



## Salida Hospital District Special Election May 7

**The ballot says “...shall the term limits imposed by Article XVIII, Section 11 of the Colorado Constitution be ELIMINATED for directors of the Salida Hospital District.**

A **NO** Vote means that you want to keep term limits.

A **YES** Vote means that you wish to eliminate term limits for directors of the Hospital District.

**Background:** Currently directors of the hospital district can serve two consecutive four year terms after which directors must be absent from the board for eight years. This special election would be a vote to change this rule so there would be no term limits for hospital district directors.

### **Those in favor of eliminating term limits say:**

- The ever increasing complexity of the healthcare environment requires a steep learning curve. Board members often take four years to master the job. Term limits end board members’ tenures just as they are becoming most useful.
- Hospital revenues have grown so quickly that it requires highly experienced board members that are familiar hospital issues.
- Board members are provided additional training. It is cost effective to have board members be able to use their training for a longer period of time.
- Voters should have the choice of electing who they wish as board members. Term limits restrict voter choices.
- Experienced board members can provide stability and continuity for a vital community institution. Experienced board members have sufficient history with the organization to have a long term outlook.
- The hospital district is not a traditional governmental body. It functions in more business related way and needs highly experienced and dedicated board members.



## How to Vote

**Eligible Voters:** Residents of Chaffee County, northern Saguache and western Freemont County.

**Polling Locations:** Heart of the Rockies Medical Center, 1000 Rush Dr., Salida or American Legion Hall, 338 N Railroad, Buena Vista. Polls are open from 7 AM to 7 PM on May 7.

**Mail-In Ballots:** Applications for mail-in ballots attached to this document. Applications for mail- in ballot must be received by April 30 by mail or May 3<sup>rd</sup> in person. Questions call Juanita Ward 530-2231 or view League website at [www.LWVchaffeecounty.org](http://www.LWVchaffeecounty.org).

### **Those in favor of keeping term limits say:**

- They encourage a regular flow of fresh ideas, new thinking and community connectedness.
- They promote aggressive planning for board development and succession before gaps in leadership develop.
- They reduce burn-out of board members as there is a fixed limit for how long they can serve.
- They bring more opportunities to serve in public office and can encourage more minorities and women to volunteer.
- They are overwhelmingly popular with voters and may create a more supportive electorate for the board and hospital.
- They minimize the risk that board members become too embedded into the culture that members lose an outside perspective. In addition, volunteer boards may have a difficult time asking people to step down when effectiveness slips. Term limits addresses this problem.
- Term limits are supported by the majority of hospitals as well as by professional groups like the American Hospital Association.

**The League of Women Voters of Chaffee County has prepared this pamphlet as a public service by providing non-partisan information about the issues. The LWVCC is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side. The pro and con statements are a compilation of materials submitted by proponents and opponents of the issue.**