



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

February 2012

Supervisor Elections

Conservation District Supervisors serve a term of 4 years. Supervisor elections are held every two years, with three Supervisors being elected one time and four the next. At the end of that term, it is time to go through the process of re-election. This 10 minute training is going to focus on the process of election, filling unexpired terms and answer some commonly asked questions.

- According to KRS 262.210 supervisors must present a nominating petition to the County Clerk in the County where the term is being sought. The petition is only available through the county clerk's office. The petition must include the signatures of at least 25 registered voters in the County (It is recommended that you get more). This petition must be presented by the filing deadline. This year the deadline for filing is **August 14th by 4:00 pm.**

- The candidate must pay the county filing fee of \$20. No district funds can be used in the filing of election petitions.

- If more petitions are filed than are available, the County Clerk then presents them to the voters in the General Election to be on the ballot.

- In the event that the number of petitions for only the number of supervisors to be elected are filed, the county clerk will certify the election of supervisors to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission without there being anything on the ballot.

- When there are not enough petitions turned in to cover the vacancies, this leaves the window open for "write ins".

- Write in candidates are physically written in on the ballot. Only certified names can be counted. To be certified as a "Write In" you must file a declaration of intent within 10 days preceding the election (KRS 265).



- A supervisor's term begins January 1st following the election. A supervisor is not qualified to take office until they have taken the oath and also sign and return the oath of office card to the Division of Conservation.
- In the case where a supervisor must resign or a vacancy may occur, the Board can nominate a citizen to fill that term. The citizen must complete a nominating petition and be approved by the State Soil and Water Commission. When that term expires, that individual must file a petition to be elected.

Other Facts

- Supervisors must reside in the county.
- Supervisors can campaign like any other elected official.
- No District funds can be contributed to campaign funds or for the filing fee. Petitions will be disqualified if at least 25 signatures are not from a registered voters in that county.
- Supervisors cannot hold any other elected office but can remain on the Board while running for an elected position.
- Names are publically "drawn" to determine the order of appearance on the ballot.
- Supervisors are not required by law to attend a mandatory number of meetings per year but some Districts have set a limit to which they can request that a supervisor resign.
- Supervisors must take an "Oath of Office" and be officially sworn in after being elected.
- It is extremely important to have a good mix of supervisors; men, women, young and old, from different areas of the county however there are no specifications. The ideal supervisor is someone who cares about conserving our natural resources and can devote the time needed for monthly meetings and District functions.