

# Footnotes

## Inside this Issue...

.....  
 .....  
 Observances and  
 Fun Facts -  
 October and  
 November  
 pg.2

.....  
 .....  
 Conference Update  
 pg.3

.....  
 .....  
 Open Records Act  
 pg. 4

.....  
 .....  
 GASB Exposure  
 Draft Response  
 pg. 5

.....  
 .....  
**And more...**  
 .....

### *From the President...*

I can't express how amazed I am with the efforts of our members to assist and better our communities. I have witnessed and heard of your amazing efforts! One instance that's appropriate to share is the members of the Sales and Use Tax Simplification Task Force. This task force is comprised of public finance officers, private industry experts and elected officials. They are charged with identifying opportunities and challenges in the current tax scheme and providing solutions. At times our finance officers find themselves shouldering difficult examinations and presentations. If you have an opportunity to support our finance officers in the effort please take that opportunity. The website for the task force is <https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/sales-and-use-tax-simplification-task-force/2017-regular-session>.



During the summer I had an opportunity to visit several parts of our beautiful state and as I travelled I made it a point to observe the impacts of government. I am sure we have all experienced the perpetual road projects throughout our state, but instead of complaining of the delays I paid attention to the architectural features that are being added and other improvements. Having three children 10 and under it was exciting to see the amazing parks that are available to the public and the broad range of activities at those parks. We had a great time enjoying the communities you helped build!

The natural disasters throughout our country have been dreadful. It has brought back memories of our own. I hope your loved ones have been safe and accounted for and I look forward to seeing you at our conference in two months.

Take Care,

Jeff Edwards  
 CGFOA President  
 City of Aurora



## October Observances and Fun Facts!

October 2017 is Observed as	Breast Cancer Awareness Month Domestic Violence Awareness
Oct. Birthstone	Opal and Tourmaline
Fruit & Veggies for the Month of October	Pears Apples Persimmons Pumpkin Ginger Galangal Turmeric
October Flower	Calendula
Oct. Astrological Sign	Libra (till 22nd) & Scorpio (23rd →)
Proclamations and Notable October Observances	Oct 5: National Poetry Day

## November Observances and Fun Facts!

November 2017 is Observed as	National Diabetes Month Lung Cancer Awareness Month National Adoption Month National Native American Heritage
Nov. Birthstone	Topaz and Citrine
Fruit & Veggies for the Month of November	Apples Cranberry Plantains Collard Greens Mustard Greens Kale Swiss Chard Broccoli Rabe
November Flower	Chrysanthemum
Nov. Astrological Sign	Scorpio (till 21st) & Sagittarius (22nd→)
Proclamations and Notable November Observances	Nov 26: Small Business Saturday

**Congratulations to Brandy Zink**, the 2017 recipient of the George Nielsen Public Investor Scholarship. Brandy has been with the Town of Parker for 10 years. She began as a Sales Tax Technician and moved into the role of Analyst a short time later. She is now a Sales Tax Auditor with the Town of Parker. Brandy is a freshman and Colorado State University Global Campus pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and a Certificate in Business Administration. Brandy has been an active member of CTAC and CGFOA, currently serving as co-chair of CTAC.

Brandy's boss at the Town of Parker notes that "Brandy is a perceptive, sharp and quick individual... driven to understand how things work. Brandy's personal strengths are as impressive as her intellectual accomplishments." Brandy has created and presents a Taxpayer Education program on a quarterly basis and "has demonstrated excellence in all that she puts her mind to."

Congratulations Brandy! We look forward to your continuing contributions to the Town of Parker, CTAC and CGFOA!



## Conference Update

**Go for Gold: Train to Win** is open for registration! We already have over 175 people registered and there is plenty of room at the hotel for everyone who wants to attend. The opening session is presented by Ruben Gonzalez, The Luge Man. At the age of 21, Ruben, decided to compete in the Olympics, took up the sport of luge, and 4 years later was racing for the Gold against the best in the world. He went on to become the only person to ever compete in four Winter Olympics EACH in a different decade. Our Olympic themed conference will include Opening Ceremonies (Opening Event) and an Office Olympics Banquet! Be sure to bring your municipality (entity) flag, dress for the olympic sport of your choice and help with the fun by sponsoring an Office Olympics game for the banquet!

As always, the conference provides an opportunity for 3+ days of CPE education. This year's program has SIX tracts - Accounting and Grants, Budget, CTAC, Investments and Banking, Professional Development and Public Engagement.

Please note that this year you **NEED** to register for meals. Meals are included with your registration fee but we need you to register so that we can have an accurate meal count for the hotel. We know some of you don't get up for breakfast or prefer to head out for lunch with friends, so please just let us know your meal plans by registering only for those meals you will actually attend - thanks!

Register by October 6 to get the early registration discount of \$100.00.

<http://www.cgfoa.org/Opportunities/AnnualConference.aspx>

# COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT



Senate Bill 17-040 amended the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) and was signed into law on June 1, 2017 by Governor Hickenlooper. Its effective date will be Aug. 9, 2017.

Updates to CORA, originally enacted in 1969, were inspired by The Coloradoan newspaper's investigation of pay equity for male and female employees at Colorado State University (CSU). CSU did not provide the newspaper with data in a digitized searchable format, but did give the newspaper access to documents containing roughly 4,800 employee salaries. Reporters spent weeks searching through the paper documents and were forced to create their own database to analyze the data.

"Providing public records in a paper format is not, to me, government that's being accountable, transparent and efficient," stated Sen. John Kefalas, one of Senate Bill 40's sponsors.

## Key 2017 changes to CORA:

- Requires taxpayer-funded agencies to release documents in their digital form, if one exists
- Creates new procedures governing the inspection of public records that are stored as structured data
  - If public records are stored as structured data, the custodian of the public records is required to provide an accurate copy of the public records in a structured data format when requested.
  - If public records are not stored as structured data but are stored in an electronic or digital form and are searchable in their native format, the custodian is required to provide a copy of the public records in a format that is searchable when requested
  - If a custodian is not able to comply with a request to produce public records in a requested format, the custodian is required to produce the records in an alternate format and to provide a written declaration attesting to the reasons the custodian is not able to produce the records in the requested format
  - Nothing in the bill requires a custodian to produce records in their native format
- Allows public agencies to withhold records that "would be useful to a person in planning an attack" beyond providing the location of the infrastructure
- Expands the grounds permitting the filing of a civil action seeking inspection of a public record to include an allegation of a violation of the digital format provisions in the bill or a violation of record transmission provisions specified in CORA
  - Specifies that altering an existing record, or excising fields of information, to remove information that the custodian is required or allowed to withhold does not constitute the creation of a new public record
- Modifies CORA provisions governing the copy, printout, or photograph of a public record and the imposition of a research and retrieval fee:
  - The bill deletes existing statutory language permitting the custodian to charge the same fee for services rendered in supervising the copying, printing out, or photographing of a public record as the custodian may charge for furnishing a copy, printout, or photograph;
  - The bill replaces a reference in the statute to the phrase "manipulation of data" with the phrase "programming, coding, or custom search queries so as to convert a record into a structured data or searchable format";
  - When a person makes a request to inspect or make copies or images of original public records, the bill permits the custodian to charge a fee for the time required for the custodian to supervise the handling of the records, when such supervision is necessary to protect the integrity or security of the original records
- Repeals the existing criminal misdemeanor offense and penalty for a willful and knowing violation of CORA

Reference: <https://www.scribd.com/document/347977150/SB17-040-Colorado-Open-Records-Act-update>, Bob Lackner, Managing Senior Attorney and Assistant Team Leader, Office of Legislative Legal Services, Colorado General Assembly



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MILE HIGH DENVER ARMA CHAPTER  
[HTTP://WWW.ARMADENVER.ORG](http://www.armadenver.org)

*Thank you to the Technical Issues Committee who sent the following response to GASB regarding Project No. 3-10.*

## **Exposure Draft of the Government Accounting Standards Board:**

### **Certain Debt Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements**

Project No. 3-30

*Response by the Colorado Government Finance Officers Association*

Jeff Edwards, President

Prepared by: Technical Issues Committee

**August 21, 2017**

To the Director of Research and Technical Activities:

RE: Project 3-30, Certain Disclosures Related to Debt

We appreciate the opportunity to present our comments on this Exposure Draft of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The views reflected in these comments represent our membership throughout the State of Colorado and are presented from a preparer's view taking into account the informational needs of stakeholders.

As noted in the introduction, the objective of this statement is to improve consistency and provide additional essential information about debt. We believe and agree that the additional guidance in paragraph 4 and 5 meets this objective.

Paragraph 6, which requires separate information in debt disclosures regarding direct borrowings and direct placements of debt from other debt causes issue by adding a category which is based on how the debt was acquired, not on funding source for repayment. By adding this classification, the government could potentially have debt which is both general obligation debt by funding source for repayment and direct debt by how the debt was acquired. By putting the debt in one category over the other makes it difficult to determine total debt obligations by funding source for repayment.

Finally, we believe there should be clarification to whether the exclusion of leases also means the exclusion of capital financing arrangements which are currently considered leases but will change with the implementation of GASB 87.



PO Box 620217  
 Littleton, CO 80162-0217  
[www.cgfoa.org](http://www.cgfoa.org)  
[administrator@cgfoa.org](mailto:administrator@cgfoa.org)  
 Phone: 303-922-4647  
 Toll Free: 888-922-4647  
 Fax: 303-922-5295

*Footnotes* is a publication of the Colorado Government Finance Officers Association

*The information and opinions herein are obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but CGFOA makes no guarantee of accuracy and completeness. Opinions, forecasts and recommendations are offered by individuals and do not represent official CGFOA policy positions. The publisher and editor specifically disclaim any liability for loss or risk incurred as a consequence of the use and application, either directly or indirectly, of any advice or information presented herein.*

## Put Limits on How Much You Use Your Phone

We carry our phones around everywhere, but always being connected has costs: In one survey 82% of people said smartphones have hurt their ability to converse with others and 89% said their devices have resulted in chronic physical pain. It's important to set boundaries around technology — and you don't have to go on an all-out "digital detox" to do it. Try small experiments: Leave your phone behind when you go to lunch or take a walk. Set a time limit for how long you'll scroll through Instagram or Twitter, especially at bedtime. And when the time's up, put your phone away — not on your bedside table but a short walk away from your bed or even in the other room. Giving yourself these needed breaks away from screens will help you see that you don't need your phone with you, regardless of how much it may feel that way. Adapted from "Device-Free Time Is as Important as Work-Life Balance," by Charlotte Lieberman

In early August the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued its Q3 2017 issue of the GASB Outlook e-newsletter.

Here is a link to the GASB website: [www.gasb.org/gasboutlook](http://www.gasb.org/gasboutlook) If you would like to subscribe to the GASB

### Listserv Update

CGFOA offers four Listservs: Finance Professionals, Tax Audit Professionals, Colorado Flood Resource Professionals, and CGFOA Bike Enthusiasts. If you want to be added to one or more of the listservs, please email your request to Kathy Velzen at [administrator@cgfoa.org](mailto:administrator@cgfoa.org). Be sure to note which list(s) you want to join.

#### Finance Directors Listserv

Email your Finance Officers Listserv questions to: [finoff@lists.cgfoa.org](mailto:finoff@lists.cgfoa.org)

#### CTAC Listserv

Email your CTAC Listserv questions to: [taxaud@lists.cgfoa.org](mailto:taxaud@lists.cgfoa.org)

#### Colorado Flood Resources Listserv

Email your Flood Resources Listserv questions to: [coflood@lists.cgfoa.org](mailto:coflood@lists.cgfoa.org)

#### CGFOA Bike Enthusiast Listserv

Email your group outing information to [cgfoarides@lists.cgfoa.org](mailto:cgfoarides@lists.cgfoa.org)

Keep in mind, joining, leaving or updating an email address is NOT automatic with membership, you must send an email to request being added or making any change or deletion. Also important, make sure you work with your IT department to ensure that emails coming from a [lists.cgfoa.org](http://lists.cgfoa.org) address are marked safe!

Finally, your emails must be sent from the email that is a part of listserv!