

# Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act

## Talking Points / Discussion Guide

September 2025



### H.R. 2766 (Fallon) / S. 2014 (Cornyn) Talking Points & Discussion Guide

- [Your District Name] is a local special district government providing [type of service(s)] to [X-population] of our shared constituents in [name(s) of community/communities]
- We are **one of approximately 38,000 special purpose units of local government** in the country that altogether provide a range of infrastructure and essential community programs.
- Yet, **there is no consistent definition in federal law for what a “special district” is**, creating inconsistencies in how special districts may access federally funded programs for local governments. As a result, we often face unnecessary, additional hurdles other units of government do not have to jump through. This can prevent our access.
- Furthermore, the **federal government does not consider special districts to be geographic units of government**, which prevents us from having **federally-recognized population figures**. Those figures are needed for verification and access to population-based funding opportunities.
- *Has your district experienced hardship accessing grants because it is not a city, county, town, or other general unit of government? Share the story.* Examples could be, but are not related to: transportation funding for park projects, surface/road transportation projects, community development, broadband, ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (COVID funds), etc.
- Legislation has been introduced to remedy this issue for our districts and others like ours. **H.R. 2766/S. 2014**, the bipartisan *Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act* is **the solution**.
- The *Special Districts Fairness and Accessibility Act* would **establish a federal definition of special district** that would lead to federal agencies’ formal recognition of special districts as units of local government. This will advance special districts’ recognition as eligible for federal funding opportunities and to engage as a stakeholder in federal projects.
- The definition is necessary to drive consistency in how federal agencies view local special district governments in development and implementation of rules and regulations.
- **The *Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act* will place us on a level playing field with general government services**, allowing special districts to be clearly eligible for programs supporting local governments.
- **The Ask:** Please support and cosponsor H.R. 2766/S. 2014, the *Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act*. Congressman Pat Fallon sponsors this legislation with Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen as lead cosponsor.

