

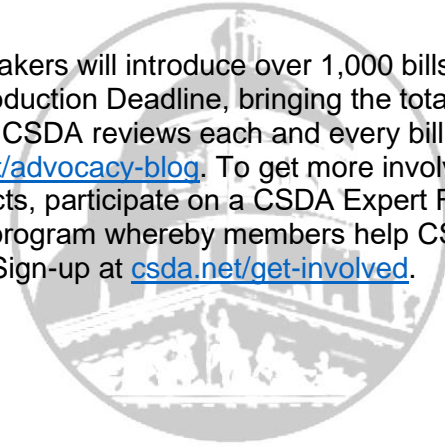


CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION PRIORITIES

TAKE ACTION BRIEF

February 2023

Capitol observers anticipate lawmakers will introduce over 1,000 bills in the final week before the State Legislature’s February 17 Bill Introduction Deadline, bringing the total number of Assembly and Senate Bills to well over 2,000 on the year. As CSDA reviews each and every bill, CSDA members can follow along at csda.net/bill-tracking and csda.net/advocacy-blog. To get more involved and help CSDA analyze new measures impacting special districts, participate on a CSDA Expert Feedback Team. It’s a simple but critical component to CSDA’s advocacy program whereby members help CSDA lobbyists quickly assess the effect of legislation on their operations. Sign-up at csda.net/get-involved.



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Contact a local CSDA representative near you!

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➤ Equip your district with the tools and information needed to Take Action

CSDA *Take Action* Month is underway and we want to make sure you get the most out of it throughout February!

With a record number of newly elected representatives throughout California, now is the time to start forging relationships and educating our leaders on:

- The critically important roles special districts play in California’s economy, infrastructure and quality of life, and
- The challenges facing special districts in the year ahead, and what that means for the communities these officeholders represent.

Our goal with *Take Action* Month is to equip you with the tools and information you can use to build these relationships and communicate effectively with state legislators and federal representatives as well as your local peers on city councils and county boards of supervisors.

For starters, we urge you to register now for two important webinars coming up that are free for CSDA members:

- On Tuesday, Feb. 14, we’ll have an introductory webinar on [Grassroots Advocacy and Public Outreach](#). Joins us from 8:30 – 12:15 for seminars on “Legislative Relations 101,” “Grassroots Advocacy 101” and “Media Relations 101.” (This webinar qualifies for the SDLF Essential Leadership Skills Certificate Program).
- On Thursday, Feb. 23, join us from 10-11 am for “[Building Relationships with Your Lawmaker’s Office](#),” featuring a panel of actual legislative field staff discussing how you can help build relationships and partner with Legislators through their district offices.

In addition, check your inbox every Tuesday in February, as each week your CSDA eNews will bring you information and resources on how to:

- Request and hold productive meetings with your legislators
- Take positions for or against legislation
- Up your earned media game
- Mobilize supporters and allies to help support or oppose legislation

CSDA Take Action Toolkit

Visit CSDA’s Take Action Toolkit at csda.net/ta-toolkit where you’ll find the resources you need.

Special districts are addressing California’s biggest challenges every day. They are the backbone of California’s economy and infrastructure, and provide highly specialized services to virtually every Californian. Our elected leaders, our media, and our communities need to hear our story. Let’s Take Action together.



➤ **Previewing the 118th Congress and preparing for earmark season**

The National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC), of which CSDA is a founding member, has published special reports looking ahead to the major issues that await the 118th Congress and offering insights on the Fiscal Year 2024 earmark process.

Special Report Previewing the 118th Congress

The NSDC Special Report on the 118th Congress offers a read into a few major topics currently making headlines, such as the debt ceiling, government spending, and congressional oversight. It also dives into the issues yet to make headlines that may, in some way, impact special districts and NSDC priority initiatives. For instance, Congress will need to tackle this year the five-year Farm Bill reauthorization, which includes USDA Rural Development and federal forestry programs; Federal Aviation Administration Authorization, which will impact special districts providing aviation services; and the Stafford Act Reauthorization, which includes federal disaster and fire service programs.

[Click here to read NSDC's special report previewing the 118th Congress.](#)

Special Report Preparing Your Special District for Federal Earmarks

Federal earmarks are back for the 118th Congress, which in the House of Representatives is formally known as "Community Project Funding" and in the Senate as "Congressionally Directed Spending."

Now is the time to identify projects that are *potentially* eligible for an earmark for Fiscal Year 2024 consideration. NSDC offers a special report for members of the California Special Districts Association providing a forecast of FY24 earmark eligibilities based on the FY22 and FY23 processes.

[Click here to read NSDC's special report on preparing for FY24 earmarks.](#)

Special districts with potentially eligible projects should consider contacting their member (or members) of the U.S. House of Representatives and/or Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla as soon as possible to flag for potential interest. Not all of California's House delegation has participated in the earmarks program. To gauge whether your House representative may participate in the FY24 process based on whether they have historically participated, [click here for a list](#) of legislators requesting earmarks in FY22 and click here for the [FY23 list](#).



➤ Initiative limiting ability of voters and state and local governments declared eligible for statewide ballot

On February 1, 2023, California Secretary of State Shirley Weber issued a [memo to all county clerks/registrars of voters](#) announcing that proponents of Initiative 21-0042A1 had filed the necessary number of valid signatures to make it eligible for the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot. Proponents now have until June 27, 2024 to consider withdrawing the initiative before the Secretary of State officially certifies it for the ballot.

Eighty special districts and counting have now joined CSDA, Cal Cities, the California State Association of Counties, educators, nurses, firefighters, and infrastructure groups in opposing Initiative 21-0042A1. Formally titled, "Limits Ability of voters and State and Local Governments to Raise Revenues for Government Services. Initiative Constitutional Amendment," Initiative 21-0042A1, or Initiative 1935 as now numbered by the California Secretary of State, is sponsored by the California Business Roundtable (CBRT).

Join the Growing List of Local Agencies in Opposition

For a sample resolution and to learn more about Initiative 21-0042A1 (aka 1935), visit csda.net/VoterLimitations.

The CBRT measure would create major new loopholes that allow corporations to avoid paying for the impacts they have on our communities and evade enforcement when they violate environmental, health, safety, and other state and local laws. It would also significantly restrict the ability of local voters, local governments, and state elected officials to fund critical services like fire and emergency response, public health, parks, libraries, affordable housing, homeless and mental health services, and public infrastructure.

"At this critical time in California's history, our communities cannot afford to do even less than the status quo. Sadly, this initiative would lock us into a race-to-the-bottom. Overcoming challenges like drought, flooding, and wildfire will require all of us to work together and consider the real costs of undermining our future. When we think of the kind of communities we want to leave our children and grandchildren, we are not content to settle for the 'minimum amount necessary' and we are not willing to limit their voice at the ballot box," said **Neil McCormick, Chief Executive Officer, California Special Districts Association.**



➤ OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Learn More

Virtual Workshop: Building the Board Chair and Manager Connection

Consecutive Mondays, March 6 and 13, 2023

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. each day

\$200 CSDA Member

\$300 Non-member

The partnership between board chair and chief executive establishes a foundation for effectively implementing the policy and strategic direction for the district. Governance and management should complement each other and can only do so by building a solid working relationship. The key topics covered during the program will include the following:

- Building a culture of common understanding, shared purpose, and commitment that is mission-driven
- Creating a working relationship that values mutual respect, trust, and support
- Evaluating working styles and leadership strengths through assessment*
- Establishing common understanding of roles, responsibilities, and relationships
- Outlining governance relationships between district board and staff members
- Identifying current and anticipated trends facing leaders of special districts

Register at [csda.net](https://members.csda.net/imis1/EventDetail?EventKey=WORK030623): <https://members.csda.net/imis1/EventDetail?EventKey=WORK030623>

Join Today

Join an Expert Feedback Team to provide CSDA staff with invaluable insights on policy issues. Visit csda.net/get-involved or email updates@csda.net to inquire about joining one of the following teams:

- Environment & Disaster Preparedness
- District Operations
- Governance
- Human Resources and Personnel
- Public Works, Facilities, and State Infrastructure Investment & Partnership
- Local Revenue

Stay Informed

In addition to the many ways you can **TAKE ACTION** with CSDA's advocacy efforts, CSDA offers a variety of tools to keep you up-to-date and assist you in your district's legislative and public outreach. Make sure you're reading these resources:

- CSDA's weekly e-Newsletter
- Districts in the News
- CSDA's *California Special Districts* Magazine

Email updates@csda.net for help accessing these additional member resources.