



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

July 2016

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 year there should be 4 supervisors to be elected. 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. It cannot be obtained online. 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 9th at 4:00 p.m. local time.**
- The candidate must pay the county filing fee of \$20. No district funds can be used in the filing of election petitions.
- How many petitions are submitted?
 - In the event that only 4 petitions are submitted, the county clerk will certify the election of supervisors to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
 - If more than 4 petitions are filed, the county clerk then presents them to the voters in the general election.
 - If 3 or fewer petitions are filed, write-in candidates are also able to be considered during the general election.
- 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 signed the oath of office card and returned it 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 Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



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 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 diverse group of supervisors; men and women, minority groups, different ages, different backgrounds in agriculture, environmental knowledge, education, and business, and representatives of different areas of the county. The ideal supervisor is someone who cares about conserving our natural resources and can devote the time needed for monthly meetings and district functions.

Nov. 8, 2016

