



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Conservation District Offices and  
Candidates for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner

**FROM:** Tyler Brown, SCDNR-LWC Conservation Districts Program Manager

**DATE:** April 1, 2026

**SUBJECT:** NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS IN THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION -  
Procedures and Requirements

November 3, 2026 is General Election Day. Two positions on each conservation district board will be elected in the General Election. This election is non-partisan (no party affiliation or primary election required) and is conducted by the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections at the same time as other county and state officers are elected.

The candidates elected will assume office on February 1, 2027 for a four-year term (February 1, 2027 through January 31, 2031). Candidates seeking the office of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner must be a qualified registered voter in the county in which they are running for election. To place a name on the ballot, the process is as follows:

A. Each candidate must submit to the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office a nominating petition with the signatures of 100 qualified electors (registered voters) of the district or 1 percent, whichever is lesser.

**The petition forms must be provided to the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections no later than 12:00 NOON, Wednesday, July 15, 2026.**

B. Petitions can be obtained from the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office or online at <https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SEC-FRM-1000-200910-Petition-Form.pdf>. Each page of the petition must be on 8.5 X 14 inch paper and have the following information supplied:

1. In the space provided for “County” (write in the name of the county).
2. In the spaces provided for “Purpose” the following should be entered:

Candidate: Full Name

Office: Commissioner of the (Name of County) Soil and Water Conservation District;

Election Date: November 3, 2026.

In securing the required number of names on the petition forms, each qualified registered elector must sign his or her own name. Those signing the petition should also print their name and provide the other information as possible. **The South Carolina Election Commission recommends the candidate obtain at least 20 percent more names than is required by law in case some of those who sign the petition are not qualified electors.**

Once the candidate secures the required number of names on the petition form(s), these forms should be paper clipped together and the pages numbered consecutively in the space provided at the bottom of the forms. Once petitions are turned in, they cannot be changed. **The petition forms must be provided to the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections no later than 12:00 NOON, Wednesday, July 15, 2026.**

**B. Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) filing required when petition submitted.** The State Ethics Act requires that candidates electronically file this form at the time of becoming a candidate. Candidates who do not file the SEI properly may be subject to fines by the State Ethics Commission: **Statement of Economic Interest forms must be filed on-line at <https://ethicsfiling.sc.gov/filing/home>.**

**C. All candidates are required to file a Campaign Disclosure form with the State Ethics Commission.** A PRE-ELECTION REPORT must be filed by all candidates no later than 15 days prior to each election. This report is required from all candidates whether there has been any financial campaign activity or not. This report may not be filed earlier than 20 days before the election. **NOTE:** A final Campaign Disclosure form must be submitted AFTER the General Election: **Campaign Disclosure forms must be filed on-line at <https://ethicsfiling.sc.gov/filing/home>.**

This information is being provided to assist anyone who may have questions or desires to run for the office of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner.

cc: Ken Rentiers, SCDNR-LWC Deputy Director  
SCDNR Conservation District Staff  
SCACD Executive Committee  
State Election Commission