



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

May 2010

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 must include the signatures of at least 25 registered voters in the County. This petition must be presented by the filing deadline. This year the deadline for filing is **August 10th**. The candidate must also pay the county filing fee of \$20. The District cannot pay this fee. If more petitions are filed than are available, the County Clerk then presents them to the voters in the General Election.



- In the event that the petitions for only the number of supervisors to be elected are filed, the commission will consider them elected. 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

- 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.
- Petitions will be disqualified if at least 25 signatures are not from a registered voter 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.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does your district encourage people to run for open supervisors spots?
2. Explain how your board is made up of a diversified group that represents the entire district.
3. How is the supervisor election process the same or different than other office elections?