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City News

From Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz

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Southwest Denver voters will be asked to make important choices when ballots arrive this fall. The election is a coordinated one, so named because it will include state and school board issues as well as local ones. Ballots should begin arriving in mid-October and be due back by Nov. 1. Voters can return ballots by mail or drop them off at a service center. The nearest to southwest residents is the Harvey Park Rec Center, 2120 S. Tennyson Way. This center, like the downtown Denver one at 200 W. 14th Ave., has a drive-through feature. Look for details at <http://www.denvervotes.org/>. In the meantime, here are a few important matters voters will be asked to decide:

Flexibility for the city Auditor

Unlike other Denver administrative officials, the Auditor isn't allowed to designate a staff member or deputy to sign contracts or conduct business when the auditor is out of town or incapacitated. A charter amendment would grant that authority. The change wouldn't cost anything and was referred by the City Council unanimously.

An at-large School Board member

Southwest voters will get to cast ballots for an at-large candidate for Denver School Board. Our district school board member was elected two years ago and the seat is not up for election again until 2013. This year's at-large candidates are: John Daniel, Frank E. Deserino, Allegra "Happy" Haynes, Roger Kilgore and Jacqueline Carole Shumway.

Two citizen-driven initiatives

One initiative is just for Denver voters and the other for the whole state. The Denver initiative would require businesses in the city to provide paid sick leave to employees if there isn't already a collective bargaining agreement in place. The statewide initiative would raise state sales and income taxes for education. Both measures should get lots of attention from media and groups for or opposed.