

SDAO 2009 Legislative Priorities

SDAO's policy on sponsoring legislation includes the following criteria:

- The effect of the legislation on the majority of special districts in Oregon
 - Whether or not the proposed legislation impacts a large number of districts in a geographic region or large population area
 - The fiscal impact of the proposed legislation on special districts
 - How the proposed legislation impacts types of special districts
 - Be of statewide importance
1. **Cancer Presumption**—Support SDAO's negotiated compromise with the Oregon State Firefighters' Council that enacts a cancer presumption for on-the-job injuries
 2. **Election Costs**—Pursue changes to existing statute and or administrative rule that alleviates districts' costs to hold a local option or bond election
 3. **Recreational Immunity**—An Oregon Supreme Court ruling in 2006 reversed a long-held understanding that public bodies and private landowners that make their property available to access other lands for the public to recreate are immune to liability. However the Supreme Court reversed this understanding and clarified that the immunity provided under ORS 105.682 only applies to the owner of the land where the public is actually engaged in a recreational activity. The Association will pursue legislation extending and clarifying the protections provided under statute to apply to landowners, whether they be public or private that make their land available to the public to access other land for recreational purposes.
 4. **Oregon Tort Cap**—Pursue reasonable legislative remedies to respond Clarke vs. OHSU (tort cap elimination)
 5. **Enterprise Zones**—Support recommendations of the enterprise zone report (SB 151-2007 session) that increase accountability for tax abatements given under the enterprise zone program
 6. **Ethics Reform**—Continue to pursue reforms to Oregon's ethics statutes that encourage rather than discourage citizen participation on district boards of directors.
 7. **Multi-Purpose Service District**—The multi-purpose service district is legislation that will allow for the formation of a special district that can exercise multiple powers concurrently. This parallels the ability of the formation of county service districts that can exercise multiple powers. The legislation will contain prohibition of the exercise of a power if the multi-purpose district is contiguous with or includes an existing special district that can provide the service.