shall be as contiguous and compact as possible, and which shall be represented on the board by a director who is an eligible elector within the boundaries of the respective director district;

(g) A request for the organization of the special district;

(h) A request for the submission to the electors of the special district at the organizational election of any questions permitted to be submitted at such election pursuant to section 32-1-803.5.

(3) The petition shall be accompanied by a resolution approving the service plan as provided in section 32-1-205, unless the service plan has been approved by the court as provided in section 32-1-206 or unless such special district is confined exclusively within the boundaries of any existing municipality, and the governing body of the municipality has approved the petition for organization by resolution which shall be attached to the petition.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

32-1-301. Petition for organization. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1551, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 83:** (2)(a)(I) R&RE and (2)(a)(I.1) added, p. 412, §§ 4, 5, effective June 1. **L. 85:** (1) amended, p. 1108, § 1, effective March 1; (2)(f) amended, p. 1083, § 2, effective July 1, 1986. **L. 86:** (2)(d.1) added, p. 1030, § 14, effective January 1, 1987. **L. 87:** (2)(a)(VIII) added, p. 1232, § 2, effective May 13. **L. 91:** (1) amended, p. 786, § 10, effective June 4. **L. 92:** (2)(f) amended, p. 875, § 107, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** (2)(h) added, p. 1439, § 134, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (2)(a)(II) amended, p. 470, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 2005:** (2)(a)(IX) added, p. 1035, § 3, effective June 2. **L. 2007:** (2)(a)(X) added, p. 1189, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (1) amended, (HB 17-1065), ch. 73, p. 232, § 3, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (2)(a)(XI) added, (HB 19-1052), ch. 72, p. 259, § 5, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-301. Petition for organization. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

BACK TO TOP

ANNOTATION

Authority of city council to approve initial petition for formation of quasi-municipal corporation does not constitute unconstitutional delegation of power because such authority constitutes an exercise of city's police power, which includes implied standard of "reasonableness", and additional procedural steps exist pursuant to this act before such district may be formed. State Farm v. City of Lakewood, 788 P.2d 808 (Colo. 1990) (decided under law in effect prior to 1985 amendment).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-302. Bond of petitioners.

32-1-302. Bond of petitioners.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-302. Bond of petitioners. / Statute text

At the time of filing the petition or at any time subsequent thereto, and prior to the time of hearing on said petition, a bond shall be filed, with security approved by the court, or a cash deposit made sufficient to pay all expenses connected with the proceedings in case the

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BACK TO TOP

organization of the special district is not effected. If at any time during the proceeding the court is satisfied that the bond first executed or the amount of cash deposited is insufficient in amount, it may require the execution of an additional bond or the deposit of additional cash within a time to be fixed, not less than ten days distant, and upon failure of the petitioner to execute or deposit the same, the petition shall be dismissed.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-302. Bond of petitioners. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1552, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-302. Bond of petitioners. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-303. Court jurisdiction - transfer of file - judge not disqualified.

32-1-303. Court jurisdiction - transfer of file - judge not disqualified.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-303. Court jurisdiction - transfer of file - judge not disqualified. / Statute text

(1) (a) The district court sitting in or for any county in this state is vested with the jurisdiction to organize special districts which may be entirely within or partly within and partly without the judicial district in which said court is located. The court in and for the county in which the petition for the organization of a special district has been filed, for all purposes of this part 3 except as otherwise provided, shall thereafter maintain and have original and exclusive jurisdiction, coextensive with the boundaries of the special district and of the property proposed to be included in said special district or affected by said special district, without regard to the usual limits of its jurisdiction.

(b) If any special district by any reason whatsoever subsequently becomes situated entirely without a judicial district, the court on its motion or upon motion of the board shall transfer the entire file pertaining to the special district to the district court of the judicial district in which the

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BACK TO TOP

major portion of the special district is then located, and said district court then shall have full jurisdiction over the special district in accordance with this article as if the proceedings had originally been filed there.

(2) No judge of the court wherein such petition is filed shall be disqualified to perform any duty imposed by this part 3 by reason of ownership of property within any proposed special district.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-303. Court jurisdiction - transfer of file - judge not disqualified. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1552, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-303. Court jurisdiction - transfer of file - judge not disqualified. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-304. Notice of court hearing.

32-1-304. Notice of court hearing.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-304. Notice of court hearing. / Statute text

Except as otherwise provided in section 32-1-304.5, immediately after the filing of a petition, the court wherein the petition is filed, by order, shall fix a place and time, not less than twenty-one days nor more than forty-two days after the petition is filed, for hearing thereon. The clerk of the court shall cause notice by publication to be made of the pendency of the petition, the purposes and boundaries of the special district, and the time and place of hearing thereon. The clerk of the court shall also forthwith cause a copy of the notice to be sent by United States first-class mail or by electronic service using the e-filing system of the judicial department to the board of county commissioners of each of the several counties and to each party entitled to notice pursuant to section 32-1-206 (2). The notice must include a general description of the land contained within the boundaries of the proposed special district and information explaining

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BACK TO TOP

methods and procedures for the filing of a petition for exclusion of territory pursuant to section 32-1-305 (3).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-304. Notice of court hearing. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1553, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 91:** Entire section amended, p. 786, § 11, effective June 4. **L. 2007:** Entire section amended, p. 1189, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** Entire section amended, (HB 17-1142), ch. 66, p. 208, § 1, effective September 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-304. Notice of court hearing. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

(2) Section 6 of chapter 66 (HB 17-1142), Session Laws of Colorado 2017, provides that the act changing this section applies to petitions filed on or after September 1, 2017.

Cross references: For requirements for notice by publication, see part 1 of article 70 of title 24.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-304.5. Court hearing not required - health service district - health assurance district.

32-1-304.5. Court hearing not required - health service district - health assurance district.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-304.5. Court hearing not required - health service district - health assurance district. / Statute text

(1) If the petition for organization filed with the court pursuant to section 32-1-301 is for a health service district or health assurance district, the court shall not hold a hearing or provide notice pursuant to section 32-1-304. In lieu of holding a hearing, the court shall review the petition for a health service district or health assurance district and the additional information submitted to the court pursuant to section 32-1-301. In addition, the court shall review the

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BACK TO TOP

findings of the board of county commissioners pursuant to section 32-1-205 or the findings of the court pursuant to section 32-1-206, as applicable.

(2) The court shall complete the review of information required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section within thirty calendar days of receipt of the petition for a health service district or health assurance district. Within such period, the court shall determine whether the persons proposing the petition have complied with all of the statutory requirements for proposing a special district and that the required number of taxpaying electors of the proposed special district have signed the petition.

(3) If the court finds that the petition has not been signed and presented in conformity with this part 3, the court shall either dismiss said proceedings and adjudge the costs against the signers of the petition in the proportion it deems just and equitable or allow the petitioners an opportunity to correct any technical defects in the petition and refile the petition with the court. No appeal or other remedy shall lie from an order dismissing said proceedings. Nothing in this subsection (3) shall be construed to prevent the filing of a subsequent petition for similar improvements or for a similar special district, and the right to renew such proceedings is hereby expressly granted and authorized.

(4) The court shall not accept or act upon petitions filed by an owner of any real property within a proposed health service district or health assurance district stating reasons why the property should not be included therein and requesting that the property be excluded therefrom.

(5) If the court concludes that a petition for the organization of a health service district or health assurance district has been signed and presented in conformity with this part 3 and that the allegations of the petition are true, the court, by order duly entered of record, shall direct that the question of the organization of the special district be submitted at an election to be held for that purpose in accordance with the provisions of articles 1 to 13 of title 1, C.R.S. In such event, the provisions of section 32-1-305 (5), (6), and (7) shall apply to the election.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-304.5. Court hearing not required - health service district - health assurance district. / History

Source: L. 2007: Entire section added, p. 1189, § 8, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-305. Court hearing - election - declaration of organization.

32-1-305. Court hearing - election - declaration of organization.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-305. Court hearing - election - declaration of organization. / Statute text

(1) Except as otherwise provided in section 32-1-304.5, on the day fixed for the hearing provided in section 32-1-304 or at an adjournment thereof, the court shall first ascertain, from such evidence which may be adduced, that the required number of taxpaying electors of the proposed special district have signed the petition. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, only those signatures obtained after the approval of the service plan pursuant to section 32-1-205 or 32-1-206 or after approval of the petition by the governing body of a municipality pursuant to section 32-1-205 shall be considered by the district court in making the evidentiary finding that the required number of taxpaying electors of the proposed special district have signed the petition in accordance with this subsection (1).

(2) Except as otherwise provided in section 32-1-304.5, upon said hearing, if the court finds that the petition has not been signed and presented in conformity with this part 3, it shall dismiss said proceedings and adjudge the costs against the signers of the petition in the proportion it deems just and equitable. No appeal or other remedy shall lie from an order dismissing said proceedings. Nothing in this subsection (2) shall be construed to prevent the filing of a subsequent petition for similar improvements or for a similar special district, and the right so to renew such proceedings is hereby expressly granted and authorized.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 32-1-304.5, anytime after the filing of the petition for the organization of a special district but no later than ten days before the day fixed for the hearing thereon, the owner of any real property within the proposed special district may file a petition with the court stating reasons why said property should not be included therein and requesting that said real property be excluded therefrom. The petition shall be duly verified and shall describe the property sought to be excluded. The court shall hear the petition and all objections thereto at the time of the hearing on the petition for organization and shall determine whether, in the best public interest, the property should be excluded or included in the proposed special district. The court shall exclude property located in any home rule municipality in respect to which a petition for exclusion has been filed by the municipality.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in section 32-1-304.5, upon the hearing, if it appears that a petition for the organization of a special district has been signed and presented in conformity with this part 3 and that the allegations of the petition are true, the court, by order duly entered of record, shall direct that the question of the organization of the special district be submitted at an election to be held for that purpose in accordance with articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S.

(5) At such election the voter shall vote for or against the organization of the special district and for five electors of the district who shall constitute the board of the special district, if organized.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(6) If a majority of the votes cast at said election are in favor of the organization and the court determines the election was held in accordance with articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S., the court shall declare the special district organized and give the special district the corporate name designated in the petition, by which it shall thereafter be known in all proceedings, and designate the first board elected. Thereupon the special district shall be a quasi-municipal corporation and a political subdivision of the state of Colorado with all the powers thereof.

(7) If an order is entered declaring the special district organized, such order shall be deemed final, and no appeal or other remedy shall lie therefrom. The entry of such order shall finally and conclusively establish the regular organization of the special district against all persons except the state of Colorado in an action in the nature of quo warranto commenced by the attorney general within thirty-five days after entry of such order declaring such special district organized and not otherwise. The organization of said special district shall not be directly or collaterally questioned in any suit, action, or proceeding except as expressly authorized in this subsection (7).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-305. Court hearing - election - declaration of organization. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1553, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 92:** (4) amended, p. 876, § 108, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 94:** (6) amended, p. 1642, § 65, effective May 31. **L. 2007:** (1), (2), (3), and (4) amended, p. 1190, § 9, effective July 1. **L. 2012:** (7) amended, (SB 12-175), ch. 208, p. 881, § 146, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** (4) and (6) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 783, § 81, effective June 6. **L. 2017:** (1) amended, (HB 17-1065), ch. 73, p. 232, § 4, effective August 9.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-305. Court hearing - election - declaration of organization. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

ANNOTATION

Quo warranto action in subsection (7) is exclusive means of attacking an order declaring a special district organized if an organizational election is used. In re Org. of Upper Bear Creek, 682 P.2d 61 (Colo. App. 1983), aff'd, 715 P.2d 799 (Colo. 1986).

District court statutorily barred under subsection (7) from setting aside order creating special district based on fraud on the court. The statute is specific in providing for review of an action by a

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

district court only in a very narrow and time-constrained procedure that did not occur here. Where the authority of the court to enter an order in the first place emanates solely from a statutory grant from the legislature, as is the case with the organization of a special district, and that statutory grant contains a limitation on the power of the court to review the order once it is entered, court must defer to the legislative determination to place a limit on the review of such an order. Marin Metro. Dist. v. Landmark Towers Ass'n, 2014 COA 40, 412 P.3d 620.

Provision relating to quo warranto action is inapposite where county is an interested and aggrieved party pursuant to §§ 32-1-203, 32-1-206, 32-1-207, and 32-1-1201. County had standing under such sections to attack court's decree. In re Org. of Upper Bear Creek, 682 P.2d 61 (Colo. App. 1983), aff'd, 715 P.2d 799 (Colo. 1986).

Constitutional challenge to subsections (4) through (6) of this section on grounds that denying corporate entities the right to vote on the formation of a special district violates the equal protection clause was premature as no petition for organization was pending before district court. State Farm v. City of Lakewood, 788 P.2d 808 (Colo. 1990).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-305.5. Organizational election - new special district - first directors.

32-1-305.5. Organizational election - new special district - first directors.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-305.5. Organizational election - new special district - first directors. / Statute text

(1) In the order authorizing the election, the court shall name either the clerk and recorder of the county in which the district is to be or another eligible elector of the state as the designated election official responsible for the conducting of the election.

(2) At the election, the eligible electors shall vote for or against the organization of the special district and for the members of the board who will serve if the special district is organized. The terms of office of the first directors shall be as follows:

(a) In the case of a five-member board, two directors shall serve until they or their successors are elected and qualified at the next regular special district election occurring in any year following that in which the special district was organized, and three shall serve until they or their successors are elected and qualified at the second regular special district election after organization.

(b) In the case of a seven-member board, three directors shall serve until they or their successors are elected and qualified at the next regular special district election occurring in any year following that in which the special district was organized, and four shall serve until they or their successors are elected and qualified at the second regular special district election after

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BACK TO TOP

organization.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section, the basic term of office for directors, after the original terms provided in subsection (2) of this section, is four years.

(b) The terms of office of the directors elected in the regular special district elections held in 2020 and 2022 are for three years.

(4) A nomination for director to serve for either term may be made by self-nomination and acceptance form or letter, as provided in section 1-13.5-303, C.R.S., with the time and manner of filing such form or letter as directed in the order of the district court authorizing the election.

(5) If, after the results of the election are certified, the court finds that a majority of the votes cast at the election are in favor of organization, the court shall proceed with the order establishing the special district and shall issue certificates of election for the directors elected.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-305.5. Organizational election - new special district - first directors. / History

Source: L. 92: Entire section added, p. 876, § 109, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 99:** (4) amended, p. 448, § 1, effective August 4. **L. 2014:** (1) and (4) amended, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 70, § 30, effective February 18. **L. 2018:** (3) amended, (HB 18-1039), ch. 29, p. 331, § 4, effective August 8.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-305.5. Organizational election - new special district - first directors. / Annotations

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-306. Filing decree.

32-1-306. Filing decree.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-306. Filing decree. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

Within thirty days after the special district has been declared organized by the court, the special district shall transmit to the county clerk and recorder in each of the counties in which the special district or a part thereof extends certified copies of the findings and the order of the court organizing said special district. The same shall be recorded by the county clerk and recorder in each county as provided in section 32-1-105. A copy of the approved service plan of the district shall be delivered to each such county clerk and recorder, who shall retain the service plan as a public record for public inspection. In addition, a copy of the service plan, together with a copy of the court's findings and order, shall be filed with the division as provided in section 32-1-105, and a map of the special district shall be filed with the county assessor in each county in which the special district or a part thereof extends and with the division according to the standards of the division. On or before January 1, 2010, a special district shall file a current, accurate map of its boundaries with the county clerk and recorder in each of the counties in which the special district or a part thereof extends. A special district shall maintain a current, accurate map of its boundaries and shall provide for such map to be on file with the county assessor, the clerk and recorder, and the division on or before January 1 of each year.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-306. Filing decree. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1554, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** Entire section amended, p. 1020, § 6, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** Entire section amended, (SB 09-087), ch. 325, p. 1732, § 3, effective September 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-306. Filing decree. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

Cross references: For provisions concerning public records, see article 72 of title 24.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-307. Park and recreation districts - metropolitan districts providing parks and recreational facilities or programs - exclusion proviso.

32-1-307. Park and recreation districts - metropolitan districts providing parks and recreational facilities or programs - exclusion proviso.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-307. Park and recreation districts - metropolitan districts providing parks and recreational facilities or programs - exclusion proviso. / Statute text

(1) Any provision of this part 3 to the contrary notwithstanding, no tract of land of forty acres or more used primarily and zoned for agricultural uses shall be included in any park and recreation district or in any metropolitan district providing parks or recreational facilities and programs organized under this part 3 without the written consent of the owners thereof. No personal property which is situated upon real estate not included in such district shall be included within any park and recreation or metropolitan district. If, contrary to the provisions of this section, any such tract, parcel, or personal property is included in any park and recreation or metropolitan district, the owners thereof, on petition to the court, shall be entitled to have such property excluded from such district free and clear of any contract, obligation, lien, or charge to which it may be liable as a part of such district.

(2) If the use or zoning of any tract of land of forty acres or more lying within the boundaries of any park and recreation district or any metropolitan district providing parks or recreational facilities and programs organized under the provisions of this part 3 has been or is changed from agricultural use or zoning to any other use or zoning designation, such lands and the personal property thereon shall no longer be excluded from said district and shall be subject to all obligations, liens, or charges of such district on and after January 1 of the year following such change in use or zoning.

(3) When there is a change of use or zoning to any other use or zoning designation and the assessor of the county in which such lands are located is notified of a change, he shall give notification of such change to the secretary of the district. The district shall mail a notice of such action to the owner of the property at the address shown for such owner in the records of the county assessor's office.

(4) The district shall petition the appropriate district court for an order including the subject lands within the district, and the court, upon examining the proof of change of such use or zoning and finding that it complies with this section, shall enter an order including said lands within the district. The district shall have a certified copy of said order recorded by the county clerk and recorder and shall file a copy with the county assessor.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-307. Park and recreation districts - metropolitan districts providing parks and recreational facilities or programs - exclusion proviso. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1554, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2017:** (1) and (2)

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

amended, (HB 17-1065), ch. 73, p. 231, § 1, effective August 9.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-307. Park and recreation districts - metropolitan districts providing parks and recreational facilities or programs - exclusion proviso. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-2-108 as it existed prior to 1981.

ANNOTATION

Mining or mineral uses are not included in exclusion for land zoned for agricultural uses for purposes of taxation. Fort Lupton Park & Recreation Dist. v. Amoco Prod. Co., 800 P.2d 1324 (Colo. App. 1990).

Subsection (2) applies to districts created before the adoption of the subsection. Jefferson Center Metro. Dist. No. 1 v. North Jeffco Metro. Recreation & Park Dist., 844 P.2d 1321 (Colo. App. 1992).

Subsection (2) does not apply only to lands already included within the district. It applies also to lands that were included within the original description but were later excluded from the district by court order. Jefferson Center Metro. Dist. No. 1 v. North Jeffco Metro. Recreation and Park Dist., 844 P.2d 1321 (Colo. App. 1992).

Subsection (2) does not restrict the authority of a district to seek inclusion of rezoned agricultural land. It does prohibit the creation of a new district within an overlapping geographical area that is served by an existing district rendering similar services. Jefferson Center Metro. Dist. No. 1 v. North Jeffco Metro. Recreation and Park Dist., 844 P.2d 1321 (Colo. App. 1992).

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-308. Applicability of article to existing districts and validation - districts being organized.

32-1-308. Applicability of article to existing districts and validation - districts being organized.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-308. Applicability of article to existing districts and validation - districts being organized. / Statute text

(1) The provisions of this article which become effective July 1, 1981, shall apply to all special districts existing on June 30, 1981, or organized thereafter; except that any such existing district need not obtain a name change to conform to this article and that any district may

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BACK TO TOP

continue to operate for the purpose or purposes for which it was organized.

(2) Any proceedings for the organization of a special district which were commenced prior to July 1, 1981, may continue pursuant to the laws in effect at the time such organization was commenced until the district court has declared the district organized. Thereafter, the special district shall be subject to the provisions of this article. Any such organizational proceedings which are dismissed by the board of county commissioners or by the district court and which are recommenced after July 1, 1981, shall be governed by the provisions of this article.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 3 ORGANIZATION / 32-1-308. Applicability of article to existing districts and validation - districts being organized. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1555, § 1, effective July 1.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PART 4
INCLUSION OF TERRITORY

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-401. Inclusion of territory - procedure.

32-1-401. Inclusion of territory - procedure.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-401. Inclusion of territory - procedure. / Statute text

(1) (a) The boundaries of a special district may be altered by the inclusion of additional real property by the fee owner or owners of one hundred percent of any real property capable of being served with facilities of the special district filing with the board a petition in writing requesting that such property be included in the special district. The petition shall set forth a legal description of the property, shall state that assent to the inclusion of such property in the special district is given by the fee owner or owners thereof, and shall be acknowledged by the fee owner or owners in the same manner as required for conveyance of land.

(b) The board shall hear the petition at a public meeting after publication of notice of the filing of such petition, the place, time, and date of such meeting, the names and addresses of the petitioners, and notice that all persons interested shall appear at such time and place and show cause in writing why the petition should not be granted. The board may continue such hearing to a subsequent meeting. There shall be no withdrawal from a petition after publication of notice by the board without the consent of the board. The failure of any municipality or county which may be able to provide service to the real property therein described or of any person in the existing special district to file a written objection shall be taken as an assent to the inclusion of the area described in the notice.

(c) (I) The board shall grant or deny the petition, in whole or in part, with or without conditions, and the action of the board shall be final and conclusive, except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c). If a municipality or county has filed a written objection to such inclusion, the board shall not grant the petition as to any of the real property to which adequate service is, or will be, available from such municipality or county within a reasonable time and on a comparable basis. If a petition is granted as to all or any of the real property

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

therein described, the board shall make an order to that effect and file the same with the clerk of the court, and the court shall thereupon order the property to be included in the special district.

(II) A municipality or county which has filed a written objection to such inclusion and which can provide adequate service to the real property described in the petition within a reasonable time and on a comparable basis may bring an action in the court, commenced within thirty days after entry of the order of the board, to determine whether the action of the board granting the inclusion was arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable.

(2) (a) In addition to the procedure specified in subsection (1) of this section, the boundaries of a special district may be altered by the inclusion of additional real property by:

(I) Not less than twenty percent or two hundred, whichever number is smaller, of the taxpaying electors of an area which contains twenty-five thousand or more square feet of land filing a petition with the board in writing requesting that such area be included within the special district; but no single tract or parcel of property constituting more than fifty percent of the total area to be included may be included in any special district without the consent of the owner thereof; the petition shall set forth a legal and a general description of the area to be included and shall be acknowledged in the same manner as required for conveyance of land; or

(II) The board adopting a resolution proposing the inclusion of a specifically described area; but no single tract or parcel of property constituting more than fifty percent of the total area to be included may be included in any special district without the consent of the owner thereof.

(b) The board shall hear the petition or resolution at a public meeting after publication of notice of the filing of such petition or adoption of such resolution, the place, time, and date of such meeting, the names and addresses of the petitioners, if applicable, the description of the area proposed for inclusion, and notice that all persons interested and a municipality or county which may be able to provide service to the real property therein described shall appear at the time and place stated and show cause in writing why the petition should not be granted or the resolution not finally adopted. The board may continue such hearing to a subsequent meeting. There shall be no withdrawal from a petition after publication of notice by the board without the consent of the board. The failure of any person in the existing special district to file a written objection shall be taken as an assent on his part to the inclusion of the area described in the notice.

(c) The board shall grant or deny the petition or finally adopt the resolution, in whole or in part, with or without conditions, and the action of the board shall be final and conclusive, except as provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection (2). If a municipality or county has filed a written objection to such inclusion, the board shall not grant the petition as to any of the real property to which adequate service is, or will be, available from such municipality or county within a reasonable time and on a comparable basis.

(d) If the petition is granted or the resolution finally adopted, the board shall make an order

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

to that effect and file the same with the clerk of the court. A municipality or county which has filed a written objection to the inclusion and which can provide adequate service to the real property described in the petition within a reasonable time and on a comparable basis may bring an action in the court, commenced within thirty days after entry of the order of the board, to determine whether the action of the board granting the inclusion was arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable. The court shall direct that the question of inclusion of the area within the special district be submitted to the eligible electors of the area to be included and shall order the secretary to give published notice, as provided in part 2 of article 5 and article 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S., of the time and place of the election and of the question to be submitted, together with a summary of any conditions attached to the proposed inclusion. The election shall be held within the area sought to be included and shall be held and conducted, and the results thereof determined, in the manner provided in articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S. The ballot shall be prepared by the designated election official and shall contain the following words:

"Shall the following described area become a part of the ..... district upon the following conditions, if any?

(Insert description of area)
(Insert accurate summary of conditions)

For inclusion .....
Against inclusion ....."

(e) If a majority of the votes cast at the election are in favor of inclusion and the court determines the election was held in accordance with articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S., the court shall enter an order including any conditions so prescribed and making the area a part of the special district. The validity of the inclusion may not be questioned directly or indirectly in any suit, action, or proceeding, except as provided in article 11 of title 1, C.R.S.

(f) Nothing in this part 4 shall permit the inclusion in a district of any property which could not be included in the district at the time of its organization without the written consent of the owners thereof, unless the owners of such property shall consent in writing to the inclusion of such property in the district as prayed for in said petition or unless such property is no longer excludable pursuant to the provisions of section 32-1-307 (2).

(g) Nothing in this part 4 shall permit the inclusion in a special district of any property if a petition objecting to the inclusion and signed by the owners of taxable real and personal property, which property equals more than fifty percent of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable real and personal property to be included, is filed with the board no later than ten days prior to the public meeting held under paragraph (b) of this subsection (2).

(3) Not more than thirty days nor less than twenty days prior to a meeting of the board held pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section or paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

this section, the secretary of the special district shall send letter notification of the meeting to the property owners within the area proposed to be included within the special district as listed on the records of the county assessor on the date requested unless the petitioners represent one hundred percent of the property owners. The notification shall indicate that it is a notice of a meeting for consideration of the inclusion of real property within a special district and shall indicate the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting, a reference to the type of special district proposed for inclusion, the maximum mill levy, if any, or stating that there is no maximum that may be imposed if the proposed area is included within the special district, and procedures for the filing of a petition for exclusion pursuant to section 32-1-203 (3.5). Except as provided in this subsection (3), the mailing of the letter notification to all addresses or post office box addresses within the area proposed to be included within the special district shall constitute a good-faith effort to comply with this section, and failure to notify all electors thereby shall not provide grounds for a challenge to the meeting being held.

(4) Nothing in this part 4 shall be construed to permit the inclusion in a special district of any real property located in a city and county unless the governing body of such city and county has adopted a resolution of approval authorizing such inclusion pursuant to section 32-1-204.5 or waives its right to require such resolution in its sole discretion. Any resolution of approval so adopted or waiver so given shall be appended to any petition filed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section or subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-401. Inclusion of territory - procedure. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1555, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (2)(a)(I) amended, p. 1108, § 2, effective March 1; (2)(g) added, p. 1105, § 3, effective July 1; (3) added, p. 1106, § 2, effective January 1, 1986. **L. 91:** (3) amended, p. 787, § 12, effective June 4. **L. 92:** (2)(d) and (2)(e) amended, p. 877, § 110, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** (3) amended, p. 1790, § 78, effective June 6. **L. 96:** (3) amended, p. 309, § 8, effective April 15. **L. 97:** (4) added, p. 322, § 1, effective April 14. **L. 2016:** (2)(d) and (2)(e) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 784, § 82, effective June 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-401. Inclusion of territory - procedure. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

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BACK TO TOP

ANNOTATION

Enactment of new statute could not include railroad property in special park and recreation district without consent in writing by owners because the property could not be included in the district at the time of its formation without such consent and no change had occurred with respect to railroad property. Hyland Hills Park v. Denver R. Co., 850 P.2d 155 (Colo. App. 1992), aff'd, 864 P.2d 569 (Colo. 1993).

Subsection (2)(f) of this section sets forth only two ways in which previously excluded property can later be included in a district. Inclusion without consent is permitted if the property has changed from agricultural use to a different use or if the property has been rezoned; for all other property, consent of the owners is required. Hyland Hills Park & Rec. District v. D. & R.G.W.R. Co., 864 P.2d 569 (Colo. 1993).

The owner of a severed mineral estate is a fee owner for purposes of this section. Lessees of a severed mineral estate, however, are not fee owners for purposes of this section. Bill Barrett Corp. v. Lembke, 2018 COA 134, __ P.3d __.

A mineral estate is not real property capable of being served with facilities of a special district pursuant to this section even though the ownership of the estate is a fee simple interest. Bill Barrett Corp. v. Lembke, 2018 COA 134, __ P.3d __.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-401.5. Fire protection districts - inclusion of personalty.

32-1-401.5. Fire protection districts - inclusion of personalty.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-401.5. Fire protection districts - inclusion of personalty. / Statute text

(1) An owner of taxable personal property, situate on real property excluded from a fire protection district, capable of being served with facilities of the special district may file with the board a petition in writing requesting that such property be included in the special district. The petition shall set forth an accurate description of the taxable personal property owned by the petitioner to be included and shall state that assent to the inclusion of such property in the special district is given by the signer, being the owner of such property. The petition shall be acknowledged in the same manner as required for conveyance of land.

(2) The board shall hear the petition at a public meeting after publication of notice of the filing of such petition, the place, time, and date of such meeting, the names and addresses of the petitioners, and that all persons interested shall appear at such time and place and show cause in writing why the petition should not be granted. The board may continue such hearing to a

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BACK TO TOP

subsequent meeting. There shall be no withdrawal from a petition after consideration by the board, nor shall further objections be filed except in case of fraud or misrepresentation.

(3) The board shall grant or deny the petition, in whole or in part, with or without conditions, and the action of the board shall be final and conclusive. If the petition is granted as to all or any of the property therein described, the board shall make an order to that effect and file the same with the clerk of the court, and the court shall thereupon order the property to be included in the special district.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-401.5. Fire protection districts - inclusion of personalty. / History

Source: L. 82: Entire section added, p. 493, § 1, effective March 17.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-402. Effect of inclusion order.

32-1-402. Effect of inclusion order.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-402. Effect of inclusion order. / Statute text

(1) The following shall be applicable to any proceeding for inclusion accomplished pursuant to this part 4:

(a) Nothing in this part 4 shall affect the validity of any area or property included or excluded from a special district by virtue of prior laws.

(b) After the date of its inclusion in a special district, such property shall be subject to all of the taxes and charges imposed by the special district and shall be liable for its proportionate share of existing bonded indebtedness of the special district; but it shall not be liable for any taxes or charges levied or assessed prior to its inclusion in the special district, nor shall its entry into the special district be made subject to or contingent upon the payment or assumption of any tax, rate, fee, toll, or charge, other than the taxes, rates, fees, tolls, and charges which are uniformly made, assessed, or levied for the entire special district, without the prior consent of the fee owners or approval of the electors of the area to be included.

(c) In any special district, the included property shall be liable for its proportionate share of annual operation and maintenance charges and the cost of facilities of the special district and

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BACK TO TOP

taxes, rates, fees, tolls, or charges shall be certified and levied or assessed therefor. Nothing in this section shall prevent an agreement between a board and the owners of property sought to be included in a special district with respect to the fees, charges, terms, and conditions on which such property may be included.

(d) The change of boundaries of the special district shall not impair nor affect its organization, nor shall it affect, impair, or discharge any contract, obligation, lien, or charge on which it might be liable or chargeable had such change of boundaries not been made.

(e) The court order of any inclusion of territory accomplished pursuant to this part 4 shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-105.

(f) The special district's facility and service standards which are applied within the included area shall be compatible with the facility and service standards of adjacent municipalities.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-402. Effect of inclusion order. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1558, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 4 INCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-402. Effect of inclusion order. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PART 5
EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-501. Exclusion of property by fee owners or board - procedure.

32-1-501. Exclusion of property by fee owners or board - procedure.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-501. Exclusion of property by fee owners or board - procedure. / Statute text

(1) The boundaries of a special district, except health service districts, may be altered by the exclusion of real property by the fee owner or owners of one hundred percent of any real property situate in the special district filing with the board a petition requesting that such real property of the fee owner or owners be excluded and taken from the special district. The petition shall set forth a legal description of the property, shall state that assent to the exclusion of the property from the special district is given by the fee owner or owners thereof, and shall be acknowledged by the fee owner or owners in the same manner as required for conveyance of land. The petition shall be accompanied by a deposit of money sufficient to pay all costs of the exclusion proceedings.

(1.5) (a) In addition to the procedure specified in subsection (1) of this section, the board, through adoption of a resolution, may alter the boundaries of a fire protection district through the exclusion of real property from the district if the property to be excluded will be provided with the same service by another fire protection district or by a county fire improvement district and the board or governing body of that district has agreed by resolution to include the property into the district immediately after the effective date of the exclusion order.

(b) (I) Not more than forty-five days nor less than thirty days prior to a meeting of the board to consider final adoption of a resolution proposing property to be excluded, the secretary of the fire protection district shall send letter notification to the fee owner or owners of one hundred percent of all proposed real property to be excluded from the district as listed on the records of the county assessor on the date requested.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(II) The letter notification shall indicate that it is a notice of a meeting required to be held pursuant to subsection (2) of this section concerning the exclusion of the property from the district, shall indicate the date, time, and location of the meeting, and shall contain both a reference to the fire protection district or county fire improvement district proposed for inclusion and the current mill levy of the district, if any.

(III) The mailing of the letter notification to all addresses or post office box addresses within the area proposed to be excluded from the district shall constitute a good-faith effort to comply with this section, and failure to so notify all fee owners shall not provide grounds for a challenge to the meeting being held.

(2) The board shall hear the petition or resolution at a public meeting after publication of notice of the filing of the petition or preliminary adoption of the resolution, the place, time, and date of the meeting, the names and addresses of the petitioners, if applicable, a general description of the area proposed for exclusion, and notice that all persons interested shall appear at the designated time and place and show cause in writing why the petition should not be granted or the resolution should not be finally adopted. The board may continue the hearing to a subsequent meeting. There shall be no withdrawal from a petition after publication of notice by the board without the consent of the board. The failure of any person in the existing special district to file a written objection shall be taken as an assent on his or her part to the exclusion of the area described in the notice.

(3) The board shall take into consideration and make a finding regarding all of the following factors when determining whether to grant or deny the petition or to finally adopt the resolution or any portion thereof:

(a) The best interests of all of the following:

(I) The property to be excluded;

(II) The special district from which the exclusion is proposed;

(III) The county or counties in which the special district is located;

(b) The relative cost and benefit to the property to be excluded from the provision of the special district's services;

(c) The ability of the special district to provide economical and sufficient service to both the property to be excluded and all of the properties within the special district's boundaries;

(d) Whether the special district is able to provide services at a reasonable cost compared with the cost that would be imposed by other entities in the surrounding area to provide similar services in the surrounding area or by the fire protection district or county fire improvement district that has agreed to include the property to be excluded from the special district;

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(e) The effect of denying the petition on employment and other economic conditions in the special district and surrounding area;

(f) The economic impact on the region and on the special district, surrounding area, and state as a whole if the petition is denied or the resolution is finally adopted;

(g) Whether an economically feasible alternative service may be available; and

(h) The additional cost to be levied on other property within the special district if the exclusion is granted.

(4) (a) (I) Except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (a) and if the board, after considering all of the factors set forth in subsection (3) of this section, determines that the property described in the petition or resolution or some portion thereof should be excluded from the special district, it shall order that the petition be granted or that the resolution be finally adopted, in whole or in part.

(II) (A) If the property to be excluded from the special district will be served by a special district not yet organized, the board shall not order that the petition be granted or that the resolution be finally adopted until the special district has been organized pursuant to part 3 of this article.

(B) If the property to be excluded from the special district will be served by a fire protection district or county fire improvement district as provided in subsection (1.5) of this section, the board shall not order that the petition be granted or that the resolution be finally adopted until the fire protection district or county fire improvement district has adopted a resolution agreeing to include the property in the district immediately after the effective date of the exclusion order and has filed the resolution with the court.

(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, the property to be excluded may be included within the boundaries of the proposed special district.

(b) Upon granting the petition or finally adopting the resolution, the board shall file a certified copy of the order of the board excluding the property from the district with the clerk of the court, and, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection (4), the court shall order the property to be excluded from the special district and, if applicable, included into the fire protection district or county fire improvement district that has previously agreed to include the property as provided in subsection (1.5) of this section.

(c) (I) If the property to be excluded from the special district will be served by a fire protection district or county fire improvement district that has previously agreed to include the property as provided in subsection (1.5) of this section and that has a higher mill levy than the special district and after the certified copy of the order of the board excluding the property from the district is filed with the clerk of the court, the court shall direct the question of excluding the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

area from the special district and including it in the fire protection district or county fire improvement district with a higher mill levy to the eligible electors of the area sought to be excluded. The court shall order the secretary to give published notice, as provided in part 2 of article 5 and article 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S., of the time and place of the election and of the question to be submitted, together with a summary of any conditions attached to the proposed exclusion. The election shall be held within the area sought to be excluded and shall be held and conducted, and the results thereof determined, in the manner provided in articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S. The ballot shall be prepared by the designated election official and shall contain the following words:

"Shall the following described area be excluded from the _____ district, which has a current mill levy of _____, and become a part of the _____ district, which has a current mill levy of _____, and upon the following conditions, if any?

(Insert general description of area)
(Insert accurate summary of conditions)

For exclusion from _____ district and inclusion
in _____ district _____
Against exclusion from _____ district _____"

(II) If a majority of the votes cast at the election pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c) are in favor of exclusion to become a part of another district and the court determines the election was held in accordance with articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S., the court shall enter an order with any conditions so prescribed excluding the area from the special district and including it in the fire protection district or county fire improvement district with a higher mill levy. The validity of the exclusion to become a part of another district may not be questioned directly or indirectly in any suit, action, or proceeding, except as provided in article 11 of title 1, C.R.S.

(d) The order of exclusion entered pursuant to paragraph (b) or (c) of this subsection (4) shall recite in the findings a description of any bonded indebtedness in existence immediately preceding the effective date of the order for which the excluded property is liable and the date that the bonded indebtedness is then scheduled to be retired. After July 1, 1993, failure of the order for exclusion to recite the existence and scheduled retirement date of the indebtedness, when due to error or omission by the special district, shall not constitute grounds for correction of the omission of a levy on the excluded property from the assessment roll pursuant to section 39-5-125, C.R.S.

(5) (a) If the board, after considering all of the factors set forth in subsection (3) of this section, determines that the property described in the petition or resolution should not be excluded from the special district, it shall order that the petition be denied or that the resolution be rescinded.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(b) (I) Any petition that is denied or resolution that is finally adopted may be appealed to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the special district's petition for organization was filed for review of the board's decision. The appeal shall be taken no later than thirty days after the decision.

(II) Upon appeal, the board shall consider the factors set forth in subsection (3) of this section and shall make a determination whether to exclude the properties mentioned in the petition or resolution based on the record developed at the hearing before the special district board.

(c) (I) Any decision of the board of county commissioners may be appealed for review to the district court of the county which has jurisdiction of the special district pursuant to section 32-1-303 within thirty days of such board's decision.

(II) On appeal, the court shall review the record developed at the hearing before the special district board and, after considering all of the factors set forth in subsection (3) of this section, shall make a determination whether to exclude the properties mentioned in the petition or resolution.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-501. Exclusion of property by fee owners or board - procedure. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1558, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 88:** (3) R&RE and (4) and (5) added, pp. 1149, 1150, §§ 1, 2, effective June 11. **L. 93:** (4)(b) amended, p. 83, § 1, effective March 29. **L. 94:** (1.5) added and (2), IP(3), (3)(a)(I), (3)(a)(II), (3)(b) to (3)(d), (3)(f), (4), (5)(a), (5)(b), and (5)(c)(II) amended, p. 1347, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 96:** (1) amended, p. 474, § 13, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** (4)(c) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 784, § 83, effective June 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-501. Exclusion of property by fee owners or board - procedure. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 32-2-122 as it existed prior to 1981.

(2) Section 2 of chapter 237, Session Laws of Colorado 1994, provides that, prior to the inclusion of any property into a fire district with a higher tax rate, an election pursuant to § 20 of article X of the Colorado constitution shall be held.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT

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BACK TO TOP

ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-502. Exclusion of property within municipality - procedure.

32-1-502. Exclusion of property within municipality - procedure.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-502. Exclusion of property within municipality - procedure. / Statute text

(1) (a) The governing body of any municipality wherein territory within a special district is located, the board of any special district with territory within the boundaries of any municipality, or fifty percent of the fee owners of real property in an area of any municipality in which territory within a special district is located may petition the court for exclusion of the territory described in the petition from the special district. Within ten days after the filing of any petition for exclusion, the governing body of the municipality and the board shall be notified of the exclusion proceedings. The taxpaying electors shall be notified of the exclusion proceedings by publication. The governing body of the municipality, the board, and the taxpaying electors, as a class, shall be parties to the exclusion proceedings.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to health service districts.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply in the event that the territory described in the petition for exclusion constitutes the entire territory of the special district.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (5) of this section, the court shall hold a hearing on the petition and order the territory described in the petition or any portion thereof excluded from the special district if the following conditions are met:

(a) The governing body of the municipality agrees, by resolution, to provide the service provided by the special district to the area described in the petition on and after the effective date of the exclusion order.

(b) The service to be provided by the municipality will be the service provided by the special district in the territory described in the petition for exclusion.

(c) The governing body of the municipality and the board shall each submit a plan for the disposition of assets and continuation of services to all areas of the district. Said plans shall include, if applicable, provisions for the maintenance and continuity of facilities to be utilized by the territories both within and without the municipal boundaries and of services to all territories served or previously served by the special district. If the municipality and the special district agree upon a single plan and enter into a contract incorporating its provisions, the court shall review such contract, and if it finds the contract to be fair and equitable, the court shall approve the contract and incorporate its provisions into its exclusion order. The court's review of the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

provisions of the contract shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the amount of the special district's outstanding bonds, the discharge by the municipality or the territory excluded from the special district of that portion of the special district's indebtedness incurred to serve the territory proposed for exclusion, the fair market value and source of special district facilities located within the territory proposed for exclusion, the facilities to be transferred which are necessary to serve the territory proposed for exclusion, the adequacy of the facilities retained by the special district to serve the remaining territory of the special district, the availability of the facilities transferred to the municipality for use, in whole or in part, in the remaining territory of the special district, the effect which the transfer of the facilities and assumption of indebtedness will have upon the service provided by the special district in territory which is not part of the exclusion, and the extent to which the exclusion reduces the services or facilities or increases the costs to users in the remaining territory of the special district.

(d) If the municipality and the special district are unable to agree upon a single plan, the court shall review the plans of the municipality and the special district and direct each to carry out so much of their respective plans in which there is no disagreement and make such other provisions as the court finds fair and equitable, and shall make such allocation of facilities, impose such responsibilities for the discharge of indebtedness of the special district, and impose such other conditions and obligations on the special district and the municipality which the court finds necessary to permit the exclusion of territory from the special district and the transfer of facilities which are necessary to serve the territory excluded without impairing the quality of service nor imposing an additional burden or expense on the remaining territory of the special district. For the purpose of making such determination, the criteria set forth in this paragraph (d) and paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection (2) shall be considered. The respective portions of the plans to be performed, the transfer of facilities, and the requirements for the discharge of indebtedness of the special district and other conditions and obligations imposed by the court shall be specifically set forth in the order excluding territory from the special district.

(3) (a) The following additional requirements shall be met before any court orders the exclusion of any area from any water, sanitation, or water and sanitation district or any metropolitan district providing water or sanitation services or both:

(I) Such district's outstanding bonds shall not exceed ten percent of the valuation for assessment of the taxable property in the remaining territory of the special district, or, as an alternative, the municipality or the territory excluded from the special district shall discharge that portion of the special district's indebtedness incurred to serve the territory proposed for exclusion or the municipality shall have entered into a contract to purchase the entire system or systems of such district at a price at least sufficient to pay in full all of the outstanding indebtedness of such district and all of the interest thereon.

(II) Provision shall be made that all areas of such district receive the service or services for which such district was organized in substantial compliance and fulfillment of the service plan of the district, if one exists, or in accordance with the petition for organization of such district if no

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

service plan was originally adopted and approved pursuant to part 2 of this article.

(b) If an election in a water, sanitation, or water and sanitation district or a metropolitan district providing water or sanitation services or both has been held pursuant to subsection (7) of this section and the majority of votes cast favor the municipality providing the service, the municipality and such district shall enter into a contract for the municipality to assume full responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the entire system or systems of such district and to integrate said system or systems with those of the municipality to the largest extent possible. The terms and conditions of service and the rates to be charged by the municipality for said service under the contract shall be uniform with the terms, conditions, and rates for similar service provided by said municipality to other users within the municipality.

(4) If no election has been held pursuant to subsection (5) of this section, the following additional requirement shall be met before any court orders the exclusion of any area from any fire protection district: The quality of service including, but not limited to, the fire insurance costs for the improvements within the excluded area will not be adversely affected by such exclusion.

(5) (a) After the filing of a petition for exclusion under subsection (1) of this section, ten percent or one hundred of the eligible electors of the special district territory proposed for exclusion, whichever number is less, may petition the court for a special election to be held within the special district territory proposed for exclusion on the question of exclusion of the territory described in the petition for exclusion. If a petition for a special election is filed with the court and complies with this subsection (5), the court shall order a special election to be held only after it finds the conditions of paragraphs (a), (c), and (d) of subsection (2) and, if applicable, of subsection (3) or (4) of this section are met. The election shall be held and conducted, and the results thereof determined, in the manner provided in articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S. The special district shall bear the costs of the election.

(b) If a majority of the electors voting at such election approve the question of exclusion, the court shall order the territory excluded from the special district in accordance with its findings on the conditions specified in subsection (2) and, if applicable, of subsection (3) or (4) of this section. If a majority of those voting do not approve the question, the court shall conclusively terminate the exclusion proceeding.

(6) Any order for exclusion of territory from a special district shall become effective on January 1 next following the date the order is entered by the court. The order for exclusion shall recite in the findings a description of any bonded indebtedness in existence immediately preceding the effective date of the order for which the excluded property is liable and the date that such bonded indebtedness is then scheduled to be retired. After July 1, 1993, failure of the order for exclusion to recite the existence and scheduled retirement date of such indebtedness, when due to error or omission by the special district, shall not constitute grounds for correction of the omission of a levy on the excluded property from the assessment roll pursuant to section 39-5-125, C.R.S.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(7) (a) After any exclusion of territory under this section, the court may order an election of the electors of the portion of the special district remaining to determine whether they desire the municipality to provide the service provided by the special district if either of the following conditions exists:

(I) More than fifty percent of the territory within the special district as it existed prior to such exclusion has been excluded; or

(II) The valuation for assessment of the area of the excluded territory is greater than the valuation for assessment of the area of the remaining territory in the special district.

(b) If a majority of the electors voting at such election approve the question requiring the municipality to provide such service, the court shall request the governing body of the municipality and the board to enter into a contract which will govern the providing of the service. The terms and conditions of the contract shall be reviewed and approved by the court, but in no event shall the terms, rates, and conditions be less equitable than for services supplied by a municipality to any other users within the municipality. The court's review of the contract or, if the municipality and the special district after good faith negotiations are unable to agree upon a contract, the court's order shall be in accordance with the criteria set forth in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (2) of this section. The special district shall continue in existence for the purpose of fulfilling any obligation imposed upon it by the contract with the municipality or otherwise.

(c) Any election held pursuant to this subsection (7) shall be held and conducted, and the results thereof determined, in the manner provided in articles 1 to 13 of title 1, C.R.S.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-502. Exclusion of property within municipality - procedure. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1559, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (2)(a) and (2)(b) amended, p. 1110, § 1, effective April 24. **L. 92:** (5)(a) and (7)(c) amended, p. 877, § 111, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** (6) amended, p. 83, § 2, effective March 29. **L. 96:** (1)(b) amended, p. 474, § 14, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** (5)(a) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 785, § 84, effective June 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-502. Exclusion of property within municipality - procedure. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as

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BACK TO TOP

they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

ANNOTATION

Annotator's note. The following annotations include cases decided under former provision similar to this section.

This section is a remedial statute intended to facilitate the elimination of the overlapping of services provided by local governments and the double taxation which may occur because of annexation of municipal territory, when all or part of the annexed territory also lies within a special improvement district. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

It should be liberally construed so as to accomplish its purpose. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

Exclusive remedy. The entire purpose of the exclusion provisions -- to eliminate the overlapping of services and double taxation -- would be totally frustrated if a town were not allowed to petition for exclusion from the district. The statute provides no other remedy by which a town can avoid the necessity of paying for services which it already provides. In re Org. of N. Chaffee County Fire Prot. Dist., 190 Colo. 40, 544 P.2d 637 (1975).

Whether or not duplication of services caused. A municipality may petition for exclusion from a special service district regardless of whether annexation has caused the duplication of services. In re Org. of N. Chaffee County Fire Prot. Dist., 190 Colo. 40, 544 P.2d 637 (1975).

This section controls in event of conflict. In the event of a conflict between this section and other exclusion provisions, this section is controlling. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

Remedies under this section and former § 32-5-323 are separate. The words "in addition to" contained in former § 32-1-309 are not intended to require that Denver proceed under former § 32-5-323 (since repealed), and this section sequentially. Instead, the two remedies are entirely separate. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

A town need not petition for exclusion from the district for water service that the district has not provided and has not shown itself capable of providing. If the district were providing water service to the town in addition to the sewerage service, the town would be required to proceed through an exclusion process in order to substitute itself as the water service provider. S. Fork Water v. Town of S. Fork, 252 P.3d 465 (Colo. 2011).

Denver may, in the first instance, petition for the exclusion of the annexed municipal territory under this section. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

No need to first initiate petition for exclusion pursuant to former § 32-5-323. The words "in addition to" in former § 32-1-309, which provided that the procedure for filing petitions for exclusion under this section in addition to other means set forth in title 32 by which the exclusion may be accomplished, should not be construed to require Denver to initiate a petition for exclusion pursuant to former § 32-5-323 (since repealed) before proceeding under this section. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

The legislative purpose of this section is fulfilled by according Denver and other cities the right to file a petition for exclusion of municipal territory on their behalf in the first instance rather than proceeding indirectly through the property owners as would be required under former § 32-5-323 (since repealed). City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

Before a city may undertake to seek exclusion of a particular territory, it must establish itself as the governing body of that area. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

Until an annexation is finally determined to be void, the disputed territory remains a part of the annexing municipality. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

This section is not unconstitutionally vague and does not confer arbitrary and unlimited power on the trial court, but rather provides a specific statutory procedure for the exclusion of municipal territory from a special service district, as it sets forth conditions which a petitioning municipality must meet and which the trial court must find have been complied with in order to obtain exclusion from a district. City Council v. Bd. of Dirs. of S. Sub. Metro. Recreation & Park Dist., 181 Colo. 334, 509 P.2d 317 (1973).

Intent of section. The section is intended to ensure that the overall quality of the services provided will not be lower as a result of the exclusion of municipal territory. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

City may contract with others to furnish services. This section does not require that the city itself do the furnishing of services; it merely says it shall provide them, and if a city council chooses to contract with others to provide such services, it has the right to do so. City Council v. Bd. of Dirs. of S. Sub. Metro. Recreation & Park Dist., 181 Colo. 334, 509 P.2d 317 (1973).

City need not prove intention to duplicate all services. While there was no evidence in the record to show that Denver could or would duplicate all of the services provided by the fire protection district, this section did not require Denver to prove its intention to do so. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

The requirement in subsection (2)(b) that the service provided by the municipality will be the service provided by the special district does not require the municipality to be able to provide the service before the exclusion occurs. City Council v. S. Suburban Park, 160 P.3d 376 (Colo. App. 2007).

In determining whether a plan is fair and equitable, it is not necessary to determine that the exclusion of property from a special district would result in either an impairment of the quality of service or the imposition of an additional burden or expense on the special district before considering statutory criteria, including fair market value. City Council v. S. Suburban Park, 160 P.3d 376 (Colo. App. 2007).

The quality of service and additional burden language in subsection (2)(d) is an outer limit on the court's power to add provisions to the exclusion plan rather than a prerequisite to considering the statutory criteria in making the exclusion fair and equitable. City Council v. S. Suburban Park, 160 P.3d 376 (Colo. App. 2007).

Although this section directs the trial court to make provisions in the exclusion plan as the court finds fair and equitable and references fair market value as one factor the court should consider, it does not require a trial court to order a city to reimburse a special district for the fair market value of the transferred facilities. City Council v. S. Suburban Park, 160 P.3d 376 (Colo. App. 2007).

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Factors to be weighed. The trial court must weight the advantages and disadvantages of an exclusion to determine whether, on balance, the quality of service will not decline as a result of the exclusion. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

Appellate court bound by trial court's determination. As to whether the services to be provided by Denver in the future would not be of lower quality than those presently provided by the fire protection district, the appellate court is bound by the trial court's determination unless it is "clearly arbitrary and capricious". City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs. of Bancroft Fire Prot. Dist., 38 Colo. App. 53, 554 P.2d 714 (1976).

While the legality of annexation proceedings is being challenged in court, the disputed territory remains in the city subject to city taxes and assessments and is entitled to all city services. City Council v. Bd. of Dirs. of S. Sub. Metro. Recreation & Park Dist., 181 Colo. 334, 509 P.2d 317 (1973).

Property excluded from a fire protection district by a July 12, 1974 order was subject to all property taxes levied by the district for the 1974 taxable year, and for the taxable year 1975 and thereafter, the excluded territory was subject only to a levy for taxes for a pro rata share of the district's indebtedness outstanding on January 1, 1975. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs., 37 Colo. App. 496, 549 P.2d 1090 (1976).

Applied in City of Westminster v. Hyland Hills Metro. Park & Recreation Dist., 190 Colo. 558, 550 P.2d 337 (1976).

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-503. Effect of exclusion order.

32-1-503. Effect of exclusion order.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-503. Effect of exclusion order. / Statute text

(1) Territory excluded from a special district pursuant to the provisions of this part 5 shall not be subject to any property tax levied by the board for the operating costs of the special district. For the purpose of retiring the special district's outstanding indebtedness and the interest thereon existing at the effective date of the exclusion order, the special district shall remain intact, and the excluded territory shall be obligated to the same extent as all other property within the special district but only for that proportion of such outstanding indebtedness and the interest thereon existing immediately prior to the effective date of the exclusion order. The board shall levy annually a property tax on all such excluded and remaining property sufficient, together with other funds and revenues of the special district, to pay such outstanding indebtedness and the interest thereon. The board is also empowered to establish, maintain, enforce, and, from time to time, modify such service charges, tap fees, and other rates, fees, tolls, and charges, upon

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BACK TO TOP

residents or users in the area of the special district as it existed prior to the exclusion, as may in the discretion of the board be necessary to supplement the proceeds of said tax levies in the payment of the outstanding indebtedness and the interest thereon. In no event shall excluded territory of a special district become obligated for the payment of any bonded indebtedness created after the date of the court's exclusion order.

(2) The change of boundaries of the special district shall not impair nor affect its organization, nor shall it affect, impair, or discharge any contract, obligation, lien, or charge on which it might be liable or chargeable had such change of boundaries not been made.

(3) Notice of the court order of any exclusion accomplished pursuant to this part 5 shall be given in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-105.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-503. Effect of exclusion order. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1562, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 5 EXCLUSION OF TERRITORY / 32-1-503. Effect of exclusion order. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-308 as it existed prior to 1981.

ANNOTATION

Annotator's note. The following annotations include cases decided under former provisions similar to this section.

This section is directory to the taxing authorities. In re Org. of S.W. Adams County Fire Prot. Dist., 192 Colo. 142, 556 P.2d 1215 (1976).

Property excluded from a fire protection district by a July 12, 1974 order was subject to all property taxes levied by the district for the 1974 taxable year, and for the taxable year 1975 and thereafter, the excluded territory was subject only to a levy for taxes for a pro rata share of the district's indebtedness outstanding on January 1, 1975. City & County of Denver v. Bd. of Dirs., 37 Colo. App. 496, 549 P.2d 1090 (1976).

Property excluded from a special district pursuant to this section is still obligated to the same extent as all other property within the special district for purposes of retiring the special district's outstanding indebtedness existing at the time of the exclusion order. Excluded property is to be valued and assessed in the same manner, and subject to the same mill levy, as all other property in the district. In re Black Forest Fire/Rescue Prot. Dist., 85 P.3d 591 (Colo. App. 2003).

"Proportion", as used in this section, refers to the relationship between a special district's

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

outstanding indebtedness prior to the exclusion of property and its total indebtedness. Nothing in the section suggests that "proportion" refers to any relationship between the assessed value of the excluded property and the assessed value of the district as a whole. In re Black Forest Fire/Rescue Prot. Dist., 85 P.3d 591 (Colo. App. 2003).

A court-ordered monetary transfer from the city to the special district upon exclusion is not double taxation for the same government service. The transfer of money to the special district was to compensate the district for its financial loss and was intended to support facilities outside of the city that will remain in the district. Taxes collected by the city and used to pay the transfer amount would serve a different purpose from taxes used to support facilities within the city that are excluded from the district. Cherry Hills Vill. v. S. Suburban Park & Recreation Dist., 219 P.3d 421 (Colo. App. 2009).

This section cannot be construed to prohibit trial courts from ordering monetary transfers upon exclusion. Such an interpretation would be contrary to the provisions of § 32-1-502 (2)(d), which requires courts to resolve disputes in a manner that is fair and equitable. Cherry Hills Vill. v. S. Suburban Park & Recreation Dist., 219 P.3d 421 (Colo. App. 2009).

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 6
CONSOLIDATION

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / Annotations

Law reviews: For article, "Consolidation of Fire Protection Districts: A Case Study", see 24 Colo. Law. 813 (1995).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-601. Definitions.

32-1-601. Definitions.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-601. Definitions. / Statute text

As used in this part 6, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Concurring resolution" means a resolution passed in accordance with this part 6 by the board of any special district for the purpose of accepting the consolidation resolution.

(2) "Consolidated district" means a quasi-municipal corporation of this state resulting from the consolidation of two or more special districts; or resulting from the consolidation of one or more of the services of two or more special districts, one of which is not a metropolitan district, which consolidation of services may include the consolidation of all services of a special district with only specified services of one or more special districts; or resulting from the consolidation of one or more of the services of two or more metropolitan districts and may include the consolidation of all services of a metropolitan district with only specified services of another metropolitan district. If a district which provides a single service or water and sanitation services consolidates its service or services with another single service district, no new separate district may be formed.

(3) "Consolidation resolution" means a resolution passed in accordance with this part 6 by a board of any special district for the purpose of initiating the consolidation of two or more such

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BACK TO TOP

special districts into a single and consolidated district, the consolidation of one or more of the services of two or more special districts, one of which is not a metropolitan district, or the consolidation of one or more of the services of two or more metropolitan districts.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-601. Definitions. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1563, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (2) and (3) amended, p. 1111, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-601. Definitions. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-112 (2) to (4) as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-602. Procedure for consolidation.

32-1-602. Procedure for consolidation.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-602. Procedure for consolidation. / Statute text

(1) (a) Two or more special districts may be consolidated into a single consolidated district, and such consolidation may occur between or among such districts whether or not they were originally organized for the same purpose and whether or not such districts are contiguous.

(b) Two or more special districts may consolidate one or more of their services whether or not they were originally organized for the same purpose and whether or not such districts are contiguous.

(2) Consolidation may be accomplished in the following manner:

(a) The board of any special district shall pass a consolidation resolution declaring that such district and any specified special district or districts are so situated that all such districts may operate or that one or more specified services of each of the districts may be operated effectively and economically as a consolidated district and that the public health, safety, prosperity, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the special district initiating the consolidation will be better served by the consolidation of such districts or services. The resolution shall also state the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

proposed name of the proposed consolidated district, the special districts or services to be included within the proposed consolidated district, whether the board of the consolidated district will have five or seven directors, any special conditions that may attach to the consolidated district, and the time limit within which the included special districts must approve the consolidation resolution in order to be included within the proposed consolidated district. Such time limit shall be not later than six months after the date of such resolution.

(b) After receipt of such consolidation resolution and prior to the time limit fixed in the consolidation resolution, the board of each of the special districts named in the resolution proposing the consolidation, other than the special district initiating the proposed consolidation, shall pass a resolution either concurring in the consolidation or rejecting the same and shall send a copy of such resolution to the special district initiating the consolidation.

(c) Each special district desiring to be included or have its service or services included within the consolidated district shall file the concurring resolution with the initiating special district. If one or more special districts sought to be included in the initiating resolution file concurring resolutions stating that such consolidated district will promote the public health, safety, prosperity, and general welfare of the inhabitants within the concurring special districts, the initiating special district, within thirty days after the date of the receipt of all concurring resolutions, shall file with the board of county commissioners of each county having territory within one or more of the districts and in the court wherein the organization petition of the initiating special district was filed a copy of such consolidation resolution and the concurring resolutions of the other special districts seeking consolidation of the districts or the specified services. Any proposed consolidated district which is subject to the provisions of part 2 of this article pursuant to section 32-1-607 (6) shall first obtain approval of the service plan in accordance with the provisions of part 2 of this article. Any special district rejecting the consolidation resolution shall not thereafter be included in any consolidation proceedings then pending.

(d) When the consolidation resolution and one or more concurring resolutions are filed in court, the court shall fix a date, not less than thirty days nor more than forty days after the date of filing, within which time a hearing shall be held to determine the legality of the proposed consolidation. Notice of the filing of the resolutions and of the date fixed for hearing objections to the proposed consolidation shall be given by publication, and written notice shall be provided to the governing body of any municipality entitled to notice pursuant to section 32-1-607 (6). No pleadings shall be filed by any special district involved, but any eligible elector of, the fee owner of any real property situated within, or any county or municipality having territory within any of the special districts involved in the proposed consolidation which desires to oppose the consolidation or the inclusion of property or territory in a consolidated district shall file a written and verified petition in the court five days prior to the hearing date and serve copies thereof upon each of the special districts desiring consolidation. The petition shall set forth clearly and concisely the objections of the petitioner, which objections shall be limited to the failure of any initiating district or concurring district to comply with this part 6, or, in a consolidation of

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

services proceeding, duplication of service to the petitioner's property or territory by an existing municipality or special district not part of the proposed consolidated district or the provision of new and unwanted service to the petitioner's property by the proposed consolidated district. The court shall hear the petition and all objections to it at the time of the hearing on the consolidation resolution and the concurring resolutions and shall determine whether, in the general public interest and subject to the requirements of section 32-1-503, the property should be excluded or included in the proposed consolidated district.

(e) At the hearing, if the court finds that the consolidation resolution and the concurring resolutions have been properly filed and that the board of each special district desiring to be consolidated or desiring to have specified services consolidated has proceeded in accordance with this part 6, the court shall enter an order ex parte setting an election within each of the consolidating special districts for the approval of the consolidated district by the eligible electors affected by the consolidation at the next regular special district or special election, which shall be held and conducted pursuant to articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S. The order shall require publication of notice as required by section 1-13.5-510, C.R.S., specifying the name of the consolidated district; the names of the special districts to be consolidated or the name of the district into which specific services are to be consolidated and the names of the special districts presently empowered to provide the services; a summary of any special conditions that may attach to the consolidated district, including any preconsolidation agreements and the provisions included therein regarding the assumption of debt and the approval of any financial obligation, including accrued unfunded pension liability, as debt to remain payable by the taxpayers of the consolidating special district which incurred the obligation or maintained the pension plan to which the accrued unfunded liability attaches; if the consolidated district may be granted the powers of a metropolitan district, the effect of the change and the services a metropolitan district may provide, including any change in maximum mill levies set forth in section 32-1-1101 (1), or, if the mill levy is unlimited, the fact that there is no mill levy limit established by statute; and the area to be included within the consolidated district, which shall be all of the area originally contained within the organization order for each individual special district, together with all areas contained in any inclusions, the consolidated area not to include any area excluded by any special district being so consolidated or by the court pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subsection (2). If two or more districts are to be consolidated and if the consolidated district is to assume metropolitan district powers, the court shall order that the eligible electors vote separately on the question of consolidation and the question of granting the consolidated district the powers of a metropolitan district. If the eligible electors approve consolidation but reject the granting of metropolitan district powers, the consolidated district shall have only those powers granted single-purpose districts providing the same services. If all or part of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of all of the consolidating special districts is to be assumed by the consolidated district, the court shall also order that the eligible electors vote separately on the question of consolidation and the question of assuming the indebtedness at the consolidation election. If the eligible electors approve consolidation but reject the assumption of indebtedness by the consolidated district, the outstanding bonded indebtedness shall remain the obligation of the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

special district which incurred the bonded indebtedness and shall be paid and discharged by the taxpayers having taxable property within the boundaries of the indebted special district. If a preconsolidation agreement provides that the consolidation shall be contingent upon assumption of debt by the consolidated district, then the consolidation shall not be approved unless the assumption of indebtedness is approved by the eligible electors. If any financial obligation of one or more of the consolidating districts is to be submitted to the electors for approval as debt, the court shall also order that the electors vote separately on the question of consolidation and the question of approval of each financial obligation as debt, which issue shall be presented to the electors in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-606.5. If the electors approve consolidation but do not approve the treatment of one or more financial obligations as debt, the financial obligations not so approved shall be assumed by the consolidated district in the same manner as other obligations of consolidating districts are assumed, unless a preconsolidation agreement providing that the consolidation shall be contingent upon the approval regarding treatment of the financial obligation as debt, in which case the consolidation shall not be approved. The area of the consolidated district after the election shall be the total area of the special districts consolidated existing as of the date of the court order. No appeal shall lie from any orders of the court.

(f) Approval by a majority of the eligible electors voting in the election within each of the consolidating special districts concerning the consolidation of the special districts or specified services shall be deemed to conclusively establish the consolidated district against all persons except the state of Colorado which, within thirty-five days after the election, may contest the consolidation or the election in an action in the nature of a writ of quo warranto. Otherwise, the consolidation of the districts or services and the organization of the consolidated district shall not directly or indirectly be questioned in any action or proceeding.

(3) Any proceeding for consolidation undertaken pursuant to this section which is not approved shall not operate as a bar to any subsequently proposed consolidation of one or more of the special districts or services named in the consolidation resolution with any other special district or with each other. The provisions of section 32-1-106 shall not apply to any subsequently proposed consolidation.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-602. Procedure for consolidation. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1563, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (1), (2)(a), (2)(c) to (2)(f), and (3) amended, p. 1112, § 2, effective July 1. **L. 92:** (2)(d) to (2)(f) amended, p. 878, § 112, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** (2)(e) amended, p. 562, § 1, effective April 30. **L. 2012:** (2)(f) amended, (SB 12-175), ch. 208, p. 881, § 147, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** (2)(e) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 786, § 85, effective June 6.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-602. Procedure for consolidation. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-113 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-602.5. Consolidation and review by administrative action.

32-1-602.5. Consolidation and review by administrative action.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-602.5. Consolidation and review by administrative action. / Statute text

Whenever the division finds, upon its own investigation or upon the receipt of information from any source, that the consolidation, restructuring of services, or other changes in the operations of one or more special districts would be in the best interests of the residents of the special districts or will improve the quality of services or lower the costs of services, the division may review the operations and performance of such special districts and issue recommendations. The division may require one or more special district boards to hold a public meeting to discuss the operations and performance of such special districts. If such public meeting involves two special district boards and both boards agree that consolidation is appropriate, they shall commence consolidation procedures pursuant to section 32-1-602. If the public meeting involves three or more special district boards, a majority of such boards must approve consolidation before consolidation procedures are commenced.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-602.5. Consolidation and review by administrative action. / History

Source: L. 91: Entire section added, p. 787, § 13, effective June 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-603. Procedure after consolidation election.

32-1-603. Procedure after consolidation election.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-603. Procedure after consolidation election. / Statute text

(1) After the election approving the consolidated district, the members of the board of each of the special districts consolidated or having services consolidated into the consolidated district shall constitute the organizational board of the consolidated district, regardless of the number of directors thereof. This organizational board shall remain as the board of the consolidated district until such time as the first board of the consolidated district is selected as provided in this section.

(2) The organizational board, within six months after the date of the consolidation election, shall:

(a) (I) If the board of the consolidated district is to have five directors, determine the terms of the directors of the first board as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2); or

(II) If the board of the consolidated district is to have seven directors, divide the consolidated district into seven director districts, each of which shall have, as nearly as possible, the same number of eligible electors and which shall be as contiguous and compact as possible, and determine the terms of the directors of the first board as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2). In making the division, the board shall consider existing or potential developments within the proposed director districts which when completed would, in the reasonably near future, increase or decrease the number of eligible electors within the director district. The organizational board shall then select from its members a representative of each director district, and, if possible, the representatives shall be eligible electors within the boundaries of the director district which they are selected to represent. Thereafter, directors shall be eligible electors of the director district which they represent.

(b) Determine the terms of the directors of the first board of the consolidated district. In making the determination, the organizational board shall fix the terms of the first board as follows: The terms of two directors, if there are five directors, or three directors, if there are seven directors, of the first board having the fewest years to serve on the board to which they were originally elected shall expire at the first regular special district election after the date of order of the court as provided in subsection (4) of this section; and the terms of the remaining three directors, if there are five directors, or the remaining four directors, if there are seven directors, having the greatest number of years to serve on the board to which they were originally elected shall expire at the second regular special district election. If the terms of the directors so selected to the first board of the consolidated district expire on the same date, the terms of the directors shall be determined by the organizational board. The terms shall be determined, however, so that two or three directors, as applicable, shall have terms expiring in two years and three or four directors, as applicable, shall have terms expiring in four years.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Thereafter, each board member shall have a term of four years.

(c) Determine the amount of bond for each director of the consolidated district, which amount shall not be less than one thousand dollars per director and may be an individual, schedule or blanket bond at the expense of the consolidated district, and fix the amount of the treasurer's bond in an amount not less than five thousand dollars, which bonds are conditioned upon the faithful performance of their duties.

(3) After making such determinations, the organizational board shall promptly file in the court having jurisdiction as provided in section 32-1-602 (2)(c) a petition stating the name of the consolidated district, the name and address of each member of the first board of the consolidated district, the term of each member thereof, the amount of the surety bonds fixed in accordance with this section, and a description of the director districts, if any, of the consolidated district. Such petition shall also have attached to it photocopies or duplicates of the bonds duly certified by the insurance or surety company issuing the bonds, the originals of which bonds shall be retained in the files of the consolidated district.

(4) The court, upon the filing of such petition, if satisfied that the allegations therein are true, shall enter an order ex parte stating the name of the consolidated district, the name and address of each member of the first board of the consolidated district, a description of the director districts, if any, of the consolidated district, a description of the total consolidated district, any conditions that may attach to the consolidated district if services are consolidated, a description of the specified services to be provided by such district, and the term of office of each member of the board of the consolidated district, and, at the same time, the court shall approve or disapprove the bond or bonds attached to the petition. This order shall be forthwith recorded in the office of the county clerk and recorder in each county wherein the consolidated district is organized, and notice of such action shall be given in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-105.

(5) The members of the first board named in the order of court as provided in subsection (4) of this section, upon taking the oath of office, shall constitute the board of the consolidated district. The board shall elect one of its members as chairman of the board and president of the consolidated district, one of its members as treasurer of the board and the consolidated district, and a secretary of the board and the consolidated district who may be a member of the board. The secretary and the treasurer may be one person, but, if such is the case, he shall be a member of the board.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-603. Procedure after consolidation election. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1565, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (1) and (4) amended, p. 1115, § 3, effective July 1; (2)(a)(II), (3), and (4) amended, p. 1084, § 3, effective July 1,

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BACK TO TOP

1986. **L. 92:** (2)(a) and (2)(b) amended, p. 880, § 113, effective January 1, 1993.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-603. Procedure after consolidation election. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 32-1-114 as it existed prior to 1981.

(2) Amendments to subsection (4) by House Bill 85-1009 and House Bill 85-1062 were harmonized.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-604. Advisory board members.

32-1-604. Advisory board members.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-604. Advisory board members. / Statute text

The members of the organizational board of the consolidated district not selected to act as the members of the first board of the consolidated district may act, however, as advisory members to the first board until such time as the terms of office for which they were originally elected would have expired. Advisory members may be compensated equally with compensation paid to the board of the consolidated district for each meeting attended. Advisory board members may not act as officers of nor bind the consolidated district and shall have no vote on any matters before the board of the consolidated district, but they may be employed by the board of the consolidated district in any capacity.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-604. Advisory board members. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1566, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-604. Advisory board members. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-115 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-605. Special election provisions for consolidated districts.

32-1-605. Special election provisions for consolidated districts.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-605. Special election provisions for consolidated districts. / Statute text

(1) The first election of the consolidated district shall be the next regular special district election. Except as otherwise provided in this part 6, nominations and elections for the consolidated district shall be governed by articles 4 and 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S.

(2) (a) For those consolidated districts having seven directors on the board, beginning with the first regular special district election and continuing with each regular special district election thereafter, members of the consolidated board shall be eligible electors of the director district which they represent. Nominations for a director shall be signed by eligible electors from the director district which the director to be elected is to represent.

(b) After the first regular special district election of directors to the board in such consolidated districts, the board of the consolidated district, at least ninety days prior to any subsequent regular special district election, shall determine the boundaries of each director district pursuant to section 32-1-603 (2) and shall not make any change until after the regular special district election has been held. Upon making any change in the boundaries of any director district, the board, within ninety days prior to a regular special district election, shall file a resolution changing the boundaries with the clerk of the court having jurisdiction and shall give notice by one publication within the consolidated district.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-605. Special election provisions for consolidated districts. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1566, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (1)(b) amended, p. 1084, § 4, effective July 1, 1986. **L. 92:** Entire section amended, p. 880, § 114, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 2016:** (1) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 787, § 86, effective June 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-605. Special election provisions for consolidated districts. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 32-1-116 as it existed prior to 1981.

(2) Changes were made in numbering in 1994 to conform to C.R.S. format.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-606. Bonded indebtedness of consolidated districts.

32-1-606. Bonded indebtedness of consolidated districts.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-606. Bonded indebtedness of consolidated districts. / Statute text

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section and approved by the eligible electors pursuant to section 32-1-602 (2)(e), all of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of any special district which becomes part of a consolidated district or which has all of its services completely consolidated shall be paid and discharged by the taxpayers having taxable property within the boundaries of the special district which incurred the bonded indebtedness. The board of the consolidated district shall levy a general property tax annually, for so long as may be necessary to pay the bonded indebtedness according to its terms, upon the properties lying within the boundaries of the special district which incurred the bonded indebtedness as the boundaries existed when the special district became a part of the consolidated district. The levying of the tax shall not prevent the board of the consolidated district from imposing special rates, tolls, or charges for services and facilities afforded within the boundaries of the indebted special district or made available to the properties lying within the indebted special district.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section and approved by the eligible electors pursuant to section 32-1-602 (2)(e), all of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of any special district which consolidates less than all of its services into a consolidated district shall remain the obligation of the special district which incurred the bonded indebtedness and shall be paid and discharged by the taxpayers having taxable property within the boundaries of the indebted special district. The board of the special district which incurred the bonded indebtedness shall levy a general property tax annually, for so long as may be necessary to pay the bonded indebtedness according to its terms, upon the properties lying within the boundaries of the indebted special district. The levying of the tax shall not prevent the board of the consolidated district from imposing special rates, tolls, or charges for services and facilities afforded within the boundaries of the indebted special district or made available to the properties lying within the indebted special district.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prevent a consolidated district from being bound by preconsolidation agreements which have been entered into between or among consolidating districts and which have become part of the terms and conditions of consolidation as set forth in the court order under section 32-1-603 (4), including the assumption of all or part of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of all of the consolidating special districts by the consolidated

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

special district.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-606. Bonded indebtedness of consolidated districts. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1567, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** Entire section amended, p. 1115, § 4, effective July 1. **L. 92:** (1) and (2) amended, p. 881, § 115, effective January 1, 1993.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-606. Bonded indebtedness of consolidated districts. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-117 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-606.5. Elector approval of financial obligations of consolidating districts.

32-1-606.5. Elector approval of financial obligations of consolidating districts.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-606.5. Elector approval of financial obligations of consolidating districts. / Statute text

(1) Whenever the board of a consolidating special district determines, by resolution, that the interest of the special district, the resulting consolidated district, and the public interest require that the obligation to pay and discharge any financial obligation, including accrued unfunded pension liability, remain the obligation of the taxpayers of said consolidating special district, the board shall request that the court order the submission of the proposition of treating the financial obligation as general obligation indebtedness to the electors of said consolidating district at the consolidation election. Such request shall be made to the court at the hearing held in accordance with section 32-1-602 (2)(e) and shall recite, as to each financial obligation to be submitted at the election:

(a) The object and purpose for which the financial obligation was incurred or the pension plan to which the accrued unfunded liability attaches;

(b) The estimated total cost of discharging the financial obligation;

(c) The estimated term over which the financial obligation will be discharged and the

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BACK TO TOP

estimated annual cost;

(d) The initial mill levy necessary to pay the annual cost; and

(e) Whether the consolidation is contingent upon approval of the financial obligation as debt.

(2) If the court finds that the board's request complies with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, the court shall grant the board's request and include in its order entered pursuant to section 32-1-602 (2)(e), that the electors of the consolidating special district vote separately on each financial obligation proposed to be treated as debt.

(3) If approved as debt by the electors at the consolidation election, the financial obligation of the consolidating special district, which becomes part of a consolidated district, shall be paid and discharged by the taxpayers having taxable property within the boundaries of the consolidating special district which incurred the obligation or maintained the pension plan to which the accrued unfunded liability attaches. The board of the consolidated district shall levy a general property tax annually for so long as may be necessary to retire the elector-approved debt.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent a consolidated district from being bound by preconsolidation agreements which have been entered into between or among consolidating districts and which have become part of the terms and conditions of consolidation as set forth in the court order under section 32-1-603 (4) including the assumption of any or all of the financial obligations of the consolidating special districts by the consolidated special district.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-606.5. Elector approval of financial obligations of consolidating districts. / History

Source: L. 93: Entire section added, p. 563, § 2, effective April 30.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-607. Powers.

32-1-607. Powers.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-607. Powers. / Statute text

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 32-1-602 (2)(e), a consolidated district has all of the rights, powers, and authorities which were granted by statute to each of the special districts

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BACK TO TOP

which are consolidated and may have the rights, powers, and authorities granted to a metropolitan district. Any consolidated district which embraces any special district is not limited in its exercise of the rights, powers, and authorities granted in this section because the full extent of the purposes and powers to be exercised by the consolidated district was not stated or was stated otherwise in any organization petition, court order, or ballot of any one or more of the special districts so consolidated, but a consolidated district established on or after July 1, 1985, is limited in its exercise of the rights, powers, and authorities granted or validated in this section to the extent the purposes and powers to be exercised by the consolidated district are stated in the consolidation resolution or subsequently approved by a vote of the eligible electors of the consolidated district.

(2) The consolidated district, upon order of the court as provided in section 32-1-603 (4), shall immediately become the owner of and entitled to receive, hold, sue for, and collect all moneys, funds, taxes, levies, assessments, fees, and charges and all property and assets of any kind or nature owned, leased, or claimed by or due to any of the special districts so consolidated. The obligations of the special districts, other than bonded indebtedness and elector-approved debt, shall be assumed by the consolidated district and paid by the consolidated district. Inclusions and exclusions of lands to and from the consolidated district shall be governed by the provisions of parts 4 and 5 of this article.

(3) In the case of a district into which services are consolidated, the district shall have all of the rights, powers, and authorities which are granted by statute for each of the consolidated services. Unless all of the rights, powers, and authorities of a metropolitan district are granted pursuant to section 32-1-602 (2)(e), if the consolidated district is authorized to provide two or more of the services specified in section 32-1-1004 (2), the consolidated district shall have only those rights, powers, and authorities granted and shall be subject to the limitations applicable to other single-purpose special districts providing a similar service. Any consolidated district which embraces any special district is not limited in its exercise of the rights, powers, and authorities granted in this section because the full extent of the purposes and powers to be exercised by the consolidated district was not stated or was stated otherwise in any organization petition, court order, or ballot of any one or more of the special districts so consolidated, but the consolidated district is limited in its exercise of the rights, powers, and authorities granted or validated in this section to the extent the purposes and powers to be exercised are stated in the consolidated resolution or subsequently approved by a vote of the eligible electors of the consolidated district.

(4) A consolidated district, upon order of the court as provided in section 32-1-603 (4), shall immediately become the owner of and entitled to receive, hold, sue for, and collect all moneys, funds, levies, assessments, fees, and charges and all properties and assets of any kind or nature owned, leased, or claimed by or due to any of the special districts so consolidated for the services consolidated, subject to the terms of a preconsolidation agreement, contract, or bond covenant affecting the conveyance. The obligations of the special districts for the services consolidated, other than bonded indebtedness and elector-approved debt, shall be assumed by the consolidated district and paid by the district. Inclusions and exclusions of lands to and from the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

consolidated district shall be governed by the provisions of parts 4 and 5 of this article.

(5) Except as provided in this part 6, any special district which consolidates less than all of its services into a consolidated district may remain in existence and not be affected by the consolidation proceeding or may, on motion of the board after notice to the court and after providing for the payment of any outstanding indebtedness, be dissolved. If the special district remains in existence, such special district shall no longer possess the power to provide the services so consolidated. If such special district is authorized to provide only a single remaining service, it shall have only those rights, powers, and authorities granted and shall be subject to the limitations applicable to other single-purpose special districts providing a similar service.

(6) No consolidation proceeding under this part 6 is subject to the provisions of part 2 of this article; except that any consolidation proceeding under this part 6 that will result in the creation of a consolidated district that will provide new or different services within the boundaries of any existing municipality as compared to the services that are either being provided or that are authorized to be provided to the municipality by one or more of the consolidating special districts as of the commencement of the consolidation proceedings subjects the proposed consolidated district to the provisions of part 2 of this article. In such event, the provisions of part 2 of this article relating to the organization of a proposed special district must be complied with by the special district initiating the consolidation after adoption of the consolidation resolution and concurring resolutions but prior to filing such resolutions with the court as specified in section 32-1-602 (2)(c); except that the provisions of section 32-1-203 (2)(b) are not applicable when existing service is being provided by a consolidating special district. Any such municipality is an interested party and entitled to notice of the proceedings for all of the purposes provided in part 2 of this article and in this part 6. If the board of either the initiating special district or a concurring special district disapproves the final action taken on such service plan, the consolidation proceeding must be terminated.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-607. Powers. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1567, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 85:** (1) amended and (3) to (6) added, p. 1116, § 5, effective July 1. **L. 92:** (1) and (3) amended, p. 882, § 116, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** (2) and (4) amended, p. 565, § 3, effective April 30. **L. 2013:** (6) amended, (HB 13-1302), ch. 317, p. 1733, § 1, effective August 7.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-607. Powers. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-118 as it existed prior to 1981.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-608. Subsequent consolidations.

32-1-608. Subsequent consolidations.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-608. Subsequent consolidations. / Statute text

Any consolidated district may initiate proceedings for the consolidation of one consolidated district with another special district, whether or not a consolidated district, as provided in section 32-1-602. Such proceedings shall proceed in accordance with this part 6 without regard to the fact that the districts have been previously consolidated.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-608. Subsequent consolidations. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1567, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 6 CONSOLIDATION / 32-1-608. Subsequent consolidations. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-120 as it existed prior to 1981.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

PART 7
DISSOLUTION

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-701. Initiation - petition - procedure.

32-1-701. Initiation - petition - procedure.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-701. Initiation - petition - procedure. / Statute text

(1) Whenever the majority of all the members of the board of a special district deems it to be in the best interests of such district that it be dissolved, the board shall file a petition for dissolution with the court.

(2) (a) The board, promptly and in good faith, shall also take the necessary steps to dissolve the special district whenever the lesser of five percent of the eligible electors or two hundred fifty eligible electors or, in case of special districts larger than twenty-five thousand persons, three percent of the eligible electors of the district or the division file an application with the board to dissolve the special district pursuant to the provisions of this part 7. In that case the board shall file a petition for dissolution with the court within sixty days after the date of filing of the application by the eligible electors. The petition for dissolution shall request an election and shall include a report on the steps which have been taken to comply with the requirements of section 32-1-702. The board, at the time it files a petition for dissolution pursuant to this subsection (2), may request that the proceedings under sections 32-1-703 and 32-1-704 be continued until further progress has been made in complying with the requirements of section 32-1-702.

(b) No application to dissolve a special district shall be circulated until it has been approved as following as nearly practicable the requirements of section 31-11-106, C.R.S., for municipal petitions. The application shall be submitted to the secretary of the board of directors of the special district. The secretary shall approve the application as to form or notify the person who submitted the application of any deficiencies in the form of the application by the close of the fifteenth business day following the submission of such application. The secretary shall mail written notice of the approval or deficiencies to the person who submitted the application within two days after the date the action is taken.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(c) Any signature that is affixed to an application to dissolve a special district prior to the date that the written approval notice is mailed pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (2) shall be invalid.

(d) No application to dissolve a special district filed by the eligible electors in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall be accepted by the board of directors of such district more than ninety days after the date that the written approval notice is mailed pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (2).

(3) If at least eighty-five percent of the territory encompassed by a special district lies within the corporate limits of a municipality, the governing body of such municipality may file an application with the board to dissolve the special district, and the board, promptly and in good faith, shall take the necessary steps to dissolve such district in accordance with the procedures specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) If the territory encompassed by a special district lies wholly within the boundaries of a regional service authority and if such service authority provides the same service as that provided by the special district, the board of directors of any such service authority may file an application with the board to dissolve the special district, and the board, promptly and in good faith, shall take the necessary steps to dissolve such district in accordance with the procedures specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(5) If the territory encompassed by a special district lies within the boundaries of two or more regional service authorities and if such service authorities provide the same service as that provided by the special district, the two or more service authorities may file jointly an application with the board to dissolve the special district, and the board, promptly and in good faith, shall take the necessary steps to dissolve such district in accordance with the procedures specified in subsection (2) of this section. The application shall include the consent of such service authorities to assume the responsibilities for providing the service in their respective jurisdictions or the consent of one regional service authority to provide the service on a contractual basis.

(6) Any application filed with the board to dissolve a special district under subsection (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this section shall be accompanied by a cash bond in the amount of three hundred dollars to cover the expenses connected with the proceedings if the dissolution is not effected.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-701. Initiation - petition - procedure. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1568, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 87:** (2) amended, p. 1236, § 1, effective May 8. **L. 91:** (2) amended, p. 788, § 14, effective June 4. **L. 92:** (2) amended, p.

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BACK TO TOP

882, § 117, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 99:** (2) amended, p. 448, § 2, effective August 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-701. Initiation - petition - procedure. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-603 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-702. Requirements for dissolution petition.

32-1-702. Requirements for dissolution petition.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-702. Requirements for dissolution petition. / Statute text

(1) A petition for dissolution shall generally describe the territory embraced in the special district, shall have a map showing the special district, a current financial statement of the special district, and a plan for final disposition of the assets of the special district and for payment of the financial obligations of the special district, shall state whether or not the services of the special district are to be continued and, if so, by what means, and shall state whether the existing board or a portion thereof shall continue in office, subject to court appointment to fill vacancies. Said petition may provide for the regional service authority board or the governing body of the municipality to act as the board in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-707.

(2) The special district's current financial statement shall be accompanied by adequate evidence of compliance with the requirements of subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The petition for dissolution shall provide for one of the following:

(a) A certificate that the special district has no financial obligations or outstanding bonds;

(b) A plan for dissolution stating that there are financial obligations or outstanding bonds but that the special district will not continue in existence and specifically providing that funds or securities meeting the investment requirements established in part 6 of article 75 of title 24, C.R.S., will be placed in escrow, prior to dissolution, in a state or national bank within this state having trust powers and which is a member of the federal deposit insurance corporation and stating that such funds or securities will be sufficient for the payment of the financial obligations and outstanding bonds and all expenses relating thereto, including charges of any escrow agent;

(c) A plan for dissolution stating that there are financial obligations or outstanding bonds and specifically providing that the special district will continue in existence to such extent as is

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

necessary to adequately provide for the payment of such financial obligations and outstanding bonds.

(4) The petition for dissolution shall also provide for one of the following:

(a) A statement that the services of the special district will not be continued within such district;

(b) (I) A plan for dissolution specifically providing that services are to be continued within the special district by one or more regional service authorities, municipalities, counties, intergovernmental authorities formed and operated under part 2 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., or other special districts, or any combination thereof, and incorporating an agreement with such regional service authority, municipality, county, intergovernmental authority, or other special district, or any combination thereof, under which responsibility for all services presently provided by the special district will be assumed by such entity. Such agreement shall provide for the operation and maintenance of the system or facilities of the special district by the regional service authority, municipality, county, intergovernmental authority, or other special district, provisions for service, rates, and charges, and, if applicable, provisions concerning acquisition of the special district's system or facilities, consolidation or inclusion of territory, and procedures for contract modification, employee rights, and retirement benefits. Such agreement may include provisions for certification of levies by the special district continuing in existence under paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of this section, the contracting regional service authority, municipality, county, intergovernmental authority, or other special district providing the services. Any agreement concerning fire protection districts entered into pursuant to this subsection (4) shall include provisions for the continuation of paid employees' rights pursuant to section 32-1-1002 (2) and the retirement benefits of paid firefighters as provided in parts 2 and 4 of article 30.5 and article 31 of title 31, C.R.S., and the retirement benefits of volunteer firefighters under part 11 of article 30 of title 31, C.R.S.

(II) If a portion of a special district is located within the boundaries of a municipality and a dissolution proceeding has been initiated by the special district, the board shall hold a public hearing for residents in the unincorporated area of the special district to express their views concerning the provision of services to the unincorporated portions of the special district at the time of negotiation of the agreement or any modification thereof.

(5) Any plan for dissolution shall include adequate provision for continuance of existing services, and the financing thereof, to all areas of the special district being dissolved if such services are essential for the health, welfare, and safety of those residents of the special district being dissolved.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-702. Requirements for dissolution petition. / History

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1569, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 89:** (3)(b) amended, p. 1116, § 31, effective July 1. **L. 91:** (4)(b)(I) amended, p. 796, § 1, effective April 10. **L. 95:** (4)(b)(I) amended, p. 1385, § 18, effective June 5. **L. 96:** (4)(b)(I) amended, p. 942, § 8, effective May 23.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-702. Requirements for dissolution petition. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-604 as it existed prior to 1981.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration contained in the 1995 act amending subsection (4)(b)(I), see section 1 of chapter 254, Session Laws of Colorado 1995.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-703. Notice of filing petition.

32-1-703. Notice of filing petition.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-703. Notice of filing petition. / Statute text

(1) Upon filing of the petition for dissolution by the board with the court, the court shall give notice by publication reciting the fact that a petition for dissolution has been filed and reciting the applicable financial provision set forth under section 32-1-702 (3) and the applicable service provision set forth under section 32-1-702 (4).

(2) Such notice shall specify the time and place of a hearing, to be held within fifty days after filing of said petition, and shall provide that any interested party may appear and be heard on the sufficiency of the petition for dissolution or on the adequacy of the applicable financial and service provisions.

(3) The court shall also forthwith cause a copy of said notice to be mailed to the board of county commissioners of each county having territory within the special district and to the governing body of each municipality having territory located within a radius of three miles of the special district boundaries.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-703. Notice of filing petition. / History

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BACK TO TOP

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1570, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-703. Notice of filing petition. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former §§ 32-1-605 and 32-3-125 as they existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-704. Conditions necessary for dissolution - permissible provisions - hearings - court powers.

32-1-704. Conditions necessary for dissolution - permissible provisions - hearings - court powers.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-704. Conditions necessary for dissolution - permissible provisions - hearings - court powers. / Statute text

(1) Prior to the court hearing on the petition for dissolution, the governing body of any municipality, county, intergovernmental authority formed and operated under part 2 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., other special district, or regional service authority which is a party to an agreement to render services and which is assuming the responsibility to provide those services in the special district to be dissolved shall submit to the jurisdiction of the court by a written entry of appearance.

(2) Hearings may be continued by the court on the petition for dissolution as necessary to complete the proceedings authorized by this part 7. No petition shall be declared void on account of alleged defects, but the court may at any time permit the petition to be amended to conform to the facts by correcting any errors in the description of the territory or in any other particular.

(3) (a) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection (3), if the court finds that the special district has no financial obligations or outstanding bonds or that the special district's financial obligations and outstanding bonds will be adequately provided for prior to dissolution by means of escrow funds or securities meeting the investment requirements established in part 6 of article 75 of title 24, C.R.S., to secure payment thereof, that the petition for dissolution meets the requirements of this part 7, and that an adequate plan exists for continuation of services, if required, the court shall order an election in the special district on the question of dissolution.

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BACK TO TOP

(b) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (c) of this subsection (3), the court shall enter an order dissolving the special district pursuant to section 32-1-707 without an election if the special district lies wholly within the corporate limits of the municipality, if the special district has no financial obligations or outstanding bonds, and if the special district board and the governing body of the municipality consent to the dissolution.

(c) If, at the court hearing on the petition for dissolution, the lesser of ten percent or one hundred of the eligible electors of the special district petition the court for a special election to be held on the question of dissolution of the special district, the court shall order an election in the special district on the question of dissolution.

(4) (a) If the court finds the special district has financial obligations or outstanding bonds and no escrow plan, the court shall determine whether the plan for dissolution, as submitted, adequately provides for payment of the financial obligations and outstanding bonds of the special district.

(b) If the court determines that the plan for dissolution adequately provides for the payment of the financial obligations and outstanding bonds of the special district, that the petition for dissolution meets the requirements of this part 7, and that an adequate plan exists for continuance of services, if required, the court shall order an election to be held in the special district on the question of dissolution.

(c) If, at any time after the filing of a petition for dissolution under section 32-1-701, the court determines that no agreement can be reached concerning the plan for dissolution under section 32-1-702 (4)(b) or that any other requirements of this part 7 cannot be met, and that the board has acted in good faith, it shall dismiss the dissolution proceedings. If, however, the special district is entirely within the municipality and the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the court may impose a plan for dissolution under section 32-1-702 at the request of either the municipality or the special district and shall order an election to be held in the special district on the question of dissolution.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-704. Conditions necessary for dissolution - permissible provisions - hearings - court powers. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1570, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 89:** (3)(a) amended, p. 1117, § 32, effective July 1. **L. 91:** (1) amended, p. 797, § 2, effective April 10. **L. 92:** (3)(c) amended, p. 883, § 118, effective January 1, 1993.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-704. Conditions necessary for dissolution - permissible provisions -

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BACK TO TOP

hearings - court powers. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-606 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-705. Election notice.

32-1-705. Election notice.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-705. Election notice. / Statute text

When an election is ordered by the court, the court shall give notice pursuant to section 1-13.5-510, C.R.S.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-705. Election notice. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1571, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 92:** Entire section amended, p. 883, § 119, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** Entire section amended, p. 1439, § 135, effective July 1. **L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 787, § 87, effective June 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-705. Election notice. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-607 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-706. Conduct of election.

32-1-706. Conduct of election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-706. Conduct of election. / Statute text

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

It is the duty of the secretary to administer the election, subject to court supervision. The election shall be conducted pursuant to articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-706. Conduct of election. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1571, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 92:** Entire section amended, p. 883, § 120, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 787, § 88, effective June 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-706. Conduct of election. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-608 as it existed prior to 1981.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-707. Order of dissolution - conditions attached.

32-1-707. Order of dissolution - conditions attached.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-707. Order of dissolution - conditions attached. / Statute text

(1) (a) If a majority of the eligible electors voting at the election approve the question of dissolution, the judge shall enter an order dissolving the special district for all purposes or for all purposes except those reserved in the plan, as the case may be.

(b) The order of dissolution shall:

(I) State that there are no financial obligations or outstanding bonds or that any such financial obligations or outstanding bonds are adequately secured by escrow funds or securities meeting the investment requirements established in part 6 of article 75 of title 24, C.R.S.;

(II) If the special district has financial obligations or outstanding bonds, incorporate the applicable financial provisions of the findings of the court accepting the plan for dissolution entered into pursuant to section 32-1-704 (4);

(III) Incorporate the applicable service provisions of the findings of the court accepting the plan for dissolution entered into pursuant to section 32-1-704 (3) or (4).

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BACK TO TOP

(2) (a) Whenever the special district will continue in existence pursuant to the provisions of section 32-1-702 (3)(c), the court may provide that all or certain directors of the board of the special district being dissolved remain in office to perform duties pursuant to subsections (3) and (4) of this section. The remaining directors of the board shall not be subject to election. Any vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment by the court.

(b) If a portion of the special district being dissolved lies outside the contracting regional service authority, municipality, county, intergovernmental authority formed and operated under part 2 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., or other special district providing the services, the court, from time to time, shall appoint directors to the board so that proportionate representation is provided, taking into account the size, population, and valuation for assessment within and without the regional service authority, municipality, county, intergovernmental authority, or other special district.

(c) If the special district being dissolved lies entirely within the corporate limits of a municipality and such municipality is providing the same services within the area of the special district being dissolved, the court shall order that the governing body of such municipality shall serve as the board of the special district to perform the duties specified in this section.

BACK TO TOP

(3) If the special district is to continue in existence for the purpose of the payment of financial obligations or outstanding bonds, the order of dissolution shall provide that:

(a) The board shall be responsible for setting rates, tolls, fees, or charges and certifying to the board of county commissioners the amount of revenue to be raised by the annual mill levy of the special district necessary for payment of the special district's financial obligations and outstanding bonds; and

(b) The contracting regional service authority, municipality, county, intergovernmental authority formed and operated under part 2 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., or other special district providing the services shall be responsible for fixing the rates, tolls, fees, or charges needed to finance the services being provided pursuant to the provisions of section 32-1-702 (4)(b).

(4) (a) In any case in which an agreement has been made for continuation of services within the special district pursuant to the provisions of section 32-1-702 (4)(b), the court may authorize the board to continue in existence for the purpose of assuring the performance of any condition of such agreement, including negotiations relating to any future modifications of the agreement, procedures for which are provided in the original agreement for services.

(b) The court's order may in such case specify that its jurisdiction over the dissolution continues for the purpose of considering any future modifications of the agreement or other questions concerned with performance of the agreement.

(5) A certified copy of the order of dissolution shall be filed with the county clerk and recorder of the county or counties in which the special district is located and with the division by

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BACK TO TOP

the clerk of the court. The costs of such filing shall be paid with remaining funds of the district. If there are no remaining funds of the district, the division may claim the exemption from payment of recording fees imposed in section 30-1-103, C.R.S., at the time the copy of the order is filed for recording.

(6) The order of dissolution shall be final and conclusive against all persons; except that an action may be instituted by the state of Colorado in the nature of quo warranto commenced within thirty-five days after the order of dissolution. The dissolution of said district shall not be directly or collaterally questioned in any suit, action, or proceeding except as expressly authorized in this subsection (6).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-707. Order of dissolution - conditions attached. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1572, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 89:** (1)(b)(I) amended, p. 1117, § 33, effective July 1. **L. 91:** (2)(b) and (3)(b) amended, p. 797, § 3, effective April 10. **L. 92:** (1)(a) and (2)(a) amended, p. 883, § 121, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 2012:** (6) amended, (SB 12-175), ch. 208, p. 882, § 148, effective July 1. **L. 2014:** (5) amended, (HB 14-1073), ch. 30, p. 177, § 5, effective July 1.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-707. Order of dissolution - conditions attached. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former §§ 32-1-609 and 32-1-611 as they existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-708. Disposition of remaining funds - unpaid tax or levies.

32-1-708. Disposition of remaining funds - unpaid tax or levies.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-708. Disposition of remaining funds - unpaid tax or levies. / Statute text

(1) If services are to be continued within the special district, all funds remaining in the treasury of such special district in excess of all financial obligations and outstanding bonds shall be utilized, upon completion of the requirements for dissolution, to reduce the rates, tolls, fees, and charges fixed by the contracting municipality, county, intergovernmental authority formed

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BACK TO TOP

and operated under part 2 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., other special district, or regional service authority to finance the services continued in the special district. If services are not to be continued within the special district, such funds shall be divided among the municipalities and counties in which the special district is located, pro rata, as the valuation for assessment of taxable property in the parts of the special district lying in each municipality and unincorporated portions of each county bears to the total valuation for assessment of the taxable property of the special district as determined by the respective county assessors for the preceding tax year.

(2) All outstanding and unpaid tax sales and levies of a dissolved special district shall be valid and remain a lien against the property against which they are assessed or levied until paid, subject, however, to the limitations of liens of tax certificates and of certificates of purchase provided by general law. The board of county commissioners has the same power to enforce the collection of all outstanding tax sales of the special district as the special district would have had if it had not been dissolved. Taxes paid or collected after dissolution shall be distributed in the same manner as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-708. Disposition of remaining funds - unpaid tax or levies. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1573, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 91:** (1) amended, p. 797, § 4, effective April 10.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-708. Disposition of remaining funds - unpaid tax or levies. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-612 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-709. Dissolution of health service district - limitation.

32-1-709. Dissolution of health service district - limitation.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-709. Dissolution of health service district - limitation. / Statute text

Any health service district organized pursuant to part 3 of this article may be dissolved in the manner provided in this part 7, but no such health service district shall be dissolved within a one-year period from the date of the entry of an order declaring said district organized or one

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

year from the date of final determination of any petition to set aside such order, whichever date is later.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-709. Dissolution of health service district - limitation. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1574, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 474, § 15, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-709. Dissolution of health service district - limitation. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-5-215 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-710. Dissolution by administrative action.

32-1-710. Dissolution by administrative action.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-710. Dissolution by administrative action. / Statute text

(1) The division shall notify a special district by certified mail of the division's intent to certify the district dissolved if:

(a) (I) Except as provided in section 32-1-905 (2.5), the district has failed to hold or properly cancel an election pursuant to this article;

(II) The district has failed to adopt a budget, pursuant to section 29-1-108, C.R.S., for two consecutive years;

(III) The district has failed to comply with part 6 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., for two consecutive years; or

(IV) The district has not provided or attempted to provide any of the services or facilities for which the district was organized for two consecutive years; and

(b) The district has no outstanding financial obligations.

(2) (a) The division may declare the special district dissolved if, within thirty days of the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

notice provided pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the district has failed to demonstrate to the division that the district has performed such statutory or service responsibility or will proceed to perform such responsibilities within a time period agreed to by the division and the district.

(b) If the district has failed to hold or properly cancel an election, no board has been appointed pursuant to section 32-1-905 (2.5), and there will be no interruption of services being provided by the district, it shall be presumed that the district has failed to demonstrate to the division that it has performed its statutory or service responsibility or will proceed to perform such responsibilities.

(3) Following the division's declaration of dissolution, the division shall submit the declaration to the court for certification of the district's dissolution. The court shall make a determination on the division's declaration within thirty days after the declaration has been submitted and shall order the disposition of the assets, if any, of the district in accordance with section 32-1-708. In the event that the court determines that the district is not inactive, it may terminate the dissolution proceeding. The division shall give notice that it has applied to the court for certification of the declaration of dissolution to the following parties: The county clerk and recorder, the board of county commissioners, and the assessor of each county in which the district is located; the governing body of any municipality in which the special district is located; and the special district.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 7 DISSOLUTION / 32-1-710. Dissolution by administrative action. / History

Source: L. 85: Entire section added, p. 1021, § 7, effective July 1. **L. 87:** (1)(a)(I) and (2) amended, p. 1237, § 1, effective May 16. **L. 90:** (1)(a)(II) amended, p. 1436, § 4, effective January 1, 1991.

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BACK TO TOP

PART 8
ELECTIONS

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / Annotations

Editor's note: This article was repealed and reenacted in 1981, and this part 8 was subsequently repealed and reenacted in 1992, resulting in the addition, relocation, and elimination of sections as well as subject matter. For amendments to this part 8 prior to 1992, consult the Colorado statutory research explanatory note and the table itemizing the replacement volumes and supplements to the original volume of C.R.S. 1973 beginning on page vii in the front of this volume and the editor's note following the article heading. Former C.R.S. section numbers prior to 1992 are shown in editor's notes following those sections that were relocated.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-801. Legislative declaration - applicability.

32-1-801. Legislative declaration - applicability.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-801. Legislative declaration - applicability. / Statute text

It is hereby declared that the orderly conduct of elections of special districts will serve a public use and will promote the health, safety, security, and general welfare of the people of the state of Colorado. Therefore, all elections shall be held pursuant to articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S., unless otherwise provided.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-801. Legislative declaration - applicability. / History

Source: L. 92: Entire part R&RE, p. 884, § 122, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 2016:** Entire section amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 787, § 89, effective June 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT

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BACK TO TOP

ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-801. Legislative declaration - applicability. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-801 as it existed prior to 1992.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-802. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to qualified electors.

32-1-802. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to qualified electors.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-802. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to qualified electors. / Statute text

Any elections, and any acts relating thereto, carried out under this part 8, which were conducted prior to July 1, 1987, pursuant to provisions which referred to a qualified elector rather than an eligible elector and which were valid when conducted, shall be deemed and held to be legal and valid in all respects.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-802. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to qualified electors. / History

Source: L. 92: Entire part R&RE, p. 884, § 122, effective January 1, 1993.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-802. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to qualified electors. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-801.5 as it existed prior to 1992.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-803. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to registered electors.

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BACK TO TOP

32-1-803. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to registered electors.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-803. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to registered electors. / Statute text

Any elections and any acts relating to those elections, carried out under this part 8 which were conducted prior to July 1, 1992, and which were valid when conducted, shall be held to be legal and valid in all respects.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-803. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to registered electors. / History

Source: L. 92: Entire part R&RE, p. 884, § 122, effective January 1, 1993.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-803. Acts and elections conducted pursuant to provisions which refer to registered electors. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-801.5 as it existed prior to 1992.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-803.5. Organizational election - new special district.

32-1-803.5. Organizational election - new special district.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-803.5. Organizational election - new special district. / Statute text

At any election for the organization of a new special district, the court shall also order the submission of the proposition of issuing general obligation bonds or creating other general obligation indebtedness or any question or questions necessary to implement section 20 of article X of the state constitution as applied to the new special district, if the petition filed pursuant to section 32-1-301 requests that such questions be submitted at the organizational election. The

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

order of the court shall make the determinations required by section 32-1-1101 (2) and (3)(a) and require the designated election official appointed by the court pursuant to section 32-1-305.5 (1) to conduct the election in accordance with section 20 of article X of the state constitution.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-803.5. Organizational election - new special district. / History

Source: L. 93: Entire section added, p. 1439, § 136, effective July 1. **L. 2014:** Entire section amended, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 71, § 31, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-803.5. Organizational election - new special district. / Annotations

Editor's note: This provision was added by House Bill 93-1255, chapter 258, Session Laws of Colorado 1993, as section 32-1-802 (6) but was renumbered on revision to give proper effect and location.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804. Board to conduct elections - combined election - time for special election.

32-1-804. Board to conduct elections - combined election - time for special election.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804. Board to conduct elections - combined election - time for special election. / Statute text

(1) After a special district is organized and the first board is elected, the board shall govern the conduct of all subsequent regular and special elections of the special district and shall render all interpretations and make all decisions as to controversies or other matters arising in the conduct of the elections. The board in its discretion, but no more frequently than every four years, may reestablish the boundaries of director districts created pursuant to section 32-1-301 (2)(f) so that the director districts have, as nearly as possible, the same number of eligible electors.

(2) All powers and authority granted to the board by this part 8 for the conduct of regular or

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BACK TO TOP

special elections may be exercised in the absence of the board by the secretary or by an assistant secretary appointed by the board. The person named by the board who is responsible for the conducting of the election shall be the designated election official.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804. Board to conduct elections - combined election - time for special election. / History

Source: L. 92: Entire part R&RE, p. 884, § 122, effective January 1, 1993.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804. Board to conduct elections - combined election - time for special election. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-803 as it existed prior to 1992.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804.1. Call for nominations. (Repealed)

32-1-804.1. Call for nominations. (Repealed)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804.1. Call for nominations. (Repealed) / History

Source: L. 99: Entire section added, p. 449, § 3, effective August 4. **L. 2014:** Entire section repealed, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 77, § 51, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804.1. Call for nominations. (Repealed) / Annotations

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804.3. Candidates for director - self-nomination and acceptance form. (Repealed)

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

32-1-804.3. Candidates for director - self-nomination and acceptance form. (Repealed)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804.3. Candidates for director - self-nomination and acceptance form. (Repealed) / History

Source: L. 99: Entire section added, p. 449, § 3, effective August 4. **L. 2011:** (4) amended, (HB 11-1124), ch. 105, p. 328, § 1, effective April 13. **L. 2014:** Entire section repealed, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 77, § 51, effective February 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-804.3. Candidates for director - self-nomination and acceptance form. (Repealed) / Annotations

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-805. Time for holding elections - type of election - manner of election - notice. (Repealed)

32-1-805. Time for holding elections - type of election - manner of election - notice. (Repealed)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-805. Time for holding elections - type of election - manner of election - notice. (Repealed) / History

Source: L. 92: Entire part R&RE, p. 885, § 122, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 94:** (2) amended, p. 1195, § 100, effective July 1. **L. 95:** (2) amended, p. 859, § 109, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (2) amended, p. 922, § 2, effective May 17; (1) amended and (4) added, p. 1191, § 10, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (5) added, (SB 09-087), ch. 325, p. 1732, § 4, effective September 1. **L. 2011:** (5)(b) amended and (5)(b.5) and (5)(b.7) added, (SB 11-057), ch. 123, p. 385, § 1, effective April 20. **L. 2013:** (5)(a) repealed and (5)(b) amended, (HB 13-1303), ch. 185, pp. 752, 751, §§ 138, 133, effective May 10. **L. 2014:** Entire section repealed, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 77, § 51, effective February 18.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-805. Time for holding elections - type of election - manner of election - notice. (Repealed) / Annotations

Editor's note: This section was similar to former § 32-1-803 as it existed prior to 1992.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-805.5. Ranked voting methods.

32-1-805.5. Ranked voting methods.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-805.5. Ranked voting methods. / Statute text

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, a special district may use a ranked voting method, as defined in section 1-1-104 (34.4), C.R.S., to conduct a regular election to elect directors of the special district in accordance with section 1-7-1003, C.R.S., and the rules adopted by the secretary of state pursuant to section 1-7-1004 (1), C.R.S.

(2) A special district conducting an election using a ranked voting method may adapt the requirements of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", articles 1 to 13 of title 1, C.R.S., including requirements concerning the form of the ballot, the method of marking the ballot, the procedure for counting ballots, and the form of the election judges' certificate, as necessary for compatibility with the ranked voting method.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-805.5. Ranked voting methods. / History

Source: L. 2008: Entire section added, p. 1253, § 5, effective August 5.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-806. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

32-1-806. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-806. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections. / Statute text

(1) No person shall be permitted to vote in any election unless that person is an eligible elector as defined in section 32-1-103 (5)(a).

(2) Any person desiring to vote at any election as an eligible elector pursuant to section 32-1-103 (5)(a)(II) shall sign a self-affirmation that the person is an elector of the special district. The self-affirming oath or affirmation must be on a form that contains in substance the following:

"I, _(printed name)_, who reside at _(address)_, am an elector of this _(name of special district)_ district and desire to vote at this election. I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am registered to vote in the state of Colorado and qualified to vote in this special district election as:
_____ A resident of the district or area to be included in the district; or
_____ The owner of taxable real or personal property situated within the boundaries of the special district or area to be included within the special district; or
_____ A person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property in the special district or the area to be included within the special district; or
_____ The spouse or civil union partner of (name of spouse or civil union partner) who is the owner of taxable real or personal property situated within the boundaries of the special district or area to be included within the special district.
I have not voted previously at this election.
Date _____
Signature of elector _____."

(3) For electors who vote at any election by mail ballot, the affidavit on the envelope of the ballot as required by title 1, C.R.S., may be substituted for the self-affirming oath or affirmation required by subsection (2) of this section.

(4) A person who completes the self-affirming oath or affirmation required by subsection (2) of this section shall be permitted to vote, unless such person's right to vote is challenged.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-806. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections. / History

Source: L. 92: Entire part R&RE, p. 885, § 122, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 93:** Entire section amended, p. 1439, § 137, effective July 1. **L. 94:** (2) amended, p. 1195, § 101, effective July 1. **L. 95:** (3) added, p. 859, § 110, effective July 1. **L. 96:** Entire section amended, p. 1772, § 74, effective July 1. **L. 2007:** (3) amended, p. 1798, § 72, effective June 1. **L. 2014:** (3) amended,

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 75, § 46, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (2) amended, (SB 16-142), ch. 173, p. 592, § 79, effective May 18.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-806. Persons entitled to vote at special district elections. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-804 as it existed prior to 1992.

Cross references: (1) For the requirement of registration before voting in a primary, general, or congressional vacancy election, see § 1-2-201.

(2) For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

ANNOTATION

Annotator's note. The following annotations include cases decided under former provision similar to this section.

Nonresidents do not have fundamental right to vote in elections in this state. Millis v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 626 P.2d 652 (Colo. 1981).

The fact that a nonresident owns land in this state does not create a fundamental right to political participation in decisions which affect that land. While nonresident landowners may be enfranchised, there is nothing in the constitution that requires they be given voting rights in a political subdivision where they do not live. Millis v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 626 P.2d 652 (Colo. 1981).

The decision to grant the franchise to residents of Colorado owning property in a special district but not residing there, while denying the franchise to owners of such property living outside Colorado, does not violate the equal protection guarantee of the state constitution. Millis v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 626 P.2d 652 (Colo. 1981).

Constitutional challenge to this section on grounds that denying corporate entities the right to vote on the formation of a special district violates the equal protection clause was premature as no petition for organization was pending before district court. State Farm v. City of Lakewood, 788 P.2d 808 (Colo. 1990).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-807. Nonapplicability of criminal penalties.

32-1-807. Nonapplicability of criminal penalties.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS /

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

32-1-807. Nonapplicability of criminal penalties. / Statute text

Election offenses and penalties prescribed by parts 2 and 3 of article 13 of title 1, C.R.S., do not apply to elections authorized under this title.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-807. Nonapplicability of criminal penalties. / History

Source: L. 92: Entire part R&RE, p. 885, § 122, effective January 1, 1993.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-807. Nonapplicability of criminal penalties. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-833 as it existed prior to 1992.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-808. Transfer of property title to qualify electors - limitations - validation.

32-1-808. Transfer of property title to qualify electors - limitations - validation.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-808. Transfer of property title to qualify electors - limitations - validation. / Statute text

(1) (a) No person shall knowingly take or place title to taxable property in the name of another or enter into a contract to purchase or sell taxable property for the purpose of attempting to qualify such person as an eligible elector at any special district election. Any ballot cast in violation of this subsection (1) as determined in an election contest conducted pursuant to article 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S., shall be void.

(b) No person shall aid or assist any person in doing any of the acts described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1).

(2) (a) A person may take or place title to taxable property in the name of another or enter into a contract to purchase or sell taxable property for the purpose of attempting to qualify such person as an eligible elector for any special district election under the following circumstances:

(I) A vacancy exists on the board of the special district and, within ten days of the publication of notice of such vacancy, no otherwise qualified eligible elector files a letter of

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

interest in filling such position with the board;

(II) In any organizational election at which there are more than ten eligible electors, on or after the second day before the filing deadline for self-nomination and acceptance forms or letters pursuant to section 32-1-305.5 (4), the number of otherwise qualified eligible electors who have filed such self-nomination and acceptance forms or letters is less than the number of special district director offices to be voted upon at such election;

(III) There are less than eleven eligible electors as of any date before an organizational election; or

(IV) On or after the day after the filing deadline for self-nomination and acceptance forms or letters pursuant to section 1-13.5-303, C.R.S., before any regular special district election, the number of otherwise qualified eligible electors who have filed self-nomination and acceptance forms or letters pursuant to section 1-13.5-303, C.R.S., is less than the number of special district director offices to be voted upon at the election.

(b) (I) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall place title to taxable property in the name of another or enter into a contract to sell taxable property for the purpose of attempting to qualify more than the number of persons who are necessary to be eligible electors in order to:

(A) Fill a vacancy on a board except as permitted by the provisions of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2); or

(B) Become a candidate for director in a special district election except as permitted by the provisions of subparagraphs (II), (III), and (IV) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2).

(II) The incidental qualification of the spouse of a person as an eligible elector pursuant to section 32-1-103 (5)(a)(II) shall not constitute a qualification of more than the number of persons necessary to be eligible electors under subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b).

(3) It shall not constitute a violation of subsection (1) of this section for a person to take or place title to taxable property in the name of another or to enter into a contract to purchase or sell taxable property in substitution of property acquired in accordance with subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Any person who is an eligible elector as of July 1, 2006, or who has been qualified as an eligible elector under this section shall remain qualified as an eligible elector until such time as such person ceases to meet the qualifications set forth in section 32-1-103 (5).

(5) Any person elected to a board whose qualification as an eligible elector is not challenged and overturned in accordance with the requirements specified in article 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S., shall not be subject to further challenge based upon qualification as a property owner under this section.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(6) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

(I) The qualification of any person appointed or elected to a board prior to April 21, 2016, is hereby validated, ratified, and confirmed and may not be challenged, except as provided in this subsection (6), unless a contest was initiated prior to April 21, 2016.

(II) The qualification of any person appointed or elected to a board on May 3, 2016, is hereby validated, ratified, and confirmed and may not be challenged, except as provided in this subsection (6), unless a contest was initiated within the time period specified in section 1-11-213 or 1-13.5-1403, C.R.S., as applicable.

(b) Except where a contest to the qualifications of a person to serve on a board has been timely initiated as described in this subsection (6), this subsection (6) validates, ratifies, and confirms the qualifications of any person appointed or elected to a board prior to May 3, 2016, notwithstanding any defects and irregularities in such qualifications. All actions undertaken by any board member who may not have been qualified to serve on the board when appointed or elected on or before May 3, 2016, shall be considered as actions of a de facto officer and director and as valid and effective.

(c) Nothing in this subsection (6) is intended to limit challenges by legal proceedings in the nature of quo warranto to the continuing service of persons appointed or elected to a board who may no longer be eligible to serve in accordance with section 32-1-905 together with challenges to the actions of such board taken after initiation of those legal proceedings.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-808. Transfer of property title to qualify electors - limitations - validation. / History

Source: L. 2006: Entire section added, p. 135, § 1, effective March 29. **L. 2014:** (2)(a)(IV) amended, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 75, § 47, effective February 18. **L. 2016:** (5) amended and (6) added, (SB 16-211), ch. 174, p. 596, § 3, effective May 18; (1)(a) and (5) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 787, § 90, effective June 6.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-808. Transfer of property title to qualify electors - limitations - validation. / Annotations

Editor's note: Amendments to subsection (5) by SB 16-189 and SB 16-211 were harmonized.

Cross references: (1) For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

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BACK TO TOP

(2) For the legislative declaration in SB 16-211, see section 1 of chapter 174, Session Laws of Colorado 2016.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-809. Notice to electors.

32-1-809. Notice to electors.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-809. Notice to electors. / Statute text

(1) No more than sixty days prior to and not later than January 15 of each year, the board shall provide notice to the eligible electors of the special district in the manner set forth in subsection (2) of this section. The notice shall contain the following:

(a) The address and telephone number of the principal business office of the special district;

(b) The name and business telephone number of the manager or other primary contact person of the special district;

(c) The names of and contact information for the members of the board, the name of the board chair, and the name of each member whose office will be on the ballot at the next regular special district election;

(d) The times and places designated for regularly scheduled meetings of the board during the year and the place where notice of board meetings is posted pursuant to section 24-6-402 (2)(c), C.R.S.;

(e) The current mill levy of the special district and the total ad valorem tax revenue received by the district during the last year;

(f) The date of the next regular special district election at which members of the board will be elected;

(g) Information on the procedure and time for an eligible elector of the special district to submit a self-nomination form for election to the board pursuant to section 1-13.5-303, C.R.S.;

(h) Repealed.

(i) The address of any website on which the special district's election results will be posted; and

(j) Information on the procedure for an eligible elector to apply for a permanent absentee

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

voter status as described in section 1-13.5-1003, C.R.S., with the special district.

(2) The notice required by subsection (1) of this section shall be made in one or more of the following ways:

(a) Mailing the notice separately to each household where one or more eligible electors of the special district resides;

(b) Including the notice as a prominent part of a newsletter, annual report, billing insert, billing statement, letter, voter information card or other notice of election, or other informational mailing sent by the special district to the eligible electors of the special district;

(c) Posting the information on the official website of the special district if there is a link to the district's website on the official website of the division;

(d) For any district that is a member of a statewide association of special districts formed pursuant to section 29-1-401, C.R.S., by mailing or electronically transmitting the notice to the statewide association of special districts, which association shall post the notice on a publicly accessible section of the association's website; or

(e) For a special district with less than one thousand eligible electors that is wholly located within a county with a population of less than thirty thousand, posting the notice in at least three public places within the limits of the special district and, in addition, posting a notice in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the special district is located. Such notices shall remain posted until the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of the following May.

(3) A special district shall make a copy of the notice required by subsection (1) of this section available for public inspection at the principal business office of the special district.

(4) Special districts with overlapping boundaries may combine the notices mailed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section, so long as the information regarding each district is separately displayed and identified.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-809. Notice to electors. / History

Source: L. 2009: Entire section added, (SB 09-087), ch. 325, p. 1733, § 5, effective September 1. **L. 2013:** (1)(h) repealed, (HB 13-1303), ch. 185, p. 752, § 138, effective May 10. **L. 2014:** (1)(g) amended and (1)(j) added, (HB 14-1164), ch. 2, p. 71, § 32, effective February 18. **L. 2015:** (1)(c) and (3) amended, (HB 15-1092), ch. 87, p. 251, § 5, effective August 5.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 8 ELECTIONS / 32-1-809. Notice to electors. / Annotations

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BACK TO TOP

Cross references: (1) In 2013, subsection (1)(h) was repealed by the "Voter Access and Modernized Elections Act". For the short title and the legislative declaration, see sections 1 and 2 of chapter 185, Session Laws of Colorado 2013.

(2) For the legislative declaration in HB 14-1164, see section 1 of chapter 2, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP

PART 9
DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-901. Oath or affirmation and bond of directors.

32-1-901. Oath or affirmation and bond of directors.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-901. Oath or affirmation and bond of directors. / Statute text

(1) Each director, within thirty days after his or her election or appointment to fill a vacancy, except for good cause shown, shall take an oath or affirmation in accordance with section 24-12-101, except as otherwise required by this section. When an election is cancelled in whole or in part pursuant to section 1-13.5-513, each director who was declared elected shall take the oath or affirmation in accordance with section 24-12-101, except as otherwise required by this section, within thirty days after the date of the regular election, except for good cause shown. The oath shall be filed with the clerk of the court and with the division.

(2) At the time of filing said oath, each director shall file a bond at the expense of the special district, in an amount determined by the board of not less than one thousand dollars each, conditioned upon the faithful performance of his or her duties as director.

(3) If any director fails to take an oath or affirmation in accordance with section 24-12-101, except as otherwise required by this section, or furnish the requisite bond within the period allowed, except for good cause shown, his or her office shall be deemed vacant, and the vacancy thus created shall be filled in the same manner as other vacancies in the office of director.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-901. Oath or affirmation and bond of directors. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1586, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2001:** (1) amended, p.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

1004, § 15, effective August 8. **L. 2016:** (1) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 788, § 91, effective June 6. **L. 2018:** Entire section amended, (HB 18-1138), ch. 88, p. 699, § 31, effective August 8.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-901. Oath or affirmation and bond of directors. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-846 as it existed prior to 1981.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in HB 18-1138, see section 1 of chapter 88, Session Laws of Colorado 2018.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-902. Organization of board - compensation - disclosure.

32-1-902. Organization of board - compensation - disclosure.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-902. Organization of board - compensation - disclosure. / Statute text

(1) After taking oath and filing bonds, the board shall elect one of its members as chairman of the board and president of the special district, one of its members as a treasurer of the board and special district, and a secretary who may be a member of the board. The secretary and the treasurer may be one person, but, if such is the case, he or she shall be a member of the board. The board shall adopt a seal, and the secretary shall keep in a visual text format that may be transmitted electronically a record of all its proceedings, minutes of all meetings, certificates, contracts, bonds given by employees, and all corporate acts, which shall be open to inspection of all electors, as well as to all other interested parties.

(2) The treasurer shall keep strict and accurate accounts of all money received by and disbursed for and on behalf of the special district in permanent records. He shall file with the clerk of the court, at the expense of the special district, a corporate fidelity bond in an amount determined by the board of not less than five thousand dollars, conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of his office.

(3) (a) (I) For directors serving a term of office commencing prior to January 1, 2018, each director may receive as compensation for the director's service a sum not in excess of one

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BACK TO TOP

thousand six hundred dollars per annum, payable not to exceed one hundred dollars per meeting attended.

(II) For directors serving a term of office commencing on or after January 1, 2018, each director may receive as compensation for the director's service a sum not in excess of two thousand four hundred dollars per annum, payable not to exceed one hundred dollars per meeting attended.

(b) No director shall receive compensation as an employee of the special district, other than that provided in this section, and any director shall disqualify himself or herself from voting on any issue in which the director has a conflict of interest unless the director has disclosed such conflict of interest in compliance with section 18-8-308, C.R.S. Reimbursement of actual expenses for directors shall not be considered compensation. No director receiving workers' compensation benefits awarded in the line of duty as a volunteer firefighter or pension payments to retired firefighters shall be allowed to vote on issues involving the director's disability or pension payments.

(4) If a director of any special district owns undeveloped land which constitutes at least twenty percent of the territory included in the special district, such director shall disclose such fact in accordance with section 18-8-308, C.R.S., before each meeting of the board, and the fact of such disclosure shall be entered in the minutes of such meeting. For the purposes of this subsection (4), "undeveloped land" means real property which has not been subdivided or which has no improvements constructed on it, excluding real property dedicated for park, recreation, or open space purposes.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-902. Organization of board - compensation - disclosure. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1586, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 84:** (3) amended, p. 845, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 90:** (3) amended, p. 572, § 64, effective July 1. **L. 91:** (4) added, p. 788, § 16, effective June 4. **L. 96:** (3) amended, p. 548, § 1, effective April 24. **L. 2005:** (3)(a) amended, p. 386, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 2009:** (1) amended, (HB 09-1118), ch. 130, p. 562, § 9, effective August 5. **L. 2017:** (3)(a) amended, (HB 17-1297), ch. 364, p. 1905, § 1, effective August 9.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-902. Organization of board - compensation - disclosure. / Annotations

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as

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BACK TO TOP

they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

ANNOTATION

Law reviews. For article, "Director Conflicts: The Effect of Disclosure -- Parts I and II", see 17 Colo. Law. 461 and 639 (1988).

Subsection (3) in no way circumscribes the authority of the court to review the district's decision to determine whether the conflicts of interest resulted in "bad faith". If primary purpose of condemnation is to advance private interests, the existence of an incidental public benefit does not prevent a court from finding "bad faith" and invalidating a condemning authority's determination that a particular acquisition is necessary. Denver West Metro. Dist. v. Geudner, 786 P.2d 434 (Colo. App. 1989).

Applied in Berkeley Metro. Dist. v. Poland, 705 P.2d 1004 (Colo. App. 1985).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-902.5. Increasing the number of board members.

32-1-902.5. Increasing the number of board members.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-902.5. Increasing the number of board members. / Statute text

(1) (a) A special district having a five-member board may increase the number of board members to seven by the adoption of a resolution by the board and the approval of the resolution as specified in subsection (1)(b) of this section. The board shall consider the resolution at a public meeting after publication of notice regarding the place, time, and date of the meeting and of the proposed increase in the number of board members. Public input must be allowed at the meeting.

(b) Upon adopting a resolution pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this section, the board shall file a certified copy of the resolution with the board of county commissioners or governing body of the municipality that approved the service plan of the special district pursuant to section 32-1-204.5, 32-1-204.7, or 32-1-205. If, no later than forty-five days after the filing of the certified copy of the resolution, neither the board of county commissioners nor the governing body of the municipality has notified the board that it considers the plan to increase the number of board members to seven to be a material modification of the district's approved service plan, the board shall file the resolution with the clerk of the court, and the court shall enter an ex parte

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BACK TO TOP

order establishing the number of the board members. The board shall record a certified copy of the order in the office of the county clerk and recorder in each county where the special district is organized and shall file a recorded certified copy of the order with the division.

(2) (a) If a special district increases the number of board members to seven as allowed in subsection (1) of this section, the additional directors shall serve as follows:

(I) One person is elected at the next regular special district election following the date of official recording of the certified copy of the order described in subsection (1)(b) of this section, or a special election called for the purpose of electing additional directors, to serve an original term expiring at the next regular special district election thereafter; and

(II) One person is elected at the next regular special district election following the date of official recording of the certified copy of the order described in subsection (1)(b) of this section, or a special election called for the purpose of electing additional directors, to serve an original term expiring at the second regular special district election thereafter.

(b) After the original terms set forth in subsection (2)(a) of this section, the additional directors shall serve four-year terms.

(3) If a special district increases to a seven-member board as allowed in this section, the special district is not allowed to reduce to a five-member board.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-902.5. Increasing the number of board members. / History

Source: L. 2017: Entire section added, (HB 17-1198), ch. 119, p. 419, § 1, effective August 9.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-903. Meetings.

32-1-903. Meetings.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-903. Meetings. / Statute text

(1) The board shall meet regularly at a time and in a place to be designated by the board. Special meetings may be held as often as the needs of the special district require, upon notice to each director. Special meetings include study sessions at which a quorum of the board is in

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BACK TO TOP

attendance and notice of the meetings has been given in accordance with subsection (2) of this section or section 24-6-402 (2)(c), and at which information is presented but no official action can be taken by the board. All special and regular meetings of the board shall be held at locations which are within the boundaries of the district or which are within the boundaries of any county in which the district is located, in whole or in part, or in any county so long as the meeting location does not exceed twenty miles from the district boundaries. The provisions of this subsection (1) governing the location of meetings may be waived only if the following criteria are met:

(a) The proposed change of location of a meeting of the board appears on the agenda of a regular or special meeting of the board; and

(b) A resolution is adopted by the board stating the reason for which a meeting of the board is to be held in a location other than under the provisions of this subsection (1) and further stating the date, time, and place of such meeting.

(2) Notice of time and place designated for all regular and special meetings shall be provided in accordance with section 24-6-402. Special meetings may be called by any director by informing the other directors of the date, time, and place of such special meeting, and the purpose for which it is called, and by providing notice in accordance with section 24-6-402. All official business of the board shall be conducted only during said regular or special meetings at which a quorum is present, and all said meetings shall be open to the public.

(3) The notice posted pursuant to subsection (2) of this section for any regular or special meeting at which the board intends to make a final determination to issue or refund general obligation indebtedness, to consolidate the special district with another special district, to dissolve the special district, to file a plan for the adjustment of debt under federal bankruptcy law, or to enter into a private contract with a director, or not to make a scheduled bond payment, shall set forth such proposed action.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-903. Meetings. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1587, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 90:** (1) amended, p. 1496, § 4, effective April 10. **L. 91:** (3) added, p. 789, § 17, effective June 4. **L. 2009:** (2) amended, (SB 09-087), ch. 325, p. 1735, § 6, effective September 1. **L. 2017:** IP(1) amended, (HB 17-1297), ch. 364, p. 1905, § 2, effective August 9. **L. 2019:** (2) amended, (HB 19-1087), ch. 134, p. 610, § 2, effective August 2.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-903. Meetings. / Annotations

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BACK TO TOP

Editor's note: The provisions of this section are similar to provisions of several former sections as they existed prior to 1981. For a detailed comparison, see the comparative tables located in the back of the index.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-904. Office.

32-1-904. Office.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-904. Office. / Statute text

The office of the special district shall be at some fixed place to be determined by the board.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-904. Office. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1587, § 1, effective July 1.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-904. Office. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-4-207 (1) as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-905. Vacancies.

32-1-905. Vacancies.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-905. Vacancies. / Statute text

(1) A director's office shall be deemed to be vacant upon the occurrence of any one of the following events prior to the expiration of the term of office:

(a) If for any reason a properly qualified person is not elected to a director's office by the

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

electors as required at a regular election;

(b) If a person who was duly elected or appointed fails, neglects, or refuses to subscribe to an oath of office or to furnish the bond in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-901;

(c) If a person who was duly elected or appointed submits a written resignation to the board;

(d) If the person who was duly elected or appointed ceases to be qualified for the office to which he was elected;

(e) If a person who was duly elected or appointed is convicted of a felony;

(f) If a court of competent jurisdiction voids the election or appointment or removes the person duly elected or appointed for any cause whatsoever, but only after his right to appeal has been waived or otherwise exhausted;

(g) If the person who was duly elected or appointed fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the board without the board having entered upon its minutes an approval for an additional absence or absences; except that such additional absence or absences shall be excused for temporary mental or physical disability or illness;

(h) If the person who was duly elected or appointed dies during his term of office.

(2) (a) Any vacancy on the board shall be filled by appointment by the remaining director or directors, the appointee to serve until the next regular election, at which time, the vacancy shall be filled by election for any remaining unexpired portion of the term. If, within sixty days of the occurrence of any vacancy, the board fails, neglects, or refuses to appoint a director from the pool of any duly qualified, willing candidates, the board of county commissioners of the county which approved the organizational petition may appoint a director to fill such vacancy. The remaining director or directors shall not lose their authority to make an appointment to fill any vacancy unless and until the board of county commissioners which approved the organizational petition has actually made an appointment to fill that vacancy.

(b) No board of county commissioners shall make an appointment pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) unless it provides thirty days' notice of its intention to make such appointment to the remaining members of the board and the vacancy remains open at the time the board of county commissioners makes its appointment. If the organizational petition was approved by more than one board of county commissioners, then the appointment shall be made by the boards of the county commissioners which approved the petition, sitting jointly. Such an appointment shall be made at an open public meeting.

(2.5) If there are no duly elected directors and if the failure to appoint a new board will result in the interruption of services that are being provided by the district, then the board of county commissioners of the county or counties which approved the organizational petition may appoint all directors from the pool of duly qualified, willing candidates. The board appointed pursuant to

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

this subsection (2.5) shall call for nominations for a special election within six months after their appointment, which special election is to be held in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-305.5 and articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, C.R.S.; except that the question of the organization shall not be presented at the election. In the event a district is wholly within the boundaries of a municipality, the governing body of the municipality may appoint directors.

(3) All appointments shall be evidenced by an appropriate entry in the minutes of the meeting, and the board shall cause a notice of appointment to be delivered to the person so appointed. A duplicate of each notice of appointment, together with the mailing address of the person so appointed, shall be forwarded to the division.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-905. Vacancies. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1587, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 87:** (2.5) added, p. 1237, § 2, effective May 16. **L. 92:** (2) and (2.5) amended, p. 970, § 12, effective June 1; (2.5) amended, p. 885, § 123, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 2015:** (2.5) amended, (HB 15-1092), ch. 87, p. 252, § 6, effective August 5. **L. 2016:** (2.5) amended, (SB 16-189), ch. 210, p. 788, § 92, effective June 6.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-905. Vacancies. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-849 as it existed prior to 1981.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-906. Directors subject to recall - applicability of laws.

32-1-906. Directors subject to recall - applicability of laws.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-906. Directors subject to recall - applicability of laws. / Statute text

(1) Any director elected or appointed to the board of any special district who has actually held office for at least six months may be recalled from office by the eligible electors of the special district; except that a petition shall not be filed to recall a director whose term of office

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BACK TO TOP

expires in less than six months from the date the petition is presented for filing. Except as provided in section 32-1-913, a petition signed by the lesser of three hundred eligible electors or forty percent of the eligible electors demanding the recall of any director named in the petition must be filed in accordance with section 32-1-910 to initiate a recall election.

(2) to (5) (Deleted by amendment, L. 92, p. 886, § 124, effective January 1, 1993.)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-906. Directors subject to recall - applicability of laws. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1588, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 88:** (5) added, p. 296, § 11, effective May 29. **L. 92:** Entire section amended, p. 886, § 124, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 2014:** (1) amended, (SB 14-158), ch. 170, p. 623, § 15, effective May 9. **L. 2016:** (1)(a) amended and (1)(b.5) added, (HB 16-1442), ch. 313, p. 1270, § 18, effective August 10. **L. 2018:** (1) amended, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1297, § 1, effective May 4.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-906. Directors subject to recall - applicability of laws. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-847 as it existed prior to 1981.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in SB 14-158, see section 1 of chapter 170, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

ANNOTATION

Constitutionality of recall. There is no express or necessary implied constitutional prohibition contained in § 4 of art. XXI, Colo. Const., against including directors of special districts as elective officers who are subject to recall. Groditsky v. Pinckney, 661 P.2d 279 (Colo. 1983).

An official accepting petitions for recall of special district directors has a duty to evaluate the petitions for compliance with statutes, even if there is no protest. Adams v. Hill, 780 P.2d 55 (Colo. App. 1989).

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-907. Recall election - resignation.

32-1-907. Recall election - resignation.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-907. Recall election - resignation. / Statute text

(1) If a director subject to a recall petition offers a resignation, it shall be accepted, and the vacancy caused by the resignation, or from any other cause, shall be filled as provided by section 32-1-905 (2).

(2) (Deleted by amendment, L. 92, p. 887, § 125, effective January 1, 1993.)

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-907. Recall election - resignation. / History

Source: L. 81: Entire article R&RE, p. 1589, § 1, effective July 1. **L. 92:** Entire section amended, p. 887, § 125, effective January 1, 1993. **L. 2014:** (1) amended, (SB 14-158), ch. 170, p. 623, § 16, effective May 9. **L. 2018:** (1) amended, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1298, § 2, effective May 4.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-907. Recall election - resignation. / Annotations

Editor's note: This section is similar to former § 32-1-848 as it existed prior to 1981.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration in SB 14-158, see section 1 of chapter 170, Session Laws of Colorado 2014.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-908. Recall procedures.

32-1-908. Recall procedures.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-908. Recall procedures. / Statute text

Procedures to recall a director of a special district are governed by this part 9.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS -

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BACK TO TOP

ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-908. Recall procedures. / History

Source: L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1298, § 3, effective May 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-909. Recall petition - designated election official - approval as to form - definition.

32-1-909. Recall petition - designated election official - approval as to form - definition.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-909. Recall petition - designated election official - approval as to form - definition. / Statute text

(1) A recall petition shall not be circulated until it has been approved as meeting the requirements of this section as to form.

(2) The proposed form of a recall petition shall be filed with the court as defined in section 32-1-103 (2) for the special district. Within five business days of receipt of a proposed form of recall petition for a special district director, the court shall issue an order appointing a designated election official who shall perform the duties set forth for the recall. The designated election official shall not be the director sought to be recalled by the petition or the spouse or civil union partner of the director sought to be recalled by the petition.

(3) The designated election official shall approve or disapprove a petition as to form by the close of the third business day following his or her appointment as the designated election official. On the day that the petition is approved or disapproved as to form, the designated election official shall mail or transmit electronically written notice of the approval or disapproval to the committee as defined in subsection (4)(a) of this section, the board of directors of the special district, and the director sought to be recalled. If the designated election official disapproves the petition as to form, the designated election official shall identify in the written notice the portion or portions of the petition that are not sufficient and the reasons they are not sufficient.

(4) Each petition must:

(a) Designate by name and address at least three, but not more than five, eligible electors of the special district, referred to in this part 9 as the "committee", who represent the signers thereof in all matters affecting the petition;

(b) Include the name of only one director to be recalled; and

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(c) Contain a general statement, in not more than two hundred words, of the grounds on which the recall is sought, which statement is intended for the information of the electors of the special district. The statement must not include any profane or false statement. The electors of the special district are the sole and exclusive judges of the legality, reasonableness, and sufficiency of the grounds on which the recall is sought, and said grounds are not subject to a protest or to judicial review.

(5) The signatures to a recall petition need not all be on one sheet of paper. At the top of each signature page of the petition must be printed, in bold-faced type, the following:

Warning:

It is against the law:

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For anyone to sign this petition with any name other than one's own or to knowingly
sign one's own name more than once for the same measure or to sign such petition when
not an eligible elector.
Do not sign this petition unless you are an eligible elector. To be an eligible
elector, you must be registered to vote in Colorado and be either a resident of the
(name of special district), or be the owner or spouse or civil union partner of an
owner of taxable real or personal property in the (name of special district) as
described in section 32-1-103 (5) of the Colorado Revised Statutes.
Do not sign this petition unless you have read or have had read to you the proposed
measure in its entirety and understand its meaning.
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BACK TO TOP

(6) Directly following the warning required by subsection (5) of this section must be printed in bold-faced type the following:

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Petition to recall (name of director sought to be recalled) from theoffice of director
of the (name of special district).
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Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-909. Recall petition - designated election official - approval as to form - definition. / History

Source: L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1298, § 3, effective May 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-910. Petition in sections - signing - affidavit - review - tampering with petition.

32-1-910. Petition in sections - signing - affidavit - review - tampering with petition.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-910. Petition in sections - signing - affidavit - review - tampering with petition. / Statute text

(1) A recall petition may be circulated and signed in sections, but each section must contain a full and accurate copy of the title and text of the petition as described in section 32-1-909 (4), and each signature page of each section must include the language set forth in section 32-1-909 (5) and (6).

(2) (a) All signed recall petitions must be filed with the designated election official within sixty days from the date on which the designated election official approves the petition as to form pursuant to section 32-1-909 (3).

(b) A recall petition shall be signed only by eligible electors of the special district using their own signatures, after which each such elector shall print or, if such elector is unable to do so, shall cause to be printed, such elector's legal name, the residence address of such elector, including the street and number, if any, and the date of signing of the petition.

(c) To each petition or petition section must be attached a signed, notarized, and dated affidavit of the person who circulated the petition stating the affiant's address, that the affiant is eighteen years of age or older, that the affiant circulated the petition, that the affiant made no misrepresentation of the purpose of such petition to any signer of the petition, that each signature on the petition was affixed in the affiant's presence, that each signature on the petition is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be, that to the best of the knowledge and belief of the affiant each person signing said petition was at the time of signing an eligible elector of the special district, and that the affiant neither has paid nor shall pay and that the affiant believes that no other person has so paid or shall pay, directly or indirectly, any money or other thing of value to any signer for the purpose of inducing or causing such signer to sign such petition.

(d) Any disassembly of a petition or petition section that separates the affidavit from the signatures renders the signatures on such petition or petition section invalid and of no force and effect.

(3) (a) Promptly after the petition has been filed, the designated election official shall review all petition information and verify the information against the county clerk and recorder's registration records and the county assessor's records to determine whether it meets the requirements of section 32-1-906 (1) and subsections (2)(a), (2)(b), and (2)(c) of this section.

(b) The designated election official shall issue a written determination that a recall petition is sufficient or not sufficient by the close of the fifth business day after such petition is filed, unless a protest has been filed pursuant to subsection (3)(d) of this section prior to that date. On the day the designated official issues such written determination, he or she shall mail or transmit

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

electronically a copy of the determination to the director sought to be recalled, the board of directors of the special district, and the committee as defined in section 32-1-909 (4)(a). The designated election official shall make a copy of the petition available to the director sought to be recalled.

(c) The designated election official shall deem the petition sufficient if he or she determines that it was timely filed, has the required attached circulator affidavits, and was signed by the requisite number of eligible electors of the special district within sixty days following the date upon which the designated election official approved the form of the petition. The designated election official shall not remove the signature of an eligible elector from the petition after such petition is filed. If the designated election official determines that a petition or petition section is not sufficient, the designated election official shall identify those portions of the petition that are not sufficient and the reasons for such determination in the written determination required in subsection (3)(b) of this section.

(d) (I) An eligible elector of the district may file a protest of a recall petition within fifteen days after such petition is filed. The protest must be in writing and signed under oath. The protest must be filed in the office of the designated election official and must set forth specifically the grounds of the protest. The grounds for a protest of a recall petition include, but are not limited to, the failure of any portion of a petition, petition section, circulator affidavit, or circulator to meet the requirements of this section or section 32-1-909.

(II) Upon receiving a protest of a recall petition, the designated election official shall promptly mail a copy of the protest, together with a notice fixing a time for hearing the protest on a date not less than five nor more than ten business days after such notice is mailed, to the director sought to be recalled, the committee as defined in section 32-1-909 (4)(a), and the board of directors of the special district.

(III) If the grounds of a protest include the failure of the petition to meet the signature requirements of section 32-1-906 (1) or subsection (2)(b) of this section, the designated election official shall provide the notice of the hearing to the county clerk and recorder and the county assessor of each county, any portion of the land area of which is located within the territorial boundaries of the special district. At least one business day before the hearing, the county clerk and recorder of each such county shall provide to the designated election official a registration list, as defined in section 1-13.5-103 (10), for the special district. At least one business day before the hearing, the county assessor of each such county shall provide to the designated election official a property owners list, as defined in section 1-13.5-103 (9), for the special district. The special district shall pay the costs of producing the registration lists and property owners lists. The designated election official shall use the lists prepared in accordance with this subsection (3)(d)(III) in determining whether the petition is sufficient.

(IV) The designated election official shall serve as the hearing officer. All testimony in the hearing must be given under oath. The hearing officer has the power to issue subpoenas and compel the attendance of witnesses. The hearing must be summary and not subject to delay and

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

must be concluded within forty days after the petition is filed. No later than five business days after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall issue a written determination of whether the petition is sufficient or not sufficient. If the hearing officer determines that a petition is not sufficient, the hearing officer shall identify those portions of the petition that are not sufficient and the reasons for the insufficiency. The designated election official shall certify the result of the hearing to the committee as defined in section 32-1-909 (4)(a), the director sought to be recalled, and the board of directors of the special district.

(e) If the designated election official determines that a petition is not sufficient, a majority of the committee as defined in section 32-1-909 (4)(a) may withdraw the petition and amend it and refile it; except that a petition withdrawn and refiled in accordance with this subsection (3)(e) shall not be withdrawn and refiled again. The committee may amend the petition by adding any required information relating to the signers or by attaching proper circulator affidavits. To be considered, the amended petition must be refiled with the designated election official in the same manner as the original petition within fifteen days after the designated election official issues the determination that the petition is insufficient. The designated election official shall issue a written determination that an amended and refiled petition is sufficient or not sufficient within five business days after the petition is refiled. An eligible elector may file a protest of an amended and refiled petition. A protest of an amended and refiled petition is subject to the provisions of subsection (3)(d) of this section; except that the protest must be filed within five business days of the date on which the amended petition was refiled.

(f) A determination that a recall petition is sufficient or not sufficient is subject to review by the court as defined in section 32-1-103 (2) upon the written request of the director sought to be recalled, the director's representative, or a majority of the committee as defined in section 32-1-909 (4)(a); except that the statement of the grounds on which the recall is sought provided pursuant to section 32-1-909 (4)(c) is not subject to such review. A request for judicial review must be filed within five business days after the designated election official issues the determination.

(4) (a) (I) When a recall petition is determined sufficient, the designated election official shall submit the petition, together with a certificate of its sufficiency, to the board of directors of the special district at a regular or special meeting of such board.

(II) If no request for judicial review is filed, the board shall hold the regular or special meeting within thirty days following the expiration of the period within which a protest may be filed, or within thirty days of the date the written determination of sufficiency is issued, whichever is later. If a request for judicial review is filed, the board shall hold the regular or special meeting within thirty days following the issuance of a final order finding the petition sufficient.

(III) At the meeting, the board shall order and fix a date for the recall election to be held not less than seventy-five days nor more than ninety days from the date of the meeting. The board shall determine whether voting in the recall election is to take place at the polling place or by

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

mail ballot.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (4)(a)(III) of this section, if a regular special district election is to be held within one hundred eighty days after the date the board orders the recall election, the recall election must be held as part of such regular special district election; except that:

(I) If the director sought to be recalled is seeking reelection at the regular special district election, only the question of such director's reelection appears on the ballot.

(II) If a successor to the director sought to be recalled is to be selected at the regular special district election and the director sought to be recalled is not seeking reelection, only the question of the selection of the successor to the director appears on the ballot.

(5) A recall election shall be conducted and the result of such election declared in accordance with article 13.5 of title 1, unless such recall election is conducted as part of a coordinated election as provided in subsection (6) of this section.

(6) A recall election may be conducted as part of a coordinated election only if:

(a) The content of the recall election ballot is finally determined by the date for certification of the ballot content for the coordinated election under section 1-5-203 (3); and

(b) The county clerk and recorder agrees to conduct the recall election as part of the coordinated election.

(7) A person commits a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in section 1-13-111, if such person willfully:

(a) Destroys, defaces, mutilates, or suppresses a recall petition or petition section;

(b) Fails to file or delays the delivery of a recall petition or petition section;

(c) Conceals or removes a recall petition or petition section from the possession of a person authorized by law to have the custody thereof; or

(d) Aides, counsels, procures, or assists another person in doing any of said acts.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-910. Petition in sections - signing - affidavit - review - tampering with petition. / History

Source: L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1299, § 3, effective May 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS -

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BACK TO TOP

ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-911. Resignation - vacancy filled - election - ballot - nomination.

32-1-911. Resignation - vacancy filled - election - ballot - nomination.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-911. Resignation - vacancy filled - election - ballot - nomination. / Statute text

(1) If the director sought to be recalled resigns by submitting a written letter of resignation to the designated election official at any time prior to the recall election, all recall proceedings must be terminated, and the vacancy caused by such resignation must be filled as provided by section 32-1-905 (2)(a). If the director resigns after the ballots have been prepared or at a time when it would otherwise be impracticable to remove the recall question from the ballot, votes cast on the recall question shall not be counted. If there are no other issues to be voted on at such election, the recall election must be canceled and notice provided as set forth in section 1-13.5-513 (6).

(2) Unless the designated election official receives a resignation from the director sought to be recalled in accordance with subsection (1) of this section, the designated election official shall give notice of the election and the recall question substantially in compliance with section 1-13.5-502 at least twenty days before the election.

(3) (a) The official ballot for a recall election must include the statement of the grounds on which the recall is sought, as included in the recall petition in accordance with section 32-1-909 (4)(c). The director sought to be recalled may submit to the designated election official on or before the date on which the ballot content must be certified under section 1-13.5-511 or 1-5-203 (3), as applicable, a statement of not more than three hundred words in support of the director's retention. The director shall not include any profane or false statement in the statement in support of his or her retention. The official ballot must include the director's statement if the statement is submitted on or before the date of the certification of the ballot.

(b) The official ballot must include, for every director whose recall is to be voted on, the words: "Shall (name of director sought to be recalled) be recalled from the office of director of (name of special district)?". Following or to the right of the question must be the words "Yes" and "No" with a blank space or box to the right of each in which the eligible elector may indicate his or her vote for or against such recall.

(c) Following each recall question as described in subsection (3)(b) of this section, the official ballot must include the names of those persons who have been nominated as candidates in accordance with subsection (4) of this section to succeed the director sought to be recalled. The name of the director sought to be recalled must not appear on the ballot as a candidate for the office. The position of candidate names on the ballot shall be determined by lot in

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

accordance with section 1-13.5-902 (2).

(4) Candidates to succeed the director sought to be recalled at a recall election must be nominated in accordance with section 1-13.5-303 or section 1-13.5-305. Self nominations must be filed no later than sixty-four days prior to the recall election. Affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate must be filed no later than sixty-one days prior to the recall election. The designated election official may provide a call for nominations in accordance with section 1-13.5-501 (1).

(5) The designated election official shall make absentee ballots available no later than three business days after the board fixes the date for the recall election. An application for an absentee ballot must be filed with the designated election official no later than the Tuesday immediately preceding the recall election.

(6) If a majority of those voting on the question of the recall of a director vote "No", the director shall continue in office. If a majority vote "Yes", the director shall be removed from office upon compliance with section 32-1-901 by his or her successor.

(7) If the vote in a recall election recalls the incumbent director, the candidate who has received the highest number of votes for the vacated office shall be declared elected to serve the remainder of the term of office. The canvassing board or the designated election official shall promptly issue a certificate of election to the director-elect. If the person who received the highest number of votes fails to comply with section 32-1-901 within thirty days after the issuance of a certificate of election, or in the event no person sought election, the office is deemed vacant and must be filled in accordance with section 32-1-905 (2)(a).

(8) Mandatory or optional recounts of ballots in a recall election must be conducted in accordance with section 1-13.5-1306.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-911. Resignation - vacancy filled - election - ballot - nomination. / History

Source: L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1304, § 3, effective May 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-912. Incumbent not recalled - reimbursement - definition.

32-1-912. Incumbent not recalled - reimbursement - definition.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-912. Incumbent not recalled - reimbursement - definition. / Statute text

(1) If at any recall election the director whose recall is sought is not recalled, or if the hearing officer determines that a recall petition is not sufficient after a protest, the special district may reimburse the director sought to be recalled for his or her actual reasonable expenses.

(2) A director sought to be recalled who requests reimbursement shall file a written request for reimbursement with the board of the special district. The request must include the date, amount, proof of payment, and purpose for each expense for which the director is requesting reimbursement. The board shall review the request and determine whether the expenses are reasonable expenses under subsection (3) of this section and whether to reimburse such expenses. If the special district determines to reimburse the submitted expenses, the special district shall issue payment within forty-five days of the receipt of the request.

(3) (a) For purposes of this section, "reasonable expenses" include, but are not limited to, money spent challenging the sufficiency of the recall petition and in presenting to the eligible electors the official position of the director sought to be recalled, including campaign literature.

(b) "Reasonable expenses" do not include:

(I) Money spent on challenges and court actions that are frivolous or are not related to the sufficiency of the recall petition;

(II) Personal expenses for meals, lodging, and travel costs for the director sought to be recalled;

(III) The costs of maintaining a campaign staff;

(IV) Reimbursement for expenses incurred by a campaign committee that has solicited contributions;

(V) Reimbursement of any kind for employees in the director's office; and

(VI) All expenses incurred prior to the filing of the recall petition.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-912. Incumbent not recalled - reimbursement - definition. / History

Source: L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1305, § 3, effective May 4.

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BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-913. Second recall petition.

32-1-913. Second recall petition.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-913. Second recall petition. / Statute text

After one recall petition and election, no further petition shall be filed against the same director during the term for which the director was elected unless such a petition is signed by more than fifty percent of the eligible electors of the district.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-913. Second recall petition. / History

Source: L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1306, § 3, effective May 4.

BACK TO TOP

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-914. Powers of designated election official and county clerk and recorder.

32-1-914. Powers of designated election official and county clerk and recorder.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-914. Powers of designated election official and county clerk and recorder. / Statute text

(1) The designated election official shall render all interpretations and shall make all initial decisions as to controversies or other matters arising out of the operation of a recall election.

(2) All powers and authority granted to the designated election official by this article 1 may be exercised by the county clerk and recorder in the absence of the designated election official or in the event the designated election official for any reason is unable to perform the duties of the designated election official.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT

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BACK TO TOP

ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-914. Powers of designated election official and county clerk and recorder. / History

Source: L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1306, § 3, effective May 4.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-915. Costs of recall.

32-1-915. Costs of recall.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-915. Costs of recall. / Statute text

The special district shall promptly pay the costs of the recall election, including the reasonable costs of the county clerk and recorder and designated election official, including but not limited to the costs of staff time, consultants, printing, and publication.

Colorado Revised Statutes / TITLE 32 SPECIAL DISTRICTS / SPECIAL DISTRICT ACT / ARTICLE 1 SPECIAL DISTRICT PROVISIONS / PART 9 DIRECTORS - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD / 32-1-915. Costs of recall. / History

Source: L. 2018: Entire section added, (HB 18-1268), ch. 200, p. 1306, § 3, effective May 4.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Constitution of the State of Colorado / ARTICLE X REVENUE / Section 20. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Section 20. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Constitution of the State of Colorado / ARTICLE X REVENUE / Section 20. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. / Statute text

(1) General provisions. This section takes effect December 31, 1992 or as stated. Its preferred interpretation shall reasonably restrain most the growth of government. All provisions are self-executing and severable and supersede conflicting state constitutional, state statutory, charter, or other state or local provisions. Other limits on district revenue, spending, and debt may be weakened only by future voter approval. Individual or class action enforcement suits may be filed and shall have the highest civil priority of resolution. Successful plaintiffs are allowed costs and reasonable attorney fees, but a district is not unless a suit against it be ruled frivolous. Revenue collected, kept, or spent illegally since four full fiscal years before a suit is filed shall be refunded with 10% annual simple interest from the initial conduct. Subject to judicial review, districts may use any reasonable method for refunds under this section, including temporary tax credits or rate reductions. Refunds need not be proportional when prior payments are impractical to identify or return. When annual district revenue is less than annual payments on general obligation bonds, pensions, and final court judgments, (4)(a) and (7) shall be suspended to provide for the deficiency.

(2) Term definitions. Within this section:

(a) "Ballot issue" means a non-recall petition or referred measure in an election.

(b) "District" means the state or any local government, excluding enterprises.

(c) "Emergency" excludes economic conditions, revenue shortfalls, or district salary or fringe benefit increases.

(d) "Enterprise" means a government-owned business authorized to issue its own revenue bonds and receiving under 10% of annual revenue in grants from all Colorado state and local governments combined.

(e) "Fiscal year spending" means all district expenditures and reserve increases except, as to both, those for refunds made in the current or next fiscal year or those from gifts, federal funds, collections for another government, pension contributions by employees and pension fund earnings, reserve transfers or expenditures, damage awards, or property sales.

(f) "Inflation" means the percentage change in the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for Denver-Boulder, all items, all urban consumers, or its successor index.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(g) "Local growth" for a non-school district means a net percentage change in actual value of all real property in a district from construction of taxable real property improvements, minus destruction of similar improvements, and additions to, minus deletions from, taxable real property. For a school district, it means the percentage change in its student enrollment.

(3) Election provisions. (a) Ballot issues shall be decided in a state general election, biennial local district election, or on the first Tuesday in November of odd-numbered years. Except for petitions, bonded debt, or charter or constitutional provisions, districts may consolidate ballot issues and voters may approve a delay of up to four years in voting on ballot issues. District actions taken during such a delay shall not extend beyond that period.

(b) At least 30 days before a ballot issue election, districts shall mail at the least cost, and as a package where districts with ballot issues overlap, a titled notice or set of notices addressed to "All Registered Voters" at each address of one or more active registered electors. The districts may coordinate the mailing required by this paragraph (b) with the distribution of the ballot information booklet required by section 1 (7.5) of article V of this constitution in order to save mailing costs. Titles shall have this order of preference: **"NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES/TO INCREASE DEBT/ON A CITIZEN PETITION/ON A REFERRED MEASURE."** Except for district voter-approved additions, notices shall include only:

(i) The election date, hours, ballot title, text, and local election office address and telephone number.

(ii) For proposed district tax or bonded debt increases, the estimated or actual total of district fiscal year spending for the current year and each of the past four years, and the overall percentage and dollar change.

(iii) For the first full fiscal year of each proposed district tax increase, district estimates of the maximum dollar amount of each increase and of district fiscal year spending without the increase.

(iv) For proposed district bonded debt, its principal amount and maximum annual and total district repayment cost, and the principal balance of total current district bonded debt and its maximum annual and remaining total district repayment cost.

(v) Two summaries, up to 500 words each, one for and one against the proposal, of written comments filed with the election officer by 45 days before the election. No summary shall mention names of persons or private groups, nor any endorsements of or resolutions against the proposal. Petition representatives following these rules shall write this summary for their petition. The election officer shall maintain and accurately summarize all other relevant written comments. The provisions of this subparagraph (v) do not apply to a statewide ballot issue, which is subject to the provisions of section 1 (7.5) of article V of this constitution.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

(c) Except by later voter approval, if a tax increase or fiscal year spending exceeds any estimate in (b)(iii) for the same fiscal year, the tax increase is thereafter reduced up to 100% in proportion to the combined dollar excess, and the combined excess revenue refunded in the next fiscal year. District bonded debt shall not issue on terms that could exceed its share of its maximum repayment costs in (b)(iv). Ballot titles for tax or bonded debt increases shall begin, **"SHALL (DISTRICT) TAXES BE INCREASED (first, or if phased in, final, full fiscal year dollar increase) ANNUALLY...?" or "SHALL (DISTRICT) DEBT BE INCREASED (principal amount), WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF (maximum total district cost), ...?"**

(4) Required elections. Starting November 4, 1992, districts must have voter approval in advance for:

(a) Unless (1) or (6) applies, any new tax, tax rate increase, mill levy above that for the prior year, valuation for assessment ratio increase for a property class, or extension of an expiring tax, or a tax policy change directly causing a net tax revenue gain to any district.

(b) Except for refinancing district bonded debt at a lower interest rate or adding new employees to existing district pension plans, creation of any multiple-fiscal year direct or indirect district debt or other financial obligation whatsoever without adequate present cash reserves pledged irrevocably and held for payments in all future fiscal years.

BACK TO TOP

(5) Emergency reserves. To use for declared emergencies only, each district shall reserve for 1993 1% or more, for 1994 2% or more, and for all later years 3% or more of its fiscal year spending excluding bonded debt service. Unused reserves apply to the next year's reserve.

(6) Emergency taxes. This subsection grants no new taxing power. Emergency property taxes are prohibited. Emergency tax revenue is excluded for purposes of (3)(c) and (7), even if later ratified by voters. Emergency taxes shall also meet all of the following conditions:

(a) A 2/3 majority of the members of each house of the general assembly or of a local district board declares the emergency and imposes the tax by separate recorded roll call votes.

(b) Emergency tax revenue shall be spent only after emergency reserves are depleted, and shall be refunded within 180 days after the emergency ends if not spent on the emergency.

(c) A tax not approved on the next election date 60 days or more after the declaration shall end with that election month.

(7) Spending limits. (a) The maximum annual percentage change in state fiscal year spending equals inflation plus the percentage change in state population in the prior calendar year, adjusted for revenue changes approved by voters after 1991. Population shall be determined by annual federal census estimates and such number shall be adjusted every decade to match the federal census.

(b) The maximum annual percentage change in each local district's fiscal year spending

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BACK TO TOP

equals inflation in the prior calendar year plus annual local growth, adjusted for revenue changes approved by voters after 1991 and (8)(b) and (9) reductions.

(c) The maximum annual percentage change in each district's property tax revenue equals inflation in the prior calendar year plus annual local growth, adjusted for property tax revenue changes approved by voters after 1991 and (8)(b) and (9) reductions.

(d) If revenue from sources not excluded from fiscal year spending exceeds these limits in dollars for that fiscal year, the excess shall be refunded in the next fiscal year unless voters approve a revenue change as an offset. Initial district bases are current fiscal year spending and 1991 property tax collected in 1992. Qualification or disqualification as an enterprise shall change district bases and future year limits. Future creation of district bonded debt shall increase, and retiring or refinancing district bonded debt shall lower, fiscal year spending and property tax revenue by the annual debt service so funded. Debt service changes, reductions, (1) and (3)(c) refunds, and voter-approved revenue changes are dollar amounts that are exceptions to, and not part of, any district base. Voter-approved revenue changes do not require a tax rate change.

(8) Revenue limits. (a) New or increased transfer tax rates on real property are prohibited. No new state real property tax or local district income tax shall be imposed. Neither an income tax rate increase nor a new state definition of taxable income shall apply before the next tax year. Any income tax law change after July 1, 1992 shall also require all taxable net income to be taxed at one rate, excluding refund tax credits or voter-approved tax credits, with no added tax or surcharge.

BACK TO TOP

(b) Each district may enact cumulative uniform exemptions and credits to reduce or end business personal property taxes.

(c) Regardless of reassessment frequency, valuation notices shall be mailed annually and may be appealed annually, with no presumption in favor of any pending valuation. Past or future sales by a lender or government shall also be considered as comparable market sales and their sales prices kept as public records. Actual value shall be stated on all property tax bills and valuation notices and, for residential real property, determined solely by the market approach to appraisal.

(9) State mandates. Except for public education through grade 12 or as required of a local district by federal law, a local district may reduce or end its subsidy to any program delegated to it by the general assembly for administration. For current programs, the state may require 90 days notice and that the adjustment occur in a maximum of three equal annual installments.

Constitution of the State of Colorado / ARTICLE X REVENUE / Section 20. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. / History

Source: Initiated 92: Entire section added, effective December 31, 1992, see **L. 93,** p. 2165. **L. 94:** (3)(b)(v) amended, p. 2851, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, **L. 95,** p. 1431,

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BACK TO TOP

January 19, 1995. **L. 95:** IP(3)(b) and (3)(b)(v) amended, p. 1425, effective upon proclamation of the Governor, **L. 97,** p. 2393, December 26, 1996.

Constitution of the State of Colorado / ARTICLE X REVENUE / Section 20. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. / Annotations

Editor's note: (1) Prior to the TABOR initiative in 1992, this section was originally enacted in 1972 and contained provisions relating to the 1976 Winter Olympics and was repealed, effective January 3, 1989. (See L. 1989, p. 1657.)

(2) (a) The Governor's proclamation date for the 1992 initiated measure (TABOR) was January 14, 1993.

(b) Subsection (4) of this section provides that the provisions of this section apply to required elections of state and local governments conducted on or after November 4, 1992.

Cross references: For statutory provisions implementing this section, see article 77 of title 24 (state fiscal policies); §§ 1-1-102, 1-40-125, 1-41-101 to 1-41-103, 29-2-102, and 32-1-803.5 (elections); §§ 29-1-304.7 and 29-1-304.8 (turnback of programs delegated to local governments by the general assembly); §§ 43-1-112.5, 43-1-113, 43-4-611, 43-4-612, 43-4-705, 43-4-707, and 43-10-109 (department of transportation revenue and spending limits); §§ 23-1-104 and 23-1-105 (higher education revenue and spending limits); §§ 24-30-202, 24-82-703, 24-82-705, and 24-82-801 (multiple fiscal-year obligations); §§ 8-46-101, 8-46-202, 8-77-101, 24-75-302, and 43-4-201 (provisions relating to individual funds and programs); and § 39-5-121 (property tax valuation notices); and, concerning the establishment of enterprises, §§ 23-1-106, 23-3.1-103.5, 23-3.1-104.5, 23-5-101.5, 23-5-101.7, 23-5-102, 23-5-103, 23-70-107, 23-70-108, and 23-70-112 (higher education, auxiliary facilities), part 2 of article 35 of title 24 (state lottery), part 3 of article 3 of title 25 (county hospitals), §§ 26-12-110 and 26-12-113 (state nursing homes), article 45.1 of title 37 (water activities), § 43-4-502 (public highway authorities), and § 43-4-805 (state bridge enterprise).

BACK TO TOP

ANNOTATIONS

Analysis

I. General Consideration.
II. Definitions.
III. Requirement of Advance Voter Approval.
IV. Spending and Revenue Limits.
V. State Mandates.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

Law reviews. For article, "Amendment One: Government by Plebiscite", see 22 Colo. Law. 293 (1993). For article, "Use of the Nonprofit Supporting Foundation to Assist Governmental Districts After Amendment 1", see 22 Colo. Law. 685 (1993). For article, "Enterprises Under Article X, § 20 of the Colorado Constitution - Part I", see 27 Colo. Law. 55 (April 1998). For article, "Enterprises Under Article

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BACK TO TOP

X, § 20 of the Colorado Constitution - Part II", see 27 Colo. Law. 65 (May 1998). For article, "Taming TABOR by Working from Within", see 32 Colo. Law. 101 (July 2003). For article, "The Colorado Constitution in the New Century", see 78 U. Colo. L. Rev. 1265 (2007). For comment, "Dismantling the Trojan Horse: Mesa County Board of County Commissioners v. State", see 82 U. Colo. L. Rev. 259 (2011). For article, "The Taxpayers Bill of Rights Twenty Years of Litigation", see 42 Colo. Law. 35 (Sept. 2013). For comment, "Restore the Republic: The Incompatibility Between the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and the Guarantee Clause", see 87 U. Colo. L. Rev. 621 (2016).

Interpretation of a constitutional provision is a question of law and an appellate court is not required to accord deference to a trial court's ruling in that regard. Cerveny v. City of Wheat Ridge, 888 P.2d 339 (Colo. App. 1994), rev'd on other grounds, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996).

In interpreting a constitutional amendment that was adopted by popular vote, courts must determine what the people believed the language of the amendment meant when they voted it into law. To do so, courts must give the language the natural and popular meaning usually understood by the voters. Cerveny v. City of Wheat Ridge, 888 P.2d 339 (Colo. App. 1994), rev'd on other grounds, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996); Havens v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 924 P.2d 517 (Colo. 1996).

In interpreting a constitutional provision, the court should ascertain and give effect to the intent of those who adopted it. In the case of this section, it is the court's responsibility to ensure that it gives effect to what the voters believed the amendment to mean when they accepted it as their fundamental law, considering the natural and popular meaning of the words used. City of Wheat Ridge v. Cerveny, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996).

A court will not assume that all legislative drafting principles apply when interpreting an initiated constitutional amendment but will apply generally accepted principles such as according words their plain or common meaning in order to enact the intent of the voter in the same manner as it would otherwise seek to enact the intent of the legislature. Bruce v. City of Colo. Springs, 129 P.3d 988 (Colo. 2006).

The language in subsection (1) stating that the preferred interpretation of this section "shall reasonably restrain most the growth of government" is an interpretative guideline that a reviewing court may employ when it finds two separately plausible interpretations of the text of this section. It is not a refutation of the beyond a reasonable doubt standard. As the presumption of constitutionality applies to a statute challenged under this section, the beyond a reasonable doubt showing is necessary to overcome that presumption. Mesa County Bd. of County Comm'rs v. State, 203 P.3d 519 (Colo. 2009); TABOR Found. v. Reg'l Transp. Dist., 2016 COA 102, 417 P.3d 850, aff'd on other grounds, 2018 CO 29, 416 P.3d 101.

Where multiple interpretations of a provision of this section are equally supported by the text of that section, a court should choose that interpretation which it concludes would create the greatest restraint on the growth of government; however, the proponent of an interpretation has the burden of establishing that its proposed construction of this section would reasonably restrain the growth of government more than any other competing interpretation. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995); Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995); HCA-Healthone, LLC v. City of Lone Tree, 197 P.3d 236 (Colo. App. 2008).

A court should require a significant financial burden on the state only if the text of this section leaves no other choice. Courts have consistently rejected readings that would hinder basic government functions or cripple the government's ability to provide services. Barber v. Ritter, 196 P.3d 238 (Colo. 2008).

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Amendment's objective is to prevent governmental entities from enacting taxing and spending increases above its limits without voter approval. Campbell v. Orchard Mesa Irr. Dist., 972 P.2d 1037 (Colo. 1998).

This section requires voter approval for certain state and local government tax increases and restricts property, income, and other taxes. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

And acts to limit the discretion of government officials to take certain actions pertaining to taxing, revenue, and spending in the absence of voter approval. Prop. Tax Adjustment Specialists, Inc. v. Mesa County Bd. of Comm'rs, 956 P.2d 1277 (Colo. App. 1998).

This section operates to impose a limitation on the power of the people's elected representatives, and while this section circumscribes the revenue, spending, and debt powers of state and local governments, creating a series of procedural requirements, it does not create any fundamental rights. Havens v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 924 P.2d 517 (Colo. 1996).

Districts may seek present authorization for future tax rate increases where such rate increases may be necessary to repay a specific, voter-approved debt. Any rate change ultimately implemented by a district pursuant to the "without limitation as to rate" clause in the ballot title must be consistent with the district's state estimate of the final fiscal year dollar amount of the increase. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

This section and article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution are not in irreconcilable, material, and direct conflict, since this section does not authorize what article XXVII forbids or forbid what article XXVII authorizes. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

Since the inclusion of all net lottery proceeds in the calculation of state fiscal year spending creates an implicit conflict between this section and article XXVII, legislation exempting net lottery proceeds dedicated by article XXVII to great outdoors Colorado purposes from this section and subjecting such proceeds dedicated to the capital construction fund and the excess that spill over into the general fund to this section represented a reasonable resolution of that implicit conflict. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

This section and § 9 of article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution are not in direct conflict. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

This section and § 3 of this article reconciled. In order to reconcile the requirement of subsection (8)(c) of this section that residential property be valued "solely by the market approach to appraisal" with the equalization requirement of article X, § 3, the actual value of residential property must be determined using means and methods applied impartially to all the members of each class. Podoll v. Arapahoe County Bd. of Equaliz., 920 P.2d 861 (Colo. App. 1995), rev'd on other grounds, 935 P.2d 14 (Colo. 1997).

This section does not conflict with § 1-11-203.5, which governs ballot title contests. Since the limited period for filing ballot title contests specified in § 1-11-203.5 also is not "manifestly so limited as to amount to a denial of justice", § 1-11-203.5 is constitutional. Cacioppo v. Eagle County Sch. Dist. RE-50J, 92 P.3d 453 (Colo. 2004).

Amendment relates back. Although under art. V, § 1(4), this section took effect January 14, 1993, once effective, its terms could and did relate back to conduct occurring the day after the 1992 election.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Bolt v. Arapahoe County Sch. Dist. No. 6, 898 P.2d 525 (Colo. 1995).

Dispute under election provisions reviewed under a "substantial compliance" standard. City of Aurora v. Acosta, 892 P.2d 264 (Colo. 1995).

Substantial compliance found. District in mail ballot election found to have substantially complied with section when purposes of the ballot disclosure provisions are not undermined and all required information was in the election notices if not the ballot title. City of Aurora v. Acosta, 892 P.2d 264 (Colo. 1995).

Voter approval of dollar amounts not required. This section does not require voter approval of a dollar amount when the revenue change is not a district tax increase. City of Aurora v. Acosta, 892 P.2d 264 (Colo. 1995).

The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights does not grant governmental entities the right to file enforcement suits or class action suits. Boulder County Bd. of Comm'rs v. City of Broomfield, 7 P.3d 1033 (Colo. App. 1999).

Plaintiff had standing, as expressly provided under this section, to bring action as an individual taxpayer to determine whether E-470 authority was subject to this section's regulation. Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995).

Petitioners have taxpayer standing to challenge the constitutionality of transfers of money from special funds to the general fund and the concomitant expenditure of that money to defray general governmental expenses. Barber v. Ritter, 196 P.3d 238 (Colo. 2008).

The four-year time limitation for individual or class action suits under this section applies to enforcement of the specific requirements of this constitutional provision, but does not affect the statute of limitations set forth in the statutory provisions regarding taxes that were levied erroneously or illegally. Prop. Tax Adjustment Specialists, Inc. v. Mesa County Bd. of Comm'rs, 956 P.2d 1277 (Colo. App. 1998).

Provisions for collecting and spending revenues entered into by the E-470 public highway authority were not subject to the election provisions of this section where bond contracts entered into prior to passage of this section required that the revenues would be received and spent by the highway authority for the purpose of operating the highway and repaying the indebtedness. Bd. of County Comm'rs v. E-470 Pub. Hwy., 881 P.2d 412 (Colo. App. 1994), aff'd in part and rev'd in part sub nom. Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995).

The phrase "multiple-fiscal year direct or indirect district debt or other financial obligation whatsoever" in § 20 of article X is necessarily broader than the phrase "debt by loan in any form" as defined by this section. Submission of Interrogatories on House Bill 99-1325, 979 P.2d 549 (Colo. 1999) (overruling Boulder v. Dougherty, Dawkins, 890 P.2d 199 (Colo. App. 1994)).

However, the scope of the phrase is not without bounds. The voters could not have intended an absurd result such as requiring voter approval for a multiple year lease-purchase agreement for equipment such as copy machines or computers. Submission of Interrogatories on House Bill 99-1325, 979 P.2d 549 (Colo. 1999).

County's equipment lease-purchase agreement did not create any multiple-fiscal year direct or indirect district debt or other financial obligation under this section where the county was free to terminate the agreement without penalty by failing to appropriate funds to pay the rent in any lease year. Boulder v. Dougherty, Dawkins, 890 P.2d 199 (Colo. App. 1994).

This section does not supersede prior case authority permitting lease purchase agreements.

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

This section is analyzed in light of the existing well-established constitutional law in existence at the time of this section's adoption. Boulder v. Dougherty, Dawkins, 890 P.2d 199 (Colo. App. 1994).

Tax status. Whether the interest income derived from a county's equipment lease agreement or any similar transaction is tax free has no impact on the court's interpretation of the Colorado Constitution. Boulder v. Dougherty, Dawkins, 890 P.2d 199 (Colo. App. 1994).

This section creates a series of procedural requirements and nothing more. This section circumscribes the revenue, spending, and debt powers of state and local governments, it does not create any fundamental rights. With respect to the attorney fee provision of subsection (1), a holding that a victorious plaintiff must recover attorney fees as of right is antithetical to the overarching goal of the section to limit government spending. City of Wheat Ridge v. Cerveny, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996).

This section does not provide an exemption from any obligation under the Colorado Open Records Act. Whether an institution is an "enterprise" does not have a bearing on whether it is free from the requirements of the Act. Freedom Newspapers, Inc. v. Tollefson, 961 P.2d 1150 (Colo. App. 1998).

Charges imposed on cable subscribers and for city street light service are fees, not taxes, and, therefore, are not subject to the ballot title and information and voter approval requirements of this section. Bruce v. City of Colorado Springs, 131 P.3d 1187 (Colo. App. 2005).

Passage of this section directly modified the powers of home rule cities, and a home rule city's ordinance is invalid to the extent that it conflicts with this section's requirements. HCA-Healthone, LLC v. City of Lone Tree, 197 P.3d 236 Colo. App. 2008).

Special district bond proceeds not "revenue". Proceeds of special district bonds, even when misappropriated, are not "revenue" for purposes of the subsection (1) requirement that "[r]evenue collected, kept, or spent illegally" be refunded. Such proceeds are borrowed funds, not income, that are lent to a district by bond purchasers rather than being collected from district property owners. Landmark Towers Ass'n v. UMB Bank, 2018 COA 100, __ P.3d __.

BACK TO TOP

II. DEFINITIONS.

E-470 authority is a district subject to the voter approval provisions of this section since the power to unilaterally impose taxes, with no direct relation to services provided, is inconsistent with the characteristics of a business as the term is commonly used, nor is it consistent with the definition of "enterprise" read as a whole. Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995).

The statewide bridge enterprise is exempt from the requirements of this section. It is an exempt enterprise as defined in subsection (2)(a) because it is a government-owned business, the bridge safety surcharge that it imposes is a fee, not a tax, and the federal funds and designated bridges that it receives are not grants from the state or any local government. Consequently, it did not violate this section when it imposed a bridge safety surcharge and issued revenue bonds without prior voter approval. TABOR Found. v. Colo. Bridge Enter., 2014 COA 106, 353 P.3d 896.

The attorney fee provisions of this section authorize an award of fees but do not require such an award. The fee-shifting phrase "successful plaintiffs are allowed costs and reasonable attorney fees" set forth in subsection (1) is plain and unambiguous. It allows a court to make an award of attorney fees but does not require the court to do so. City of Wheat Ridge v. Cerveny, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996).

In assessing whether to award attorney fees under this section, the court must consider a number of factors and reach its conclusion based on the totality of the circumstances. Most importantly, the court must evaluate the significance of the litigation, and its outcome, in furthering the

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BACK TO TOP

goals of this section. This evaluation must also include the nature of the claims raised, the significance of the issues on which the plaintiff prevailed in comparison to the litigation as a whole, the quantum of financial risk undertaken by the plaintiff, and the factors the court would weigh in determining what "reasonable" attorney fees would be. The court may also consider the nature of the fee agreement between the plaintiff and plaintiff's attorney. Where the plaintiff has had only partial success, the court must exclude the time and effort expended on losing issues if it chooses to award attorney fees. City of Wheat Ridge v. Cerveny, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996).

The appropriateness of awarding attorney fees is diminished where the named plaintiff bears no risk and the benefit of an award of attorney fees will accrue to others. In addition, deficiencies in the attorney fee agreement, including deviation from rule requirements or professional standards, may adversely impact the quality of the representation or cause the court to find that the attorney's conduct does not merit an award regardless of a successful outcome. City of Wheat Ridge v. Cerveny, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996).

The fact that the plaintiffs are not the real parties in interest does not necessarily preclude an award of attorney fees under this section. The fact that the real parties in interest were not parties to the litigation does not disqualify nominal plaintiffs from being considered successful plaintiffs who are eligible for attorney fees under this section. City of Wheat Ridge v. Cerveny, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996).

The amendment's provision for attorney fees and costs in favor of successful plaintiffs does not contravene the constitutional requirement for equal protection by denying similar treatment to successful governmental defendants. The scheme set out in the amendment bears a rational relationship to a permissible governmental purpose; the facilitation of taxpayer suits to enforce compliance with the purpose of restraining governmental growth. Cerveny v. City of Wheat Ridge, 888 P.2d 339 (Colo. App. 1994), rev'd on other grounds, 913 P.2d 1110 (Colo. 1996).

The sale of lottery tickets does not constitute a "property sale" under this section. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

This section does not use the terms "gift" and "grant" synonymously. "Gifts" are exempt from fiscal year spending; however, if an entity receives more than ten percent of its revenues in "grants," the entity is disqualified as an enterprise. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

Net lottery proceeds are not to be excluded from state fiscal year spending as "gifts". Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

It is erroneous to exclude net lottery proceeds from the purview of this section on the basis of a characterization of the great outdoors Colorado trust fund board created under article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution as a "district" or "non-district". Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

By its terms, this section also limits the growth of state revenues, usually met by tax increases, by restricting the increase of fiscal year spending to the rate of inflation plus population increase, unless voter approval for an increase in spending is obtained. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

If the revenues of the state or a local government increase beyond the allowed limits on fiscal year spending, any excess above the allowed limit or voter-approved increase must be refunded to the taxpayers. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

Board of county commissioners was acting pursuant to express grants of constitutional and

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

statutory authority in creating the Eagle county air terminal corporation as an enterprise and empowering it to act on county's behalf in constructing and operating a new commercial passenger terminal. Bd. of Comm'rs v. Fixed Base Operators, 939 P.2d 464 (Colo. App. 1997).

Trial court properly determined that the Eagle county air terminal corporation was an enterprise rather than a district. Corporation was a government-owned and controlled non-profit corporation authorized to issue its own revenue bonds and it received no revenue in the form of grants from state and local governments. Bd. of Comm'rs v. Fixed Base Operators, 939 P.2d 464 (Colo. App. 1997).

An irrigation district is not a local government within the meaning of the amendment's taxing and spending election requirements. The private character of a 1921 Act irrigation district differs in essential respects from that of a public governmental entity exercising taxing authority contemplated by the amendment. An irrigation district exists to serve the interests of landowners not the general public. Rather than being a local government agency, a 1921 Act irrigation district is a public corporation endowed by the state with the powers necessary to perform its predominately private objective. Campbell v. Orchard Mesa Irr. Dist., 972 P.2d 1037 (Colo. 1998).

Trial court properly concluded that urban renewal authority is not subject to the requirements of this section. Urban renewal authority at issue has no authority to levy taxes or assessments of any kind and there is no provision for authority to conduct elections of any kind. Based upon these factors, urban renewal authority is not a "local government" and, therefore, not a "district" within the meaning of this section. Olson v. City of Golden, 53 P.3d 747 (Colo. App. 2002).

BACK TO TOP

III. REQUIREMENT OF ADVANCE VOTER APPROVAL.

Definition of "ballot issue," for purposes of subsection (3)(a) regarding scheduling of elections, is limited to fiscal matters. Zaner v. City of Brighton, 899 P.2d 263 (Colo. App. 1994), aff'd, 917 P.2d 280 (Colo. 1996).

Language in subsection (3)(a) that allows voters to "approve a delay of up to four years in voting on ballot issues" does not mean that voters' waiver of revenue and spending limits must be limited in duration to four years. Havens v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 58 P.3d 1165 (Colo. App. 2002).

Eligible electors did not receive notice of the election as constitutionally required by subsection (3)(b). Landmark Towers Ass'n v. UMB Bank, 2016 COA 61, 436 P.3d 1126, rev'd on other grounds, 2017 CO 107, 408 P.3d 836.

A substantial compliance standard is the proper measure when reviewing claims brought to enforce the election provisions of this section. In determining whether a district has substantially complied with a particular provision of this section, courts should consider factors, including: (1) The extent of the district's noncompliance; (2) the purpose of the provision violated and whether the purpose is substantially achieved despite the district's noncompliance; and (3) whether it can reasonably be inferred that the district made a good faith effort to comply or whether the district's noncompliance is more properly viewed as the product of an intent to mislead the electorate. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995); Bruce v. City of Colo. Springs, 129 P.3d 988 (Colo. 2006).

A plaintiff suing under this section's enforcement clause need not set forth in the complaint facts showing that the claimed violations affected the election results. A requirement that a plaintiff allege facts that the election results would have been different had the claimed violations not occurred would make enforcement of the provisions of this section effectively impossible in most elections. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d

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BACK TO TOP

1076 (1995).

The incurrence of a debt and the adoption of taxes as the means with which to repay that debt are properly viewed as a single subject when presented together in one ballot issue. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

Ballot title is not a ballot title for tax or bonded debt increases and the city is not required to begin the measure with the language "Shall city taxes be increased by up to 8 million dollars?". The primary purpose and effect of the measure is to grant a franchise to a public utility to furnish gas and electricity to the city and its residents, although the ballot title also seeks authorization for a contingent tax increase of up to $8,000,000 to be implemented only in the highly unlikely event that the city were unable to collect from the public utility. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

A ballot issue to extend an existing tax is not a tax increase for purposes of subsection (3)(c), and the title of such a ballot issue, therefore, need not include the mandatory language for ballot issues to increase taxes specified in subsection (3)(c). Bruce v. City of Colo. Springs, 129 P.3d 988 (Colo. 2006).

Ballot title violates subsection (3)(c) by failing to include an estimate of the full fiscal year dollar increase in ad valorem property taxes. All that is required is a good faith estimate of the dollar increase. To create an exemption from the requirements of subsection (3)(c) any time a district has difficulties estimating its proposed tax increases would undermine the primary purpose of the disclosure provisions of this section. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

A claim that a ballot issue proposed a "phased-in" tax increase and that a ballot title that disclosed only the first rather than the final full fiscal year dollar increase was, therefore, improper under subsection (3)(c) involved only the form and content of the ballot title, could be resolved by the type of summary adjudication contemplated by the applicable ballot title contest statute, and was subject to and time-barred by the statutory five-day filing limit set forth in § 1-11-203.5 (2). Cacioppo v. Eagle County Sch. Dist. RE-50J, 92 P.3d 453 (Colo. 2004).

The purpose of the disclosure requirements regarding the dollar estimate of a tax increase is to permit the voters to make informed choices at the ballot. That purpose was not substantially achieved in the case of the proposed ad valorem property tax increase because the ballot title failed to give any indication of the potential magnitude of the tax increase. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

The only portion of the ballot measure that should be invalidated for failure to provide estimate of the tax increase is the authorization for the city to increase ad valorem property taxes "in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on" the open space bonds. The first portion of the measure, which authorizes the city to issue bonds, does not violate this section and need not be stricken from the measure. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

Requirement in subsection (3)(b)(V) that election official summarize relevant written comments does not lend itself to imposing a requirement upon election officials to examine the motives or good faith of voters submitting the comments. Such an examination, moreover, would present significant freedom of speech concerns with respect to the voter's right to submit comments and could deprive the electorate of comments to make an intelligent decision on a proposal. The plaintiff, accordingly, was not entitled to a declaratory judgment. Gresh v. Balink, 148 P.3d 419 (Colo. App. 2006).

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

The calculation method employed to calculate fiscal year spending is not prohibited by the plain language of this section. It is entirely unclear whether the city's cash reserves are properly viewed as a reserve increase, a reserve transfer, or a reserve expenditure for purposes of subsection (2)(e). Plaintiffs' claim that the city's calculation of its fiscal year spending data may have misled the voters is without foundation because the city clearly disclosed in its election notice that fiscal year spending included the accrual of the cash reserves. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

Failure of election notice to include the overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over a five-year period is not significant. All of the information relevant to calculating the overall percentage change was provided by the city in its chart. On the whole, the election notice substantially complies with the disclosure requirements set forth in subsection (3)(b). Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

Where there is a discrepancy between the total debt repayment cost stated in the election notice and the amount stated in the ballot title, the district should be bound by the lower figure. The electorate did not receive any advance warning of the higher debt repayment cost stated in the ballot title. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

The absence of the district's submission resolution from the election notice did not make the election notice insufficient or misleading in any way. This section does not require districts to include in their election notices the ministerial acts, orders, or directions of the governing body authorizing submission of a particular initiative to the electorate where to do so would be duplicative and potentially confusing and would not add any substantive information to the election notice that was not already disclosed in the ballot title. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

BACK TO TOP

Transportation revenue anticipation notes issued in accordance with § 43-4-705, constitute a "multiple fiscal year direct or indirect district debt or other financial obligation whatsoever" that requires voter approval. It is evident that the state is receiving money in the form of a loan from investors. Because the notes are negotiable instruments, it can be implied that the notes contain an unconditional promise of payment. It is apparent that the payment obligations are likely to extend into multiple years because the state must make a pledge of its credit for the notes to be marketable. Given the amount of notes issued in comparison to the annual budget of the department of transportation, it is reasonable for the voters to have expected that the notes would be submitted to them for their consideration. Submission of Interrogatories on House Bill 99-1325, 979 P.2d 549 (Colo. 1999).

Economic incentive development agreements do not create a "multiple-fiscal year direct or indirect district debt or other financial obligation" requiring voter approval. The language of the agreement leaves the decision to make reimbursement payments to the discretion of the city council. Moreover, the agreements are not contingent on borrowing of funds, the extension of the city's credit, or any payments for which funds are unavailable. City of Golden v. Parker, 138 P.3d 285 (Colo. 2006).

Lease-purchase agreements authorized by House Bill 03-1256 did not constitute a "multiple fiscal year direct or indirect district debt or other financial obligation whatsoever" that requires voter approval. The lease-purchase agreements authorized do not pledge the credit of the state or require the borrowing of funds, and lease payment obligations of the state are subject to discretionary annual appropriations. Colo. Crim. Justice Reform Coalition v. Ortiz, 121 P.3d 288 (Colo. App. 2005).

Transfers from cash funds to the general fund do not constitute a tax policy change directly causing a net tax revenue gain. The transfers involve fees and not taxes, and consequently, they

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BACK TO TOP

cannot involve a net revenue gain. Moreover, transfers are a redistribution of revenue rather than an increase in overall revenue. Barber v. Ritter, 196 P.3d 238 (Colo. 2008).

Nor do they constitute a new tax or a tax rate increase. Barber v. Ritter, 196 P.3d 238 (Colo. 2008).

A charge is a fee and not a tax when the express language of its enabling legislation explicitly contemplates that its primary purpose is to defray the cost of services provided to those charged. When determining whether a charge is a fee or a tax, courts must look to the primary or principal purpose for which the money was raised, not the manner it which it was ultimately spent. Barber v. Ritter, 196 P.3d 238 (Colo. 2008).

If the primary purpose of a charge is to raise revenue for general governmental use, it is a tax. If a charge is imposed as part of a comprehensive regulatory scheme, and if the primary purpose of the charge is to defray the reasonable direct and indirect costs of providing a service or regulating an activity, the charge is not a tax. Colo. Union of Taxpayers Found. v. City of Aspen, 2018 CO 36, 418 P.3d 506.

City's charge on non-reuseable bags was not a tax. The primary purpose was not to raise revenue, but to defray the reasonable direct and indirect costs of administering city's specific, regulatory, waste-reduction scheme, and to recoup the costs of recycling the bags that shoppers were still permitted to use under this regulatory scheme. Colo. Union of Taxpayers Found. v. City of Aspen, 2018 CO 36, 418 P.3d 506.

The statewide bridge enterprise is exempt from the voter approval requirements of this section. It is an exempt enterprise as defined in subsection (2)(a) because it is a government-owned business, the bridge safety surcharge that it imposes is a fee, not a tax, and the federal funds and designated bridges that it receives are not grants from the state or any local government. Consequently, it did not violate this section when it imposed a bridge safety surcharge and issued revenue bonds without prior voter approval. TABOR Found. v. Colo. Bridge Enter., 2014 COA 106, 353 P.3d 896.

Leases containing nonappropriation clauses do not create multiple-fiscal year obligations requiring voter approval in advance, and a lease that includes an initial 20-month period before its nonappropriation clause takes effect also does not require voter approval in advance because the district had adequate present cash reserves pledged for the first 20 months of lease payments. Bruce v. Pikes Peak Library Dist., 155 P.3d 630 (Colo. App. 2007).

Subsection (4)(a) does not require a school district to obtain voter approval for every tax or mill levy, but only for those taxes that are either new or represent increases from the previous year. To the extent that the school district's 1992 mill levy was the same as the previous year, subsection (4)(a) did not apply. Bolt v. Arapahoe County Sch. Dist. No. 6, 898 P.2d 525 (Colo. 1995).

Subsection (4)(a) does not require a second election at either the local or state level for legislation directing how revenue received as a result of a waiver election should be used. Such legislation is not a policy change, but an implementation of the waiver election. Mesa County Bd. of County Comm'rs v. State, 203 P.3d 519 (Colo. 2009).

A pre-TABOR election can serve as "voter approval in advance" for a post-TABOR mill levy increase. Bruce v. Pikes Peak Library Dist., 155 P.3d 630 (Colo. App. 2007); TABOR Found. v. Reg'l Transp. Dist., 2016 COA 102, 417 P.3d 850, aff'd on other grounds, 2018 CO 29, 416 P.3d 101.

Advance voter approval requirement held satisfied by 1984 approval of issuance of general obligation bonds. The incurment of debt and the repayment of that debt are issues that are so intertwined that they may properly be submitted to the voters as a single subject. Bolt v. Arapahoe County

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

Sch. Dist. No. 6, 898 P.2d 525 (Colo. 1995).

Voters may give present approval for future increases in taxes under this section when the increase might be necessary to repay a specific, voter-approved debt. Bolt v. Arapahoe County Sch. Dist. No. 6, 898 P.2d 525 (Colo. 1995).

The voter-approval requirement in subsection (4)(a) applies only to applicable tax changes enacted after this section. The requirement leaves previously enacted legislative measures in place unless superseded by this section, even if the implementation of the measure occurs after the effective date of this section. Huber v. Colo. Mining Ass'n, 264 P.3d 884 (Colo. 2011).

Prior voter approval is not required for the tax rate increase on the severance of coal. The increase results from the department applying an adjustment factor to the coal tax that was enacted prior to the constitutional requirement for prior voter approval. Accordingly, the rate change is a nondiscretionary, ministerial function of the department and not a tax increase. Huber v. Colo. Mining Ass'n, 264 P.3d 884 (Colo. 2011).

Legislation that causes only an incidental and de minimis tax revenue increase does not amount to a "new tax" or a "tax policy change". The purpose of the bill was to simplify collection and administration of taxes and relieve taxpayers' confusion and vendors' administrative burden from having to comply with slightly disparate sales tax bases. The tax revenue gain from the change was projected to increase the two districts' tax revenue by a small percentage and was likewise a small percentage of the districts' budgets. Therefore, the changes were incidental and de minimis and not revenue raising. TABOR Found. v. Reg'l Transp. Dist., 2018 CO 29, 416 P.3d 101.

Abatements and refunds levy, designed to recoup tax revenue lost because of an error in assessment, is not subject to subsection (4)(a). But for the error, such revenue would have been collected, and the total dollar amount of taxes imposed does not increase although the mill levy rate may change. Bolt v. Arapahoe County Sch. Dist. No. 6, 898 P.2d 525 (Colo. 1995).

District levy for purposes of meeting federal requirements predated this section, hence was exempt, in view of statutory budgeting process that gives no discretion to board of county commissioners to alter budget fixed earlier in the year. Bolt v. Arapahoe County Sch. Dist. No. 6, 898 P.2d 525 (Colo. 1995).

While authority's bonds constituted a financial obligation under this section, the remarketing of the bonds nevertheless was not subject to subsection (4)(b), since the bond remarketing scheme does not create any new obligation, it merely remarketed debt that was authorized before the enactment of this section under the terms of a financing plan adopted at the time the debt was issued. Bd. of County Comm'rs v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 881 P.2d 412 (Colo. App. 1994), aff'd in part and rev'd in part sub nom. Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995).

Intergovernmental loan repayment was a new multi-year fiscal obligation to which subsection (4)(b) applied and authority must obtain voter approval before incurring this debt. Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995).

A broadly worded, voter-approved waiver of revenue limits, authorizing school districts to collect and retain all revenues notwithstanding the limitations of this section does just that, with no restrictions or language requirements. There are no specific language requirements for this type of waiver election. Mesa County Bd. of County Comm'rs v. State, 203 P.3d 519 (Colo. 2009).

Expansion of local use tax base to include all tangible personal property rather than only construction or building materials constituted a new tax and required voter approval in advance

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

under subsection (4)(a). HCA-Healthone, LLC v. City of Lone Tree, 197 P.3d 236 Colo. App. 2008).

The delayed voting provision of subsection (3)(a) does not authorize retroactive voter approval of new taxes or other revenue generating measures requiring voter approval in advance under subsection (4)(a). In adopting this section, the voters intended that approval of a tax must occur before it is imposed, not afterward, and an interpretation of this section that prohibits retroactive approval reasonably restrains government more than a contrary interpretation. HCA-Healthone, LLC v. City of Lone Tree, 197 P.3d 236 Colo. App. 2008).

IV. SPENDING AND REVENUE LIMITS.

Strict compliance with the revenue and spending limitations of this section is required. While a substantial compliance standard of review applies to the election provisions of this section in order to ensure that the voting franchise is not unduly restricted and prevent a court from lightly setting aside election results, this section contains no "de minimis" or "substantial compliance" exception to its revenue and spending provisions. Bruce v. Pikes Peak Library Dist., 155 P.3d 630 (Colo. App. 2007).

The school finance act incorporated by reference the property tax revenue limit and each district's corresponding ability to waive that limit pursuant to subsection (7)(c). The property tax revenue "limit" imposed by the school finance act is a reference to the subsection (7)(c) limit and not an "other limit" as contemplated by subsection (1). Mesa County Bd. of County Comm'rs v. State, 203 P.3d 519 (Colo. 2009).

The electorate of a governmental entity may authorize retention and expenditure of the excess collection without forcing a corresponding revenue reduction. Havens v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 924 P.2d 517 (Colo. 1996).

Although the great outdoors Colorado trust fund board is not a local government, private entity, agency of the state, or enterprise under this section, it is essentially governmental in nature and the best reading of this section is to exclude from state fiscal year spending limits only those entities that are non-governmental since this interpretation is the interpretation that reasonably restrains most the growth of government. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

Section 9 of article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution prohibits the general assembly from enacting limitations on revenues collected by the Colorado limited gaming commission in order to comply with this section, and insofar as revenues generated by limited gaming might tend in a given year to violate the spending limits imposed by this section, the general assembly may comply with this section by decreasing revenues collected elsewhere, or if that is impossible after the fact, the general assembly may comply with this section by refunding the surplus to taxpayers. Submission of Interrogatories on Senate Bill 93-74, 852 P.2d 1 (Colo. 1993).

The party seeking to invoke the "preferred interpretation" has the burden of establishing that its proposed construction of this section would reasonably restrain the growth of government more than any other competing interpretation. The mere assertion by a party that its interpretation would "reasonably restrain most the growth of government" is not dispositive. Bickel v. City of Boulder, 885 P.2d 215 (Colo. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1155, 115 S. Ct. 1112, 130 L. Ed. 2d 1076 (1995).

"Offset" is not a term of art defined by this section or utilized in a compensatory financial sense in the applicable provision; rather, read in context, the reasonable meaning of the operating phrase "revenue change as an offset" in subsection (7)(d) is that voter approval for the excess revenue retention constitutes the required offset to the refund requirement which otherwise would apply. Havens v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 924 P.2d 517 (Colo. 1996).

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

The electorate's approval for retention of the excess revenues as a "revenue change" is the required "offset" to the governmental entity's otherwise applicable refund obligation: "[T]he excess shall be refunded in the next fiscal year unless voters approve a revenue change as an offset." Havens v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 924 P.2d 517 (Colo. 1996).

Remarketing of revenue bonds does not constitute creation of debt requiring voter approval under this section because the remarketing does not create any new debt, impose any tax, or expose taxpayers to any new liability or obligation. Bd. of County Comm'rs v. E-470 Pub. Hwy., 881 P.2d 412 (Colo. App. 1994), aff'd in part and rev'd in part sub nom. Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995).

Under this section, bonded debt increases annual fiscal spending only by the amount of the debt service, not by the amount of the borrowed funds expended; thus, the expenditure of the escrowed bond proceeds for further construction and the operation of E-470 highway does not impact annual fiscal spending, and is not subject to the voter approval requirements of subsection (7)(d). Bd. of County Comm'rs v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 881 P.2d 412 (Colo. App. 1994), aff'd in part and rev'd in part sub nom. Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995).

The collection and expenditure of Authority revenues for service on bonds are "changes in debt service," to which the provisions of subsection (7)(b) do not apply under the plain language of this section. Bd. of County Comm'rs v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 881 P.2d 412 (Colo. App. 1994), aff'd in part and rev'd in part sub nom. Nicholl v. E-470 Pub. Hwy. Auth., 896 P.2d 859 (Colo. 1995).

It is incorrect to interpret the phrase "revenue change as an offset" in subsection (7)(d) to require that offsetting revenue reductions must be paired with the retained excess revenues for the following reasons: (1) Such a construction would restrict the electorate's franchise in a manner inconsistent with the evident purpose of this section, which is to limit the discretion of governmental officials to take certain taxing, revenue, and spending actions in the absence of voter approval; (2) such a construction does not accord with legitimate voter expectations that this section, if adopted, would defer to citizen approval or disapproval certain proposed tax, revenue, and spending measures that varied from this section's limitations; (3) the general assembly has construed this section as including the approval of revenue changes, under subsection (7) by means of measures referred to the voters by local government; (4) such a construction conflicts with the clear pattern of this section deferring to voter choice in the waiver of otherwise applicable limitations; and (5) the court has declined to adopt a rigid interpretation of this section which would have the effect of working a reduction in government services. Havens v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, 924 P.2d 517 (Colo. 1996).

Subsection (8)(c) prohibits a presumption in favor of any pending valuation in order to put a taxpayer on equal footing with a county in property tax valuation proceedings but does not address or modify a taxpayer's burden of proof at a board of assessment appeals proceeding. A taxpayer thus must prove by a preponderance of the evidence only that an assessment is incorrect to prevail at a board of assessment appeals proceeding and is not required to establish an appropriate basis for an alternative reduced valuation for the property at issue. Bd. of Assessment Appeals v. Sampson, 105 P.3d 198 (Colo. 2005).

The language "tax policy change" cannot be applied to any policy modifications that may have a de minimis impact on a district's revenues. In some cases, the cost of the election to authorize a tax policy change could exceed the additional revenue obtained, which would be an unreasonable result that the voters could not have intended when they passed this section. Mesa County Bd. of County Comm'rs v. State, 203 P.3d 519 (Colo. 2009).

A "tax policy change directly causing a net revenue gain" only requires voter approval when

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BACK TO TOP

BACK TO TOP

the revenue gain exceeds the limits dictated by subsection (7). To find that a tax policy change resulting in a net tax revenue gain that does not violate subsection (7) revenue limits requires voter approval would eliminate the need for the detailed revenue limits entirely. Mesa County Bd. of County Comm'rs v. State, 203 P.3d 519 (Colo. 2009).

V. STATE MANDATES.

"Subsidy" of state by county is legally impossible. Attempted turnback by county of its responsibilities under human services code pursuant to subsection (9) was invalid because when a county (itself a political subdivision of the state) attempts to subsidize the state, the state, through the county, contributes to itself. Therefore, county's contribution to cost of social services program is not a "subsidy" and subsection (9) does not apply. Romer v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, Weld County, 897 P.2d 779 (Colo. 1995).

This section did not change the mixed state and local character of social services. Romer v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, Weld County, 897 P.2d 779 (Colo. 1995).

A county's duties to the state court system, including security, may not be reduced or ended pursuant to subsection (9). State v. Bd. of County Comm'rs, Mesa County, 897 P.2d 788 (Colo. 1995).

BACK TO TOP

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BACK TO TOP