

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE

2012

Washington State Conservation Commission

Bill Eller

October 2012

ELECTIONS BACKGROUND

Direction

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- 1939: The Washington State Conservation Commission is required by Chapter 89.08 Revised Code of Washington to adopt procedures for conservation district elections. “The commission shall establish procedures for elections, canvass the returns and announce the official results thereof.” RCW 89.08.190.

70 Years

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- District Elections from 1939 to 2010:
 - ⊗ Collection of election policies and procedures.
 - ⊗ Election manual.
- Year ~2000: Change
 - ⊗ High profile elections.
 - ⊗ Elections placed on general ballot = expensive.
 - ⊗ Confusion over election procedures and requirements.
 - ⊗ Low voter turnout / public involvement.

Election Process Review

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- Stakeholder engagement from 2007-2010:
 - ✧ Conservation District staff and supervisors.
 - ✧ Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) District Operations Committee.
 - ✧ Commission and WACD joint elections committee.
 - ✧ County auditors and elections officials.
 - ✧ Commission-assigned assistant attorney general.
 - ✧ Informal input from the public and interested parties.
- 2010 Adoption of Election Regulations – WAC 135-110.

Purpose of Election Regulations

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- Facilitate an open elections process,
- Establish clear election procedures to provide for fair treatment for candidates and voters,
- Clarify statutory language,
- Provide statewide consistency in the election process, and
- Define the election process to assist future changes.

ELECTION CYCLE

Supervisor Elections & Appointments

- 2 District Supervisors Appointed by State Conservation Commission.
- 3 District Supervisors Elected in Special Local Election.
- 3 of 5 Supervisors must be land owners or farm operators.
- Three year term.

Simple Calendar

- .. August - September
 - ⊠ Election Webinar.
 - ⊠ Begin thinking about when to have your election, review procedures.
- .. October - December
 - ⊠ Advertise election meeting, hold election meeting, adopt election resolution.
- .. January – March
 - ⊠ Hold election.
- .. By end of April
 - ⊠ All paperwork to Commission.
- .. May
 - ⊠ Commission announces election winners and appointees.

2013 Election Deadline Calculator

Enter election date:

Your election must be held between January 1 and March 31, 2013!

MONTH / DAY / YEAR

When	Date	Who	Form	Action	WAC	Election Manual
By:	#VALUE!	ES	5	Publish the first notice of the intent to adopt an Election Resolution (at least 6 days before the 2 nd notice below).*	135-110-220(1)	Section 2.D.2
No later than:	#VALUE!	ES	5	Publish the second notice of the Intent to Adopt an Election Resolution.*	135-110-220(1)	Section 2.D.2
On:	#VALUE!	BOS	1	Hold BOS meeting to adopt the Election Resolution.*	135-110-210	Section 2.D.2
As soon as:	#VALUE!	ES	1 & 5	Publish the first notice of the adopted Election Resolution (at least 6 days before the 2nd notice below).*	135-110-220(2)	Section 2.D.2
No later than:	#VALUE!	ES	1 & 5	Publish the second notice of the adopted Election Resolution.*	135-110-220(2)	Section 2.D.2
No later than:	#VALUE!	ES	1	Deadline for WSCC to receive the adopted Election Resolution.*	135-110-210(3)	Section 2.D.2
By:	#VALUE!	C	2	Candidate provides information to CD by the filing deadline.*	135-110-320	Section 2.G
By:	#VALUE!	C	3	Candidate provides the nominating petition to CD by filing deadline.*	135-110-340	Section 2.G
On:	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	Candidate filing deadline (at least 4 weeks before election date).*	135-110-330	Section 2.G
As soon as:	#VALUE!	ES	Checklist	If automatically re-electing an incumbent, the Checklist must be filled out & submitted.	135-110-370	Section 2.J.1
	Before printing ballots	ES	4	Verify each candidate is qualified to serve.	135-110-355	Section 2.D.2.1
	Before printing ballots	ES	4	Verify each candidate's nomination petition.	135-110-355(3)	Section 2.D.2.1
On election day:		POs	6	Complete poll lists.	135-110-550	Section 2.F.2
On election day:		POs	7	Count ballots, complete ballot results report.	135-110-750	Section 2.F.3
On election day:		ES	Checklist	If automatically re-electing an incumbent, take necessary pictures of election cancellation signs.	135-110-370	Section 2.J.1
By:	#VALUE!	ES	N/A	Submit copies of all completed forms to WSCC. If automatically re-electing an incumbent, remember to provide photos and other supporting materials (see Checklist).	135-110-750	Section 2.D.5

Abbreviations: C = Candidate; CD = Conservation District; BOS = CD board of supervisors; ES = Election Supervisor; POs = Polling Officers.

For forms and procedures, please visit: <http://www.scc.wa.gov/elections>; Submit copies of election documents to elections@scc.wa.gov

*** PLEASE NOTE: These times are minimums, the BOS can set more than this minimum amount of time (WAC 135-110-330(2)); if they do so, all * dates will have to be adjusted accordingly.**

ELECTION STATISTICS FOR 2012



2012 Election Statistics

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- 31 of 47 districts (76%) were able to use WAC 135-110-370 to automatically re-elect their incumbent candidate and call-off their election.
 - ⊠ This number would have been slightly higher (33-34) but some districts had trouble and couldn't use the WAC section.
 - ⊠ Last year 19 of 47 (40%) were able to use WAC 135-110-370.



Number of Candidates

13

- .. There were 52 candidates in 2012.
- .. There were 57 candidates in 2011.
- .. There were 54 candidates in 2010.
- .. There were 52 candidates in 2009.



2012 Elections Observed

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- .. Commission staff and the public observed six of the sixteen district elections that were held (38%).



ELECTION RESOURCES

Resources on the Web



Election Manual:

Election and A Conservat

Form 1 CONSERVATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ELECTION D APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION SUPERVISOR

RESOLUTION # _____ OF THE _____ CONSERVA
ELECTION # _____

All required by RCW 35.02.100, a majority of the Board of Supervisors
within public jurisdiction (over) the territory to hold an election,
as described below:

Ballot:	Physical Address and Location Name of Dis

List below in the names of supervisors whose terms expire if

ELECTION SUPERVISOR(S)

(the person appointed to serve as the conservation district's clerk)

Name
Address
Phone(s)

List below is/are and date filing deadline and location

Candidate Filing Deadline	
Date	Time

List below election method(s)

Election Method (check all that apply)	Last Day and Time Voters
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail Ballot	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail in	
<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic	

The following supervisors affirm this election resolution and appointment of an Election S

Supervisor's signature	Title



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0 WAC replacement of conservation district supervisors

GENERAL
 election authority:
 CRS
 WAC
 rights provided to conservation commission to be applied
 in election
 within district must remain impartial
 boundaries of conservation district to be available

2013 Election Deadline Calculator

Enter election date: DAY / MONTH / YEAR. Your election must be held between January 1 and March 31, 2013!

When	Date	Who	Form	Action	WAC	Election Manual
By	4/VALLE	ES	5	Publish the first notice of the intent to adopt an Election Resolution (at least 6 days before the 2 nd notice below) *	135-110-2001	Section 2.0.2
No later than	4/VALLE	ES	5	Publish the second notice of the intent to adopt an Election Resolution *	135-110-2001	Section 2.0.2
On	4/VALLE	BOS	1	Hold BOG meeting to adopt the Election Resolution *	135-110-210	Section 2.0.2
As soon as	4/VALLE	ES	1 & 5	Publish the first notice of the adopted Election Resolution (at least 3 days before the 2 nd notice below) *	135-110-2001	Section 2.0.2
No later than	4/VALLE	ES	1 & 5	Publish the second notice of the adopted Election Resolution *	135-110-2001	Section 2.0.2
No later than	4/VALLE	ES	1	Deadline for WSCC to receive the adopted Election Resolution *	135-110-210(3)	Section 2.0.2
By	4/VALLE	C	2	Candidate provides information to CD by the filing deadline *	135-110-220	Section 2.0.6
By	4/VALLE	C	3	Candidate provides the nominating petition to CD by filing deadline *	135-110-240	Section 2.0.6
On	4/VALLE	NA	1 & 4	Commence filing deadline (at least 4 weeks before election date) *	115-110-130	Section 2.0.5
As soon as	4/VALLE	ES	Checklist	If automatically re-electing an incumbent, the Checklist must be filled out & submitted.	135-110-370	Section 2.0.1
	Before printing ballot	ES	4	Verify each candidate is qualified to serve	135-110-355	Section 2.0.1
	Before printing ballot	ES	4	Verify each candidate's nominating petition	135-110-355(3)	Section 2.0.1
On election day		POs	6	Complete poll book	135-110-360	Section 2.0.2
On election day		POs	7	Count ballots, complete ballot results report	135-110-370	Section 2.0.3
On election day		ES	Checklist	If automatically re-electing an incumbent, take necessary pictures of election cancellation signs.	135-110-370	Section 2.0.1
By	4/VALLE	ES	NA	Submit copies of all completed forms to WSCC. If automatically re-electing an incumbent, remember to provide pictures and other supporting materials (see Checklist).	135-110-350	Section 2.0.5

Abbreviations: C = Candidate; CD = Conservation District; BOS = CD board of supervisors; ES = Election Supervisor; POs = Polling Officers.
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Questions / Discussion? Thank you!

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