

# BECOME A SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



... and have a positive impact on Iowa's land and people.

## SWCD Commissioners...

- Set local priorities for natural resources protection.
- Make decisions that will make their county a better place to live.
- Increase local awareness of natural resource concerns and opportunities.
- Give back to their communities.



To accomplish this, commissioners...

- Hold monthly meetings.
- Receive support from local, state and national partners to accomplish duties.
- Obtain and share information on soil and water conservation programs, practices and advancements.
- Promote conservation through demonstration, education and outreach.
- Guide technical and financial resources to meet the unique local needs and opportunities of the community.
- Work with farmers and urban residents.



## About Districts & Commissioners

Soil and Water Conservation Districts were formed across the nation during the Dust Bowl to connect landowners with resources for conservation.

- There are 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in Iowa.
- Districts are organized on a county wide basis. Pottawattamie has an East and a West District.
- Each District is governed by 5 Commissioners.
- Iowa Code 161A empowers Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.
- Commissioners are reimbursed for expenses as local budgets allow but are not paid for their service.
- Commissioners are protected from personal liability.
- There are 3,000 Soil and Water Conservation Districts and 17,000 Commissioners across the nation.

# STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO RUNNING FOR COMMISSIONER

## Determine your eligibility.

If you're eligible to vote in a general election, you're eligible to be a commissioner. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office to determine your township and if that township is up for election. Iowa law only allows one commissioner per township. Visit [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org) for the contact information of your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office.

## Obtain paperwork and submit in August.

A completed, notarized affidavit of Candidacy & Nomination Petition for Non-Partisan Offices with 25 signatures from residents of your county must be obtained at and returned to your County Court House. Forms are also online at [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org). Banks and county court houses may offer notary services. Appointments and small fees may apply. Forms are due 69 days prior to the general election, August 29, 2018.

Paperwork is due to the County Commissioner of Elections no later than 5PM on the 69th day before the general election.



## Be a candidate on the ballot during the general election.

In Iowa, a general election is held in November during even-numbered years. This year's general election is November 6, 2018. Commissioners run as nonpartisan candidates and serve four year terms. There are no limits to how many terms a commissioner may run.

## Share your interest for conservation with those in your community.

Let family, friends and other residents in your county know you are running for commissioner. Share with them your interest in soil and water conservation and remind them to flip over their ballot and vote for commissioner in your county.

## Take your oath as commissioner.

If elected, you will take your oath of office on the first day of January that is not a Sunday or holiday following the election. You will attend monthly meetings to execute your duties as a commissioner. Local, state and national partners provide education and support to accomplish these duties.