

# Public Works Leader of the Year Award Criteria

**Purpose:** The Public Works Leaders of the Year program seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from both the public and private sectors. The primary focus of the award is on career service to the public works profession rather than on any one single event or project.

**Eligibility:** It is the intent of this award to recognize the career service accomplishments of public works professionals and officials. Towards that end, candidates with a minimum of 10 years qualifying experience may be nominated from any of the following categories. APWA membership is not required. Individuals are only eligible to receive the Public Works Leaders of the Year on one occasion.

**1. Public Sector** – Public sector candidates may come from any of the three following categories:

a. Any non-elected, full-time employee of a federal, state, provincial, county or municipal government, that is responsible for one or more major subdivisions of a governmental agency. Most of the candidate's time and efforts must be devoted to the administration and management of the design, construction, maintenance and/or operation of a street or highway system, refuse collection or disposal system, public building, drainage or flood control facility, airport, harbor, or any other type of public works installation.

b. Service in an appointed (non-elected) position on a board or commission charged with the oversight or policy level review of public works or infrastructure issues. Such service may have been at the federal, state, provincial, county or municipal government level dealing with surface transportation systems, refuse, solid waste, and recycling systems, public buildings, drainage or flood control, airports, harbors, or any other type of public works or infrastructure systems. Such positions may typically be represented by the following examples: City Manager, Public Works Commissioner, Roads Commissioner, Highway Commissioner, Transportation Commissioner, Airport Commissioner, Port Authority Commissioner, or other comparable position.

c. Elected officials who have prior qualifying experience from either category "a" or "b" may also be considered as candidates.

**2. Private Sector** – Private sector public works and/or civil engineering professionals having a minimum of 10 years of involvement in public sector public works activities may be eligible, if their qualifying activities have come from the following areas:

a. Experience as a contract Director of Public Works/City Engineer or comparable position, which was provided by means of a contract service from a private sector firm to a governmental entity; or

b. A combination of prior qualifying experience in the public sector (see number 1) and/or service as a consultant engaged in the provision of public works-related services to the public sector.

**Selection:** The Awards Committee reviews the nominations based upon established criteria and selects the winner.

**Nomination Process:** Any governmental entity, group, or individual may nominate candidates. Self-nominations are not accepted. APWA membership is not required. Submittals should include

nomination form and supporting data form as to why the candidate is being nominated for Leader of the Year. Ideas for supporting data are included on the nomination form. It is encouraged that these materials be completed by the nominating party and not be left for the candidate to submit. Please refer to directions as outlined on supporting data form.

**Deadline March 6, 2026** (Rocky Mountain Chapter); e-mail nomination and supporting data forms to [rleland@helenamt.gov](mailto:rleland@helenamt.gov)

**Presentation:** The award winners are presented with a plaque during Rocky Mountain Chapter Spring Conference, local media will be notified and information on the project will be included in the Chapter newsletter.

# APWA Rocky Mountain Chapter Awards Program Public Works Leaders of the Year Nomination Form

*Deadline*

Email on or before March 6, 2026

*Forward to (electronic copy required):*

Ryan Leland

[rleland@helenamt.gov](mailto:rleland@helenamt.gov)

Candidate's Name:

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Title:

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Agency/Organization:

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Mailing and Street Addresses:

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City/State/Zip:

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Phone/Fax Numbers:

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E-mail:

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Indicate the population served by the candidate's agency/organization:

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Indicate the category under which the candidate's agency/organization falls:

- Municipality
- County/Special District
- State/Federal/Military
- Private Sector

**Group/Individual Nominating:**

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Title:

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Agency/Organization:

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Mailing and Street Addresses:

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City/State/Zip:

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Phone/Fax Numbers:

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E-mail:

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*The supporting documentation (less than 5 pages) may include any of the following:*

**Employment Record**

**Job-Related Technical and Managerial Accomplishments**

**Initial and Lifelong Education**

**Publications and/or Presentations**

**Professional Involvement**

**Community Service**

**Awards**