

May 6, 2025 Election Candidate Resource Guide



Who is Highlands Ranch Water?

Highlands Ranch Water, formerly known as Centennial Water & Sanitation District, is the water and wastewater provider for Highlands Ranch, Solstice and Northern Douglas County Water and Sanitation District (NDC).

Customer Quick Facts

30,000 single family homes
7,200 multi-family units
1,100 commercial customers

Highlands Ranch Water was formed in 1980 to provide water and wastewater services through wholesale service agreements to areas of unincorporated Douglas County, specifically the areas of Highlands Ranch and Solstice. In 1988, Highlands Ranch Water expanded its service area by entering into another wholesale agreement with NDC. In January 2025, Highlands Ranch Water announced its new name in conjunction with the roll-out of a new, accessible, website platform at highlandsranchwater.org.

Highlands Ranch Water strives to ensure our water resources are used wisely. The district's strategy is to optimize the use of surface water. Over the past 25 years, approximately 90% of the water supplied by Highlands Ranch Water has come from renewable river supplies.

Service Area



Highlands Ranch Water
Northern Douglas County Water & Sanitation District



Mission

Provide safe, sustainable and reliable water and wastewater utility services to our customers with superior quality and value.

Vision

Set the standard of excellence for community-based water and wastewater utility services through innovative practices in finance, operations and resource management.

Core Values



Safety - We work to ensure a safe environment for our employees and our customers.

Teamwork - We collaborate with internal teams and regional partners to achieve our goals.

Vision - We remain forward thinking to identify opportunities to benefit our community. We strive to provide leadership within the water and wastewater industry.

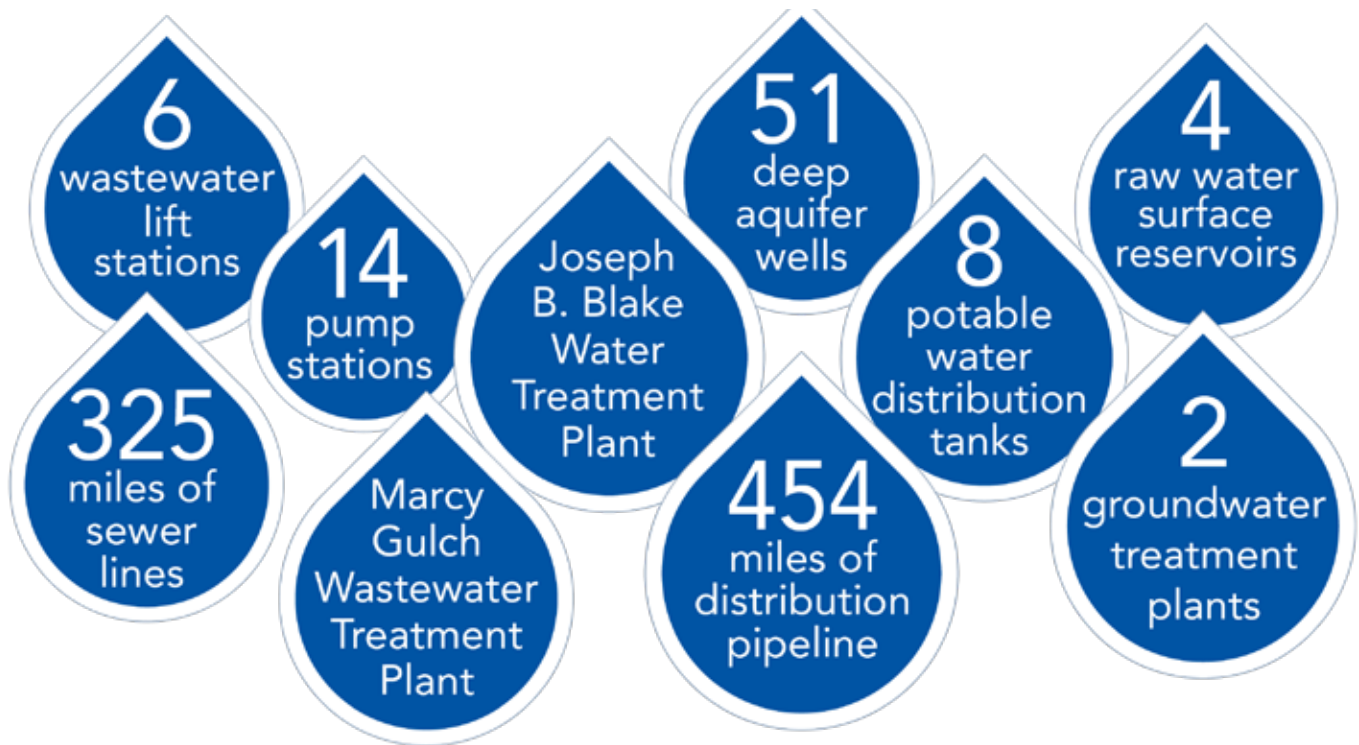
Excellence in Service - We strive for excellence in all facets of our industry, including customer service, water quality and environmental stewardship.

Integrity - We take pride in our work and demonstrate honest and ethical behavior to ensure we meet our obligations. We respect the valuable resources we are entrusted with and are committed to protecting them.

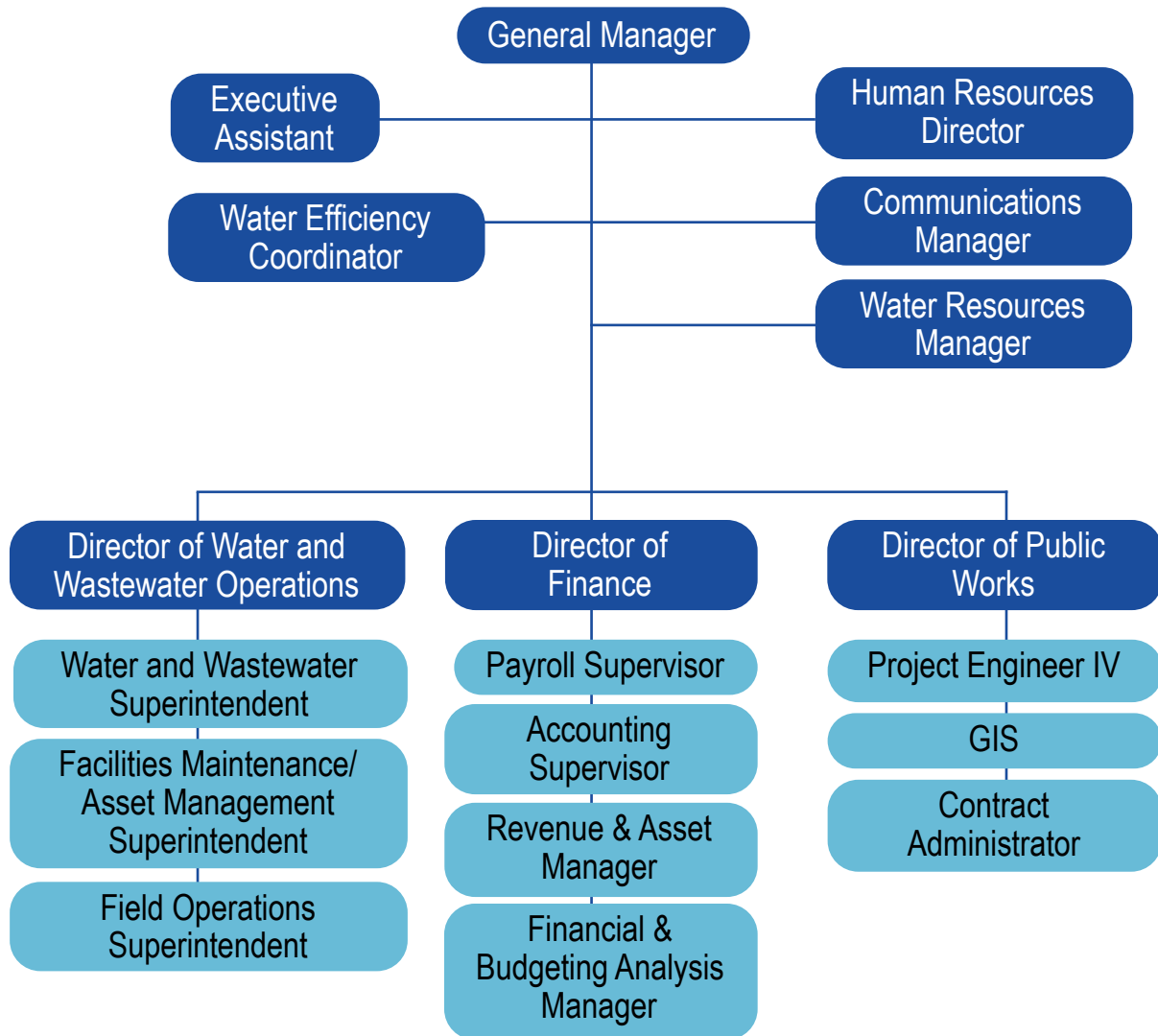
Infrastructure

Highlands Ranch Water provides high quality water through the Joseph B. Blake Water Treatment Plant. Wastewater is treated at the Marcy Gulch Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet stringent water quality standards before it is discharged. Highlands Ranch Water adheres to and meets all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) water quality regulations.

Highlands Ranch Water's treatment, pumping and storage facilities include the following:



Organizational Chart



Memberships / Partnerships

Highlands Ranch Water partners with a variety of local, state and federal organizations in our effort to deliver safe, sustainable and reliable water and wastewater services to customers. Below is a list of some of those organizations.

- Chatfield Reservoir Mitigation Company
- Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Colorado Division of Water Resources
- Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)
- Colorado Water Wise
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Highlands Ranch Community Association
- Highlands Ranch Metro District
- Mirabelle Metropolitan District
- Northern Douglas County Water and Sanitation District
- Resource Central
- South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA)
- State Water Plan
- U.S. Drought Monitor
- Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency Project (WISE)



Governance

Highlands Ranch Water is governed by a board of directors, which, pursuant to state law, consists of five members.

In order to be eligible for nomination to the board, prospective board members must be registered to vote in Colorado, and must be a resident of the district or a property owner, in their natural name. Directors are elected to staggered four year terms of office at successive biennial elections.

The board meets twice a month. Board meetings are held at 6 p.m. the last Monday of each month (with rare exceptions due to holiday schedules). Monthly board study sessions are held the Tuesday prior to the board meeting at 7:30 a.m. Board meetings and study sessions are held at the John D. Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Drive. Those who wish to attend virtually may do so via the Zoom platform. Links are posted on the top of each agenda.

Each director may receive compensation of \$100 per meeting, not to exceed \$2,400 per year, as prescribed by statute.

2025 Board Meeting Schedule

Study Session Meeting Dates	Board of Directors Meeting Dates
January 21	January 27
February 18	February 24
March 25	March 31
April 22	April 28
May 13	May 19
June 24	June 30
July 22	July 28
August 19	August 25
September 23	September 29
October 21	October 27
November 18	November 24
--	December 9 (Tuesday)

Responsibilities of a Board Member

The Highlands Ranch Water board of directors are an elected board representing residents within the Highlands Ranch Water district boundaries, which includes Solstice but not Northern Douglas County.

The board of directors have overall fiduciary responsibility for the operation of the district. The board is comprised of five members, and all powers, privileges and duties vested in, or imposed upon, the district bylaws shall be exercised and performed by and through the board of directors.

Board members are expected to attend two meetings a month. In addition to the regularly scheduled board meetings, board members may schedule workshops or special meetings as needed. An example is a budget workshop typically scheduled in October or November each year.

For those that would like to learn more about board member responsibilities and operations of the district, consider applying to be a part of the Citizen Engagement Committee (CEC). The CEC is a volunteer group that meets quarterly. Members serve two-year terms. Members participate in an orientation and are expected to attend at least three of four quarterly meetings annually. Board members are encouraged to attend the quarterly meetings to hear feedback and solicit input from the CEC on a variety of topics.



2025 Election

Two at-large seats will be up for election. Elected board members will serve a four-year term, expiring in 2029. The next director election will be held in May 2027.

Registered voters who live in or own property in the district boundary may vote in the election. To be eligible to run for an open seat, you must be registered to vote in Colorado, and must be a resident of the district or a property owner, in their natural name.

Board Member	Term Expires
Tammy Essmeier, Chair	May 2025
Terry Nolan, Vice Chair	May 2027
SJ Light, Treasurer	May 2027
Frank Johns	May 2027
Frank McNulty	May 2025

Election Format

The Highlands Ranch Water May 2025 election will be a polling place election. Electors have the option of requesting an absentee ballot to be mailed to them.

Polling place: John D. Hendrick Office Building
62 Plaza Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Ballot box: Douglas County ballot drop boxes, Highlands Ranch locations

- Douglas County Sheriff's Office Highlands Ranch Substation
- Highlands Ranch Metro District Service Center
- Highlands Ranch motor vehicle office

Request an Absentee Ballot

Registered voters who live in or own property in the district boundary may request an absentee ballot. Applications will be accepted until the close of business Tuesday, April 29, 2025 for the May 6, 2025 election.


Forms can be mailed, hand-delivered or sent via email. The form, regardless of how it is submitted, must include the applicant's signature.







The form is available on the Highlands Ranch Water website at highlandsranchwater.org.

Election Calendar

Date	Action
Nov. 25, 2024	Highlands Ranch Water board adopts election resolution and designates DEO
Jan. 1 - Feb. 28, 2025	Self-nomination forms can be filed with the DEO
Jan. 27, 2025	First day to provide call for nominations
Feb. 20, 2025	Last day to provide call for nominations
March 3, 2025	Last day to file Affidavits of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate
March 4, 2025	Cancel election if candidates are running unopposed
April 4, 2025	Begin mailing absentee ballots
April 29, 2025	Last day to request an absentee ballot
May 6, 2025	ELECTION DAY
May 14, 2025	Last day to receive UOCAVA ballots
May 20, 2025	Canvass board certifies results

Local elections scheduled for May 6, 2025



	
4 DIRECTOR SEATS UP FOR ELECTION	2 DIRECTOR SEATS UP FOR ELECTION
TYPE OF ELECTION:   POLLING PLACE & MAIL-IN ABSENTEE VOTING	TYPE OF ELECTION:   POLLING PLACE & MAIL-IN ABSENTEE VOTING
ELECTION INFORMATION: highlandsranch.org/elections	ELECTION INFORMATION: highlandsranchwater.org/vote