

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can candidates seek political party endorsement?

While it is not prohibited, MASWCD strongly discourages SWCD candidates from seeking such endorsements. Minnesota's SWCDs have a long and honorable history of non-partisan elections. The natural resource conservation issues that SWCDs address transcend partisan politics and are best served outside of partisan politics.

What is an SWCD Supervisor's term of office?

In almost all cases, supervisors are elected to four year terms, commencing on the first Monday in January.

Do Supervisors receive compensation?

Supervisors receive compensation for services up to \$75 per day rate, depending on what rate is approved by the local SWCD. In addition, Supervisors may be reimbursed for expenses, including traveling expenses, necessarily incurred in the discharge of duties. A supervisor may be reimbursed for the use of his/her own automobile in the performance of official duties at a rate set by the SWCD, not to exceed the maximum tax-deductible mileage rate permitted under the federal Internal Revenue Code. (*Minnesota Statutes 103C.315*)

Can an SWCD post candidate information on its web site?

This is up to the individual SWCD. However, if a district chooses to do so, it should be fairly conservative in what is listed on the web site. Here is some guidance:

- List basic biographical information - stick with what is public information and in the candidates filing information.
- List what position the candidate is running for (i.e. which nomination district).
- Do not include information that might not be relevant to the position (age, marital status, etc.).
- Do not advocate one candidate over another.
- Ensure all candidates have equal opportunity to have information posted.

Do SWCDs participate in primary elections?

No. State statute prohibits SWCDs from participating in primary elections. SWCD Supervisors are elected during the November 2, 2010 state general election. (*Minnesota Statutes 103C.305*)

What can I tell a candidate who is concerned about taking time away from his or her work to fulfill the duties of an elected Supervisor?

"A person elected to a public office must be permitted time off from regular employment to attend meetings required by reason of the public office. The time off may be without pay, with pay, or made up with other hours, as agreed between the employee and employer. When an employee takes time off without pay, the employer shall make an effort to allow the employee to make up the time with other hours when the employee is available. No retaliatory action may be taken by the employer for absences to attend meetings necessitated by reason of the employee's public office." (*Minnesota Statutes 211B.10*)

How is a Supervisor selected if the nomination district is within areas governed by an Indian tribe?

In a district where a supervisor nomination district is entirely within lands of an American Indian tribe or band to which county election laws do not apply, a supervisor to represent the district shall be elected or appointed as provided by the governing body of the tribe or band. (*Minnesota Statutes 103C.305*)

What happens after an individual is elected?

After the results of the general election are certified, the county auditor provides a "**Certificate of Election**" to the successful Supervisor-elect. The Supervisor-elect may keep the certificate or send it to the county recorder's office to be kept on file. Newly elected supervisors should take an "**Oath of Office**" at the first SWCD board meeting on or after the first Monday in January. Some counties hold ceremonies for all newly elected officials in January following an election, and SWCD Supervisors may wish to participate.