

Conservation District Election FAQs

General

- Does the notice about a CD election need to be sent to the Commission? [No]
- Are conservation district elections different from general elections? [Yes]

Before the Election

- Can the Commission staff review notices about our conservation district elections before a CD publishes them? [Sometimes we are able to.]
- Must a district verify that a candidate is a landowner or farm operator? [Yes]
- Must candidates reside in the district boundaries to be eligible to be elected? [Yes]
- Must candidates be registered voters to be eligible to be elected? [Yes]
- Is an absentee landowner who owns land within the district boundary eligible to be elected if they reside outside the district boundary? [No]
- Must the information provided by a candidate on the candidate information (application) be accurate? [Yes]
- Is the definition of what a landowner or farm operator is for purposes of being a candidate in an election in the WAC? [Yes]
- Is the reason why two of the three elected supervisors need to be farm operators or landowners in statute? [Yes]
- In an election with multiple candidates, is a primary election held first to determine the top two candidates? [No]
- Can a candidate withdraw from an election? [Yes]
- Does the ballot need to be re-written to remove a candidate who has withdrawn? [No]
- Must the conservation district do anything when a candidate withdraws to notify the voters of the candidate's withdraw? [No, but the conservation district can provide notice to the public of the candidates' withdraw.]

- Can a candidate withdraw by an email? [Yes]
- Can a candidate offer voters pre-paid envelopes to return their ballots in? [Yes, but that should be available to all voters and voters run the risk of the returned envelope lacking a post-mark.]
- Can a conservation district use an electronic method to handle ballot requests? [Yes, provided the election procedures are complied with.]
- Must a request made by a voter for a ballot be matched to that voter's address? [Yes]
- Can ballots be requested by someone other than the voter on behalf of the voter? [Yes. A request for a ballot can be made in person, in writing, by telephone or electronically, by the voter, a family member, or a registered domestic partner.]
- Should the conservation district provide instructions for requesting ballots in an election? [Yes]

On Election Day

- Should voters declare their eligibility to vote to the district before a request for a ballot be fulfilled by the district? [Yes]
- If a voter refuses or declines to declare their eligibility to vote to the district before a request for a ballot is fulfilled by the district, must the district still provide the ballot? [Yes, the district would provide a provisional ballot]
- If a voter does not use the two envelope system when returning a ballot, will that disqualify the vote? [Not automatically.]
- Can the county auditor's office assist conservation districts in running elections? [Yes]
- Can candidate statements be provided to voters at the poll-site on the day of election? [No]

After the Election

- Do the notices about our election need to be sent to the Commission? [No]

