

? Ask Ann

Q. For special district elections, who is an “eligible elector”?



Ann Terry, SDA Executive Director.

A The phrase “eligible elector” appears in special district election laws in several contexts. For example, eligible electors are the intended recipients of districts’ call for nominations for Board Director elections. And, any Board Director candidate must meet the definition of an “eligible elector” in order to qualify to run for the office. But, what are the criteria to be an “eligible elector”?

Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) §32-1-103(5)(a) answers this question. An eligible elector is:

- » A person who is registered to vote in Colorado; AND
- > A resident of the special district, OR
- > An owner of real or personal taxable property within the special district.

Ownership of property becomes

significant when the person seeking to vote or seeking office, for example, is not a resident. In addition to the typical types of real or personal property ownership, there are a few additional types of ownership interests that are set forth in C.R.S. §§32-1-103(5)(a), (b), and (d):

- » Ownership by a person’s spouse or civil union partner;
- » Obligations to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property within the district boundaries or the area to be included within the districts; and
- » Ownership of mobile or manufactured homes.

To create the pollbook of eligible electors for a special district election, the district’s Designated Election Official (DEO) requests both the list of registered electors

(from the County Clerk) and the property owners list (from the County Assessor) before the election. C.R.S. §§1-13.5-203, 1-13.5-204.

This answer shows us how important DEOs are to our special districts. Administration of elections requires adherence to election laws and careful planning. Remember, if your district needs additional training or information, SDA has worked with experienced DEOs and the Division of Local Government on webinars and resources for the upcoming May elections. Please visit our website at www.sdaco.org to access this valuable information. ▶

Additional Election Trainings Scheduled for February and March!

To help you prepare for the May elections, we had a full schedule of election trainings in January, and we have more to come in February and March!

Our next two sessions will be conducted via Zoom and will feature a variety of election experts, including Micki Mills and Sarah Luetjen from Cockrel Ela Glesne Greher & Ruhland, PC; Joe McConnell from the Department of Local Affairs; the SDA Election Team; and others.

The dates and details are listed to the right; make sure to mark your calendars today! And to register, please visit the SDA website at www.sdaco.org.

» **Thursday, February 16 at 10:00 am via Zoom**

This session will review the self-nomination process and what needs to be done.

» **Thursday, March 2 at 10:00 am via Zoom**

This discussion will cover everything you need to do once you have confirmed that you will be having an election.

Also stay tuned for Election Judge training and a session covering the steps you need to take after your election!

Watch your emails and the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for more information to come.

We look forward to having you join us! ▶