



TAKE ACTION BRIEF

Governor's Desk Edition: September 2026

CSDA legislative advocates were at the State Capitol around the clock as Legislators worked late nights over the final weekend of August until midnight Monday, August 31, and then returning Tuesday, September 1—one day past their end-of-session deadline. While CSDA and other stakeholders staved off a late-session attempt to shift wildfire utility liability onto local governments and others, the State Legislature sent Governor Gavin Newsom hundreds of bills in the waning days and hours of the 2025-2026 session. See what bills that matter most to special districts are now awaiting final action on the Governor's desk and much more!

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Bills Awaiting Governor Newsom's Signature or Veto That Matter Most to Special Districts

Below is a run-down of some of the most significant bills for which CSDA is requesting a signature or veto from Governor Gavin Newsom by September 30:

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

AB 1883 [Bryan] Workplace surveillance tools – REQUEST VETO

Places restrictions on employers utilizing certain workplace surveillance technology. CSDA is opposing the measure unless it is amended.

AB 2656 [Petrie-Norris] Public employees: notice: artificial intelligence performing service within scope of work – REQUEST VETO

This bill requires a public employer to provide a recognized employee organization no less than 45 days' written notice before taking an action to develop, purchase, or require the use of any generative artificial intelligence to perform a service that is within the scope of work of the job classification represented by the recognized employee organization.

SB 947 [McNerney] Employment: automated decisions systems – REQUEST VETO

This bill requires employers that primarily rely on an automated decision system (ADS) to make a discipline, termination, or deactivation decision to provide a specified notice and to appoint a human reviewer to investigate and compile supporting evidence for the decision. An employee shall have the right to request, and an employer shall provide, a meaningful, objective description of the employee's own data used by the ADS when an employer has primarily used an ADS to make a disciplinary or termination decision. This bill requires employers primarily relying on ADS to make a disciplinary, deactivation, or termination decision to provide a post-use notice, as specified. CSDA is the local government and school coalition leader on this measure.

AB 1383 [McKinnor] Public employees' retirement benefits – REQUEST VETO

This bill would make significant changes to the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA), threatening to undermine the stability that pension reform law has brought to public agency budgets. This bill would:

1. Increase the pensionable compensation cap (for all PEPRA employees, not just fire and police);
2. Reduce the retirement age for public safety from 57 to 55 prospectively;
3. Add a 4th safety tier that is 3% @ 55, prospective and subject to bargaining; and,
4. Allow local agencies to adjust their local formula in a prospective manner

According to CalPERS, AB 1383 is expected to increase pension costs by \$4 billion, plus up to an additional \$3.4 billion if all agencies adopt the new 3% @ 55 tier.

**PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT****AB 1881 [Ramos] California Indian Freedom Act of 2026 – REQUEST VETO**

Under existing law, California Native American Tribes must be notified of a project by a local government if they are culturally and traditionally affiliated with the given project area, and given deference during any consultation that occurs. However, any information they provide during the environmental review process is exempt from being disclosed to the public. This bill would prohibit the State from substantially burdening a tribe's exercise of spiritual practices on state public lands, including access to and use of land, sites or sacred objects, as specified.

AB 2218 [Kalra] Water Policy: California Native American tribes – REQUEST VETO

This bill would set up a state policy to address the historic inequities against Native American tribes that were caused by state-sanctioned acts of termination, removal, and assimilation. The policy is to acknowledge and correct these inequities through financial assistance, protection of tribal uses, and consultation. This bill requires the State Water Resources Control Board, regional water quality boards, the Natural Resources Agency, the Delta Stewardship Council, and the Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation to consider and incorporate this policy when revising regulations, permits, or grants to address the identified inequities. The bill provides that if there is a dispute between a tribe and state agency over an action, the matter would be mediated by the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs prior to any action in the courts.

SB 342 (Umberg) Contractors: unlicensed work - REQUEST VETO

Would change the law for public entities and commercial developers authorizing unlicensed contractors to recover payments for any period during which they were properly licensed and file lawsuits for compensation despite their unlicensed status. Existing law requires contractors to be licensed at all times and serves as a "shield" against lawsuits filed by unlicensed contractors to collect money for unlicensed work.

SB 1117 [Cervantes] Accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units – REQUEST VETO

Existing law prohibits a local agency, special district, or water corporation from imposing any impact fee upon the development of an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) that has 750 square feet of interior livable space or less, and requires any impact fees charged for an ADU that has more than 750 square feet of interior livable space to be charged proportionately in relation to the square footage of the primary dwelling unit. This bill would further narrow the impact fee on an ADU to be based only on the area in excess of 750 square feet of interior livable space. CSDA is opposing this measure due to its impact on providing affordable and equitable services to new housing units.



GOVERNANCE

AB 1821 [Pacheco] California Public Records Act: agency response time – REQUEST SIGNATURE

This bill, supported by CSDA, changes the 10-day timeframe that governments have to provide their initial response to a California Public Records Act request to 10 business days. Similarly, the bill would extend the 14-day period applicable in unusual circumstances to 14 business days.

AB 2640 [Hadwick] Commission on State Mandates: state mandates – REQUEST SIGNATURE

Allows school districts and local agencies to offset any decreases to a pending mandate reimbursement claim from any unpaid reimbursement claims attributed to that local agency or school district, whether appropriated or not, if those unpaid reimbursement claims exist. This would only apply to claim adjustments that occur after January 1, 2027.

SB 1159 [Cabaldon] Artificial intelligence: transparency and governance – REQUEST SIGNATURE

This bill, supported by CSDA, would provide that for the purposes of specified governance and transparency acts – the Administrative Procedures Act, the California Public Records Act, the Legislative Open Records Act, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, and the California Coastal Act – the terms “person,” “interested person,” “participant,” “member of the public,” as applicable, and any other similar terms under each act referring to those who may engage with governmental agencies, do not include artificial intelligence (AI) systems, autonomous agents, robots, or other nonhuman entities, whether physical or digital.



Tell Us What to Prioritize for Advocacy Next Legislative Session

Districts Stronger Together means that a united voice for special districts makes CSDA's advocacy powerful and effective. To best represent and serve California's 2,000 special districts, we depend on your input. Each even-numbered year we distribute an advocacy priorities survey to gather the member feedback which drives our advocacy efforts.

With the 2025-2026 State Legislative Session officially concluded, CSDA is preparing for the 2027-2028 Session.

On October 22, CSDA's Legislative Committee will meet for a planning session to give our lobbyists direction for the upcoming Session. CSDA's success depends on focusing our scope with unified purpose. If everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority.

Please take a moment to help guide our advocacy by completing [this survey](#) no later than September 18, 2026.

COMPLETE CSDA ADVOCACY PRIORITIES SURVEY



The survey questions are broken into the following topics:

1. Housing & Community Development
2. Public Works & Facilities
3. Governance
4. Local Revenue
5. Human Resources & Personnel

Each of the five topics lists the hottest relevant issues affecting special districts of diverse shapes and sizes. Please help us rank the importance of these issues and feel free to add any we may have missed. At the end of the survey, you are welcome to articulate what should be the single biggest advocacy priority for CSDA in the 2027-2028 Legislative Session.

All CSDA members are welcome and encouraged to complete the survey.



Highlights from Recent NSDA Federal Legislative Activity

SDFAA Advocacy Status Update

The Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act (SDFAA) (H.R.2766/S.2014) currently has 25 bipartisan cosponsors (17 Democrats, 8 Republicans) in the House, and 4 bipartisan cosponsors (2 Democrats, 2 Republicans) in the Senate. The House bill is still pending a full floor vote.

- On Monday, August 31st, Rep. Mullin (D-CA-15) became a cosponsor for the SDFAA. Rep. Mullin's district consists predominantly of San Mateo County, California and southeastern San Francisco, CA. There are 55 special districts in San Mateo County, including 22 independent special districts and 33 county-governed special districts.
- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) gave SDFAA a clean CBO score, which notes: "CBO expects that implementing the bill would not affect the overall amount of assistance provided."

FY 2027 Appropriations Update and OMB Rule Delay

With the end of the federal fiscal year approaching on September 30, Congressional leaders advanced a continuing resolution (CR) early to avoid a government shutdown like last year and while heading into the midterm elections.

- The Senate passed a CR in a 90-6 vote on August 8 to temporarily extend FY 2026 appropriations through December 11, 2026. The Senate's CR also included language that would delay the implementation of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed rule through December 11, 2026, and provides a clean extension of surface transportation reauthorization through the same date.
- The House passed the Senate's CR on Monday, September 1st with a 370-48 vote. upon returning from the August recess. The CR passed quickly as lawmakers seek to extend government funding negotiations beyond the midterm elections and into the busy "lame duck" session of Congress in November and December.

Recent Cybersecurity Threats to Local Infrastructure

- Last month, CISA, the FBI, and EPA reported a significant increase in cyberattacks targeting U.S. water utilities, including a coordinated July attack against more than 30 community water systems in Minnesota. Federal agencies specifically reported that attackers are focusing on programmable logic controllers (PLCs) used to operate wastewater and water treatment facilities, raising concerns about the security of critical infrastructure nationwide.
- While CISA has not formally attributed the attacks to a specific source, federal advisories note that Iran-affiliated hackers have targeted industrial control systems used by utilities, and security officials suspect recent attacks may be connected to ongoing Iranian cyber activity against U.S. water systems.
- In response to ongoing cybersecurity concerns in the water sector, Senators Schiff and Klobuchar recently introduced the Water Cyber Shield Act (S. 5368), which would require state- and locally-owned water and wastewater utilities to report cyberattacks to the federal government, require the EPA to establish separate baseline cybersecurity standards for drinking water utilities and wastewater systems, and authorize an additional \$300 million annually for the CWSRF and DWSRF Programs specifically for cybersecurity improvement projects.
- As operators of local water systems, water and wastewater districts may face increased vulnerability to service disruptions and operational impacts.



CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION PRIORITIES

TAKE ACTION BRIEF

Can't Miss CARB ACF ZEV Mandate Webinar

2026 Update to CARB ACF ZEV Regulation – What's New?

When: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 from 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM

Presenters: Suparna Jain and Kevin Harris, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

[REGISTER](#)



Get an objective overview of the latest update to CARB's Advanced Clean Fleets regulation affecting all state and local government vehicle fleets. Special districts are now required to annually report and agencies are on the clock to begin transitioning medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles to ZEVs.

Don't miss this early review on what CARB changed, what vehicles are affected (including contracted vehicles), what exemptions may be available (and how to request them), and generally how to comply with this expansive mandate.

Free CSDA Member
\$125 Non-member

CSDA webinars are offered at no charge to all Members in part through the generous support of the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA).





TAKE ACTION BRIEF

OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Learn More

Board Secretary/Clerk Conference

November 3-5, Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort

Earn Your Certificate OR Take Advanced Track Sessions for Returning Attendees

New sessions and speakers added each year!

Whether you're attending for the first time or returning as a seasoned board secretary or clerk, ongoing education is key to thriving in your role. CSDA's Board Secretary/Clerk Certificate Program showcases your commitment to excellence by offering comprehensive training on the diverse responsibilities and complexities you face. First-time attendees will gain a solid foundation of essential skills and insights to confidently navigate their duties, while returning participants can dive deeper into specialized breakout sessions that reflect the latest developments and trends in the field. Each year brings new opportunities to expand your expertise, stay current, and elevate your impact.

This popular conference is your gateway to exceptional growth, connection, and leadership.

Register at csda.net/BoardSecretary

Join Today

Join an Expert Feedback Team to provide CSDA staff with invaluable insights on policy issues. Fill out the form here <https://www.csda.net/get-involved> to join one of the following teams:

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

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
- CSDA – The Hub newsfeed

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