

South Dakota

Conservation District Election Laws



South Dakota Conservation District Elections

South Dakota's conservation district elections are primarily governed by the South Dakota election laws.



South Dakota

Conservation District Elections

- Notice of Vacancy must be published for each position that will be vacant the coming year. Cost of publication is paid by the district.
- Valid nominating petitions to be provided by the State Conservation Commission.
 - Petitions must be approved by the Secretary of State's office.
- Petitions must be signed by twenty-five or more registered voters in the district.
- Unopposed candidates are automatically elected and certified to fill the office.



South Dakota Conservation District Elections

Specific to conservation districts:

- 5-member board,
- 4-year terms
- Non-partisan ballot.



South Dakota Conservation District Elections

- The supervisors must represent certain segments of the public:
 - Three must be rural landowners or occupiers;
 - One must be a taxpayer of real property; and
 - One must be a resident of an urban area.



South Dakota Conservation District Elections

- Each supervisor must reside within the district he/she serves
- The supervisor election is held in conjunction with the November general election.
- All voters eligible to vote in a general election may participate in the supervisor election.



South Dakota Conservation District Elections

- Vacancy occurring during first 2 years of the 4-year term –
 - the remaining board members appoint someone to fill the position until the next general election.
 - At that time a supervisor should circulate a petition for the remaining two years of the four-year term.



South Dakota Conservation District Elections

- Vacancy occurring during last 2 years of the 4-year term
 - the remaining board members appoint someone to fill the position until the next general election.
 - At that time a supervisor should circulate a petition for a full four-year term.
- The purpose is to maintain the established rotation of supervisor elections.



South Dakota Conservation District Elections

- An appointed supervisor cannot be automatically carried over without going through the election process. To continue to serve without at least a nomination by petition, he must be reappointed by the board.



South Dakota Conservation District Elections

- A supervisor is no longer qualified to serve if
 - he/she moves out of the conservation district
 - He/she resigns
 - He/she dies
- Any supervisor of a conservation district may be removed by the State Conservation Commission upon notice and hearing, for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other reason.

