

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. ***What is a Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor?***

There are 370 District Supervisors working in 40 Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state. These districts include all counties in Georgia. The districts and the supervisor positions were created in 1937 by the Georgia General Assembly. Districts were formed to provide a way that federal government technical assistance to Georgia citizens could be provided under local direction and priorities. Please see map of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

There is an elected and an appointed supervisor in every county, except for the one and two-county districts, which have five and six supervisors respectively. Districts hold regular monthly meetings to plan their work and determine needs in soil and water conservation and resource development.

Some responsibilities of a District Supervisor include providing local leadership to conservation issues, prioritizing federal farm bill programs and reviewing erosion and sedimentation control plans before a local government can issue a land-disturbance permit.

Districts hold monthly meetings to plan work and determine community needs in soil and water conservation and resource development. Districts and the Commission are non-regulatory state agencies. They assist local, state and federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation projects.

District supervisors are **unpaid** state officials who work hand in hand with the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in trying to achieve one simple objective: to treat each acre of land in accordance with its needs and use each acre in accordance with its capabilities.

2. ***What are the requirements to run in the election for the position of District Supervisor?***

A candidate must be an eligible voter of the county in which he or she runs. Persons who already serve as elected officials cannot run for the position of elected Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

3. ***How do I qualify to run for the position of District Supervisor in my county?***

Notices of Election will be published in the newspaper in mid-February announcing the election to be held November 8, 2016. Nominating petitions will also be made available online at www.gaswcc.georgia.gov, from your local Election Superintendent, or from the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission. You must obtain the signatures of at least 25 registered voters from your county on the petition.

You must return your petition to your county's Election Superintendent no later than 12:00 noon on March 11th. There will be no qualifying fee.

The Election Superintendent will then verify the signatures on your petition as being those of registered voters. After receiving a Verification of Petition report from the Election Superintendent, the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission will notify you if you have qualified as a candidate.

4. *Can I give my completed petition to an employee of the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission?*

No. Petitions received by employees of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission will be immediately returned to the candidate.

5. *Are candidates required to file Personal Financial Disclosure Statements with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission?*

Yes. The *Ethics in Government Act* requires each person who qualifies as a candidate for election as a public officer to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement within fifteen days of qualifying as a candidate. You must first access the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission's website at www.ethics.state.ga.us/EFiling/ to obtain a PIN before filing your electronic Personal Financial Disclosure Statement.

6. *Are District Supervisor Elections partisan elections?*

No, they are nonpartisan elections, held concurrent with the General Ballot in November.

7. *How will this election be conducted?*

This election will be conducted, as far as is practicable, in the manner of any other nonpartisan election. Absentee voting, advance voting, electronic voting, and write-in candidates will be handled in accordance with Title 21 of the Georgia Election Code. Candidates for District Supervisor positions will be listed on the ballot alphabetically, with incumbents identified. For further questions concerning General Election procedures, please contact your county Election Superintendent.

8. *Who can vote in District Supervisor elections?*

All registered voters in a county are eligible to vote in that county's District Supervisor election.

9. *If only one person qualifies as a candidate for an election, would the election still be held?*

Yes, that person would run as an unopposed candidate.

10. *How is the winner determined?*

Nominee(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the duly elected District Supervisor(s). In elections to fill two positions in one-county Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the two candidates receiving the most votes will be declared the winners. In elections to fill three positions in two-county Districts, the three candidates receiving the most votes will be declared the winners.

In the event of a tie, a special runoff election will be held four (4) weeks from the date of the initial election.

11. *What are the terms of office for a District Supervisor?*

Elected supervisors serve four year terms. This election will include all vacant positions and all other positions with terms expiring 12/31/16.

12. *Are candidates required to file Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports?*

If a candidate has not established a campaign committee, which is required by law to accept campaign contributions, he/she will not be required to file a campaign contribution disclosure report.

13. *If there is more than one supervisor position up for election in a county, how many votes can I cast?*

The names of all district supervisor candidates in the county will be listed on one ballot. If there are two positions up for election, you will be instructed to vote for two candidates. If there are three positions up for election, you will be instructed to vote for three candidates.

14. *In counties with two or three supervisor positions up for election, how will you determine which winner assumes which term?*

If an incumbent wins re-election, he/she will automatically reassume his/her same position. Other winning candidates will assume their positions based on the number of votes they received. The candidate receiving the most votes, will assume the available position with the longest remaining term.