

Special District Policy
Approved January 24, 2006

1. This policy applies to Business Improvement Districts (BID), General Improvement Districts (GID), and Metropolitan Service Districts as allowed under Colorado Revised Statutes Titles 31 and 32.
2. Applicants must complete and submit a Titles 31 and 32 Special District Transmittal Form and applicants for Title 32 Metropolitan Districts must complete and submit a Service Plan. Any deviation from the Metropolitan District Model Service Plan will be reviewed by City Staff and, if deemed material by Staff, will require specific City Council review and approval as a Service Plan modification. For Title 32 Metropolitan Districts, the Model Service Plan contains the complete and comprehensive description of all Policy components.
3. In accordance with 7-100 of the City Charter, the District shall not issue any debt instrument for any purpose other than construction of capital improvements with a public purpose necessary for development.
4. As set forth in 7-100 of the City Charter, the total debt of any proposed District shall not exceed 10 percent of the total assessed valuation of the taxable property within the District unless approved by at least a two-thirds vote of the entire City Council.
5. Any proposed District must commit to the City that its mill levy dedicated to repaying any bonded debt will not exceed the greater of 30 mills for residential properties or 50 mills for commercial properties and may be Gallagher adjusted (or otherwise adjusted) to the extent permitted by law. The maximum allowed for operating is 10 mills for both residential and commercial properties which may be Gallagher adjusted (or otherwise adjusted) to the extent permitted by law.
6. The District shall not consent to the organization of any other district organized under the Special District Act within the Service Area which will overlap the boundaries of the District unless the aggregate mill levy for payment of Debt of such proposed districts will not at any time exceed the Maximum Debt Mill Levy of the District.
7. Districts shall not impose a debt service mill levy on any District initially established as a Residential District which exceeds 40 years after the year of the initial imposition of such debt service mill levy unless: (1) a majority of the Board of Directors of the District imposing the mill levy are residents of such District and (2) such Board has voted in favor of issuing debt with a term which requires or contemplates the imposition of a debt service mill levy for a longer period of time than the limitation contained herein.

8. The District cannot issue debt or certify a debt service mill levy until the property included within the District has a City approved Master Plan and other more detailed land use approvals.
9. Limited tax general obligation bonds issued by a District shall be structured and/or credit enhancements provided such that the bonds cannot default as long as the District is imposing the required maximum allowed mill levy.
10. Prior to the issuance of any privately placed debt for capital related costs, the District shall obtain the certification of an External Financial Advisor regarding the fairness and feasibility of the interest rate and the structure of the debt.
11. The bonds or other debt instruments of Districts will be limited to those that are payable either from ad valorem property taxes, assessments, permitted user fees, reimbursements and interest earnings of the District, and from other revenues made available to the District. No District will be allowed to impose a sales tax.
12. The debt of any District will not constitute a debt or obligation of the City in any manner. The faith and credit of the City will not be pledged for the repayment of the debt of any District. This will be clearly stated on all offering circulars, prospectus, or disclosure statements associated with any securities issued by the District. Districts formed under Title 32, CRS shall not utilize the City of Colorado Springs' name in the name of the District.
13. The issuance of all bonds or other debt instruments of Districts shall be subject to the approval of the City Council. City Council's review of the bonds or other debt instruments of the Districts shall be conducted to ensure compliance with the Service Plan and all applicable laws.
14. All District bonds or other debt instrument, if not rated as investment grade, must be issued in minimum denominations of \$100,000 and sold only to either accredited investors as defined in rule 501 (a) promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933 or to the developer(s) of property within the District.
15. Proceeds from the sale of debt instruments and other revenue of Districts may not be used to pay landowners within the District for any real property required to be dedicated for public use by annexation agreements or land use codes. Examples of ineligible reimbursements include but are not limited to: the acquisition of rights of way, easements, water rights, land for prudent line drainage, parkland, or open space unless consent from the City Council is given. Proceeds from the sale of debt instruments and other revenue of Districts also may not be used to pay for the construction of any utility infrastructure except for those categories of utility infrastructure covered by utility tariffs, rules, and regulations. Additionally, if the landowner/developer constructs the public infrastructure and conveys it to the District in return for a reimbursement obligation from the District, prior to making such reimbursement for such amounts, the District must receive the report of an independent engineer or accountant confirming that the amount of the reimbursement is reasonable.

16. Should the District construct infrastructure subject to a recovery agreement with the City or other entity, the District retains all benefits under the recovery agreement. Any such reimbursements for public improvements installed or financed by a District will remain the property of the District and be applied towards the repayment of its bonded debt, if any. Any reimbursement revenue not necessary to repay District bonded debt may be utilized by the District to construct additional public improvements as approved by City Council. The above provisions also apply in their entirety to circumstances where the public infrastructure has been constructed by the landowner/developer and subsequently conveyed to the District in return for a reimbursement obligation from the District; under those circumstances all applicable recovery agreements will be assigned to the District.
17. The existence of the District will not be considered a substitute for a financial assurance.
18. The City will establish and charge review and filing fees commensurate with the actual cost of processing and reviewing new and amended plans. Such fees are established by separate Council resolution and made available to all Service Plan applicants.
19. Districts shall take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure adequate disclosure of the existence, financial condition, and status of the District to all property owners within its boundaries. Specific written disclosure will be provided to all buyers of property within the District as required in 38-35.7-101 CRS. As required by 7-100 of the City Charter, the City will make available to the public all information regarding the financial condition and status of all General Improvement Districts within the City. Within 90 days of District formation, the District will record the approved Disclosure form included as an Exhibit in the approved Service Plan with the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder against all property included in the District.
20. All BIDs are required to submit an annual audit by March 31 performed by an independent certified public accounting firm.
21. No District shall have the authority of eminent domain or dominant eminent domain without prior City Council approval.
22. The Districts shall not include within any of their boundaries any property outside the Service Area (as described in the Service Plan) without the prior written consent of the City Council.