

2026 Elections

Candidate Filing Period: May 19 – June 2, at 5 pm

General Election: November 3, 2026



An SWCD's Guide to the 2026 Elections Process



AN SWCD’S GUIDE TO THE 2026 ELECTIONS PROCESS

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Note: Information in this guidebook was compiled from several different resources, including:

- Minnesota Statutes – <https://www.revisor.mn.gov>
- Minnesota Secretary of State’s Office – <https://sos.mn.gov>
- Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board – <https://cfb.mn.gov>
- SWCD Board of Supervisors information from the SWCD Operational Handbook, maintained by the Board of Water and Soil Resources – <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/swcd-operational-handbook>
- Conservation District Board Member Recruitment and Community Outreach Guide developed by the National Association of Conservation Districts – requires member log-in. <https://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/district-guides/>

BECOMING A CANDIDATE FOR SWCD SUPERVISOR

The Minnesota Secretary of State is the chief election official in Minnesota and is responsible for administration of Minnesota election law. The Secretary of State's Office works with county auditors to conduct the elections process.

Candidate Qualifications

Minnesota law states that candidates for state and local offices must be eligible voters and at least 21-years-old when assuming office. They must have resided in their districts for at least 30 days before the general election, and have no other affidavit on file for any other elected office.

***exceptions:** A candidate for soil and water conservation district supervisor in a district not located in whole or in part in Anoka or Washington County, may also have on file an affidavit of candidacy:

- for mayor or council member of a statutory or home rule charter city of not more than 2,500 population contained in whole or in part in the soil and water conservation district; or
- for town supervisor in a town of not more than 2,500 population contained in whole or in part in the soil and water conservation district.

(Minnesota Statutes 204B.06, 103C.315 Subd. 6)

Affidavit of Candidacy

All SWCD Supervisor candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy. Candidates must state that the name listed on their affidavit is their true name by which they are commonly known in the community. Affidavits must be signed in the presence of a notary or an individual authorized to administer oaths. (Minnesota Statute 204B.06). Affidavits of candidacy may be completed starting 60 days before and during the filing period. A properly completed affidavit and filing fee must be received by the filing officer during the filing period. (Minnesota Statutes 204B.09).

Filing Period

The filing period opens May 19, 2026 and closes at 5 pm on June 2, 2026. (Minnesota Statutes 204B.09).

Filing Location

Candidates for SWCD Supervisor file an affidavit of candidacy with the county auditor of the county in which the district office is located (Minnesota Statutes 103C.305).

Filing Fee

Candidates must pay a filing fee (chart at right) at the time of filing their affidavit of candidacy. However, candidates may file a petition in place of the filing fee. Sample forms and information about the number of required signatures on a petition that replaces the filing fee are available from the filing officer. (Minnesota Statutes 204B.11)

| FILING FOR OFFICE FEES | |
|---|------------|
| Office | Filing fee |
| U.S. Senator | \$400 |
| U.S. Representative in Congress | \$300 |
| Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, State Auditor, Secretary of State | \$300 |
| Judges | \$300 |
| State Senator | \$100 |
| State Representative | \$100 |
| County Office | \$50 |
| Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor | \$20 |

Minnesota Statutes 204B.11

STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST

Background

Those individuals elected to the position of SWCD Supervisor need to file a Statement of Economic Interest with the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. A statement of economic interest is a form that public and local officials use to disclose information about their personal financial interests.

Timeline

After the general election results are certified by the canvassing board, winning candidates will receive a letter from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board in late December explaining that they will need to file a Statement of Economic Interest after beginning their term. The letter will include a username and password for filing the Statement on the CFPD Board's web site. As a practical matter, the "beginning of the term" will usually be considered the date the Supervisor takes his or her Oath of Office. Individuals new to the position of SWCD Supervisor file an "Original Statement of Economic Interest" and certify it, while Supervisors who are re-elected to their position need to review the current information on-line, make any changes, and then re-certify it.

Statements of Economic Interest need to be reviewed and recertified every year even if nothing has changed. This review must be completed by the last Monday in January and covers the previous calendar year.

The Form

Each elected SWCD Supervisor will need to provide the following information on the Statement of Economic Interest. The statement discloses:

- occupation;
- sources of compensation in excess of \$250 in a month;
- non-homesteaded real property holdings; and
- government agency interests.

Public Information

Filed Statements are made available for review on the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board's website at <https://cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/official/>.

More information about completing the Statement of Economic Interest is available at https://cfb.mn.gov/reports/#/public_officials_disclosures/.

Questions can be directed to Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board staff Megan Engelhardt at 651-539-1182, cfb.eis@state.mn.us, or 800-657-3889. Information and resources are available at <https://cfb.mn.gov/>.



Original Statement of Economic Interest for Soil and Water Conservation District, Watershed District, and Watershed Management Organization Public Officials
Filing Instructions
 (General instructions for completing the form start on page 2)

- The statement must be received by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board within 60 days of your effective start date.
- Late fees will accrue for a statement not received by the due date.
- This form may be filed by mail to the address above, by email to cfb.eis@state.mn.us, or by fax to 651-539-1190 or 800-357-4114. **Fax files.** Keep the original and a fax confirmation notice as proof of timely filing.
- All information on this statement is public information and may be published on the Board's website.
- It is unlawful to use information filed with the Board for commercial purposes.
- Board staff may be reached by telephone at 651-539-1187 or 800-657-3889 or by email at cfb.eis@state.mn.us.

| Individual Information | | Employment Information | |
|--|--|------------------------|--|
| Name | Occupation | | |
| Address at which you wish to receive mail from the Board (You may use either a home or business address) | Name of employer (You may need to include your employer as a source of compensation on page 2. Also indicate here if self-employed or unemployed.) | | |
| City, state, zip | Business address (This address will be posted on the Board's website) | | |
| Telephone (Optional, may be a business number, will not be published on the Board's website) | Business city, state, zip | | |
| Email address | | | |

| Public official information | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Name of agency | Public official position |

Certification
 I, _____, certify that the information contained on this form, including information on the schedules, is complete, true, and correct.
 (Print or type name)

Signature _____ Date _____
Notice: Any person who signs and certifies to be true a statement which the person knows contains false information or omits required information is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Board of up to \$3,000 and is subject to criminal prosecution for a gross misdemeanor.
 This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-539-1190 or 800-657-3889 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529.
 Form last updated 11/2023

Reporting period
 The reporting period is the calendar month before the month with the effective date of your appointment. For example, if the effective date of your appointment is May 15, the reporting period is April 1 - April 30.

Sources of compensation
 List all businesses from which you received more than \$250 in compensation in any calendar month during the reporting period. You should include any employer listed on the first page if it is a business as described below.

"Business" means an association, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other organized legal entity. An individual acting alone in the individual's own capacity, such as in the form of a sole proprietorship, is not a business for purposes of this statement, nor is a government agency.
 "Compensation" means any payment for labor or personal services as a director, officer, owner, member, partner, employer, or employee of a business. Compensation does not include payments that do not result from the performance of services, such as rental income, social security payments, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, pension benefits, or insurance benefits.

| Name of source | Check each applicable box | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|---------|----------|----------|
| | Director | Other | Owner | Partner | Employer | Employee |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Real property
 Do not report your homestead. Report interests in all other real property located in Minnesota that you and your spouse have held individually or jointly at any time during the reporting period. You must report for you and your spouse the following interests: a fee simple interest (you are an owner, even if you owe a mortgage), a contract for deed as a buyer or seller, or a mortgage that you hold as a seller. This includes a list of all real property in Minnesota owned by a partnership in which you or your spouse holds an interest.
 Report an option to buy if the value of the option is more than \$2,500 or if the fair market value of the optioned property is more than \$50,000 even if the value of the option itself is \$2,500 or less. For each property list the county in which the property is located. Also, list the street address and city, or if the property does not have a street address, the section, township, and range where the property is located and the approximate acreage.

Upon written request and for good cause shown, the Board may waive the requirement that a public official disclose the address of a secondary residence of the official. Contact Board staff if you want to request this waiver. Please provide information for both you and your spouse but do not disclose specific ownership details of the listed items. _____ Check one

| MN County | Street address and city, or section, township, and range | Own (Even if using a mortgage) | Contract to deed (As buyer or seller) | Option to buy (Option value greater than \$2,500) | Option to buy (Property value greater than \$50,000) | Mortgage (Only if held as seller) | Acreage (if applicable) |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Government agency interests

Complete this schedule if you or your spouse held, or owned 25% or more of a business that held, a contract, professional license, lease, or franchise, issued or entered into by the government agency on which you serve. Describe each contract, professional license, lease, or franchise issued by the agency on which you serve, but do not identify if the contract, professional license, lease, or franchise was issued to you, your spouse, or a business.

| Description of contract, professional license, lease, or franchise | Description of contract, professional license, lease, or franchise |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an SWCD Supervisor's term of office?

In most cases, supervisors are elected to 4 year terms, commencing on the first Monday in January. For special elections conducted after an appointment to fill a vacancy, the person elected serves the remainder of that position's term (2 years).

Can a person serve as an SWCD Supervisor and hold another elected position at the same time?

It depends. With the exception of the SWCDs in Anoka and Washington counties, the office of SWCD supervisor is compatible with:

- the offices of mayor, clerk, clerk-treasurer, or council member in a statutory or home rule charter city of not more than 2,500 population contained in whole or in part in the SWCD; and
- the office of town clerk or town supervisor in a town of not more than 2,500 population contained in whole or in part in the SWCD.

A person can be on the election ballot for SWCD and the compatible office at the same time.

A person holding both offices needs to refrain from voting or taking any other formal action on any matter coming before the SWCD board or the city council or town board that has a substantial effect on both the SWCD and the city or town. (*Minnesota Statutes 103C.315 and 204B.06*)

What can I tell someone concerned about taking time away from 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*)

Do Supervisors receive compensation?

Supervisors receive compensation for services up to \$125 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*)

Are write-in candidates tabulated?

Not automatically. A candidate for SWCD Supervisor who did not file for office and therefore won't be listed on the ballot, and who wants write-in votes for the candidate to be counted, must file a written request on a form provided by the county auditor. The request must be filed with the county auditor after the close of the filing period and no later than the nineteenth day before general election. An SWCD board may adopt a resolution further governing the counting of write-in votes. The resolution may require that write-in votes for an individual candidate only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate. (*Minn. Stat. 204B.09*)

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

In a district where a supervisor 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 election results are certified, the county auditor may provide 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. The Secretary of State's office has a sample "oath of office form at [this link](#). Some counties hold ceremonies for all newly elected officials in January following an election, and SWCD Supervisors may wish to participate.

Can an SWCD post candidate info on its web site?

Yes. However, in doing so, districts should ensure that all candidates have equal opportunity to have information posted, that no candidate appears to be advocated over another, and that no information be posted that is not relevant to the position (age, marital status, etc.). An alternative would be to work with a local newspaper to solicit candidate profiles and include them in an issue of the paper. In addition to the candidate's name and a candidate profile, a candidate profile could include answers to the following (or any other issues the SWCD and newspaper find helpful):

- strengths candidate would bring to SWCD; past experience with conservation issues; motivation for being an SWCD Supervisor; conservation approaches which the candidate supports.

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Assessing the Needs of Your District

Before you begin to look for someone to serve as a district board member, first identify your district’s human resource needs. This is an opportunity for your board to diversify, to expand the membership of the district, and to find people that can help the district serve more effectively.

1. List strategic goals of your district.
2. List skills/expertise/background needed to reach each goal.
3. Identify types of people that have knowledge, background, experience or skills that can help you meet these goals.
4. List skills, abilities, knowledge, and experience provided by each current board member.
5. Compare above list of skills, abilities, knowledge, and expertise of current board members (4) with list of needed skills, abilities, knowledge, and expertise associated with district strategic goals (2.).
6. Which needed skills, abilities, knowledge, and expertise areas are not currently represented by board members? These are skills to look for in potential Supervisor candidates:
7. List all demographic groups and client groups in your district (what groups of people do you serve?).
8. Which demographics are underrepresented on your district board?
9. Which client groups are underrepresented on your district board?

By going through this sequence of questions, you will have identified the attributes of needed board members. The recruitment of these board members will greatly enhance your board’s effectiveness.

Board member recruitment of qualified and talented individuals requires looking beyond just your current circle of friends, relatives, and business associates; and actively seeking ideas and prospects from local entities. A variety of different local organizations should be invited to recommend a candidate based on your district’s needs. Your local board should develop a list of potential groups, organizations, and individuals to contact when recruiting a new member. Some examples to consider include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Conservation and environmental groups | Retired local, state, or federal employees |
| Board members of banks, charities | Consumer activists |
| Advertising agencies and marketing firms | Public relations professionals |
| Teachers and college professors | Geologists and engineers |
| Researchers | Professional fund-raisers |
| Accountants, bankers, and investment managers | Hobby and part time farmers |
| Writers | Former legislators and public board members |
| Foresters and timber harvesting contractors | Agronomists and soil scientists |
| Horticulturists, nursery operators and tree farmers | Urban interest representation |
| Farmers and ranchers | |

A recruitment prospectus should be provided to each entity on the list developed by your local board.

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Model Prospectus

Before people decide to run for SWCD Supervisor, they will want to know what the district does and the programs and services it offers. One way to inform prospective candidates is to develop a recruitment prospectus like the one below. Feel free to customize this to reflect the activities of your SWCD. You may also consider providing potential candidates with a brochure or fact sheet about your SWCD, and refer them to your web site.

Becoming a Board Member of _____ Soil and Water Conservation District

Concerned citizens in _____ County can help conserve natural resources by serving as a Supervisor on the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District Board. If the issues and programs stated in this document interest you – please call the SWCD at _____.

1. **Mission:** (insert district's mission statement)
2. **Vision:** (insert district's vision statement)
3. **Goals and Objectives**
 - Establish soil and water conservation policy for the district
 - Assess resource needs
 - Develop strategies to address these needs
 - Provide land users with technical assistance
 - Develop programs to address local natural resource problems
 - Serve as focal point for addressing natural resource issues and coordinating various programs to help identified concerns
4. **Legal Authority**
 - Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C defines a soil and water conservation district as a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota.
5. **Major Issues at this Time**
 - Water resources/water quality
 - Soil health
 - Land users needing technical assistance
6. **Major Programs and Activities**
 - Comprehensive watershed management planning and implementation
 - Conservation contracts with private landowners
 - Wetland Conservation Act

- Conservation easements
 - Outreach and education for youth, adult, and civic groups
7. **Funding Sources**
 - Local governments (county board, city councils, townships...)
 - State government (Board of Water and Soil Resources, Pollution Control Agency...)
 - Fees for services (district fund raising activities)
 - Federal grants, agreements...
 8. **Expectations of Supervisors**
 - Be involved & responsible for district program direction
 - Develop policies and programs
 - Promote soil & water conservation in the community
 - Take advantage of training opportunities to develop abilities
 - Attend board and committee meetings
 - Participate in district programs and activities
 - Serve as chair of one committee
 - Represent district in public
 - Help secure financial resources
 - Promote district
 9. **Benefits of Being a Supervisor**
 - Being a voice for citizens of your county
 - Providing your time to improve the environment
 - Being actively involved with assistance and educational programs for citizens
 - Providing leadership in community resource conservation
 - Development of leadership skills

Additional information is available by calling the district office at _____, by visiting the SWCD web site at _____, or by contacting a current district board member.

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Sample "Job Description"



What does it take to be a soil and water conservation district Supervisor?

Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) are special purpose units of government that manage natural resource programs. Minnesota's 88 SWCDs cover the entire state; their boundaries usually coincide with the county lines. Each SWCD is run by a board of five elected Supervisors.

To be a Supervisor, you need:

Knowledge

Supervisors must have - or be willing to learn - some basic knowledge to effectively carry out their responsibilities. They must understand:

- some of the fundamentals about the environment and how it works;
- the relationship between land use decisions and the environment;
- the effect environmental decisions have on other aspects of our lives; and
- local concerns, attitudes and needs.

Concern

Supervisors must be concerned about:

- our environment and natural resources;
- maintaining and improving water quality; and
- protecting our soil.

Leadership

Supervisors must be willing to take an active leadership role in the community. This can involve:

- setting local conservation priorities;
- educating friends and neighbors about the environment;
- working with other local government units, state and federal agencies, and other elected officials;
- setting a positive example;
- taking unpopular stands;
- balancing economic needs with environmental concerns; and
- sacrificing short-term gains for long-term benefits.

Do you have what it takes? Being a Supervisor involves one board meeting a month and many incidental responsibilities. Supervisors receive no salary, although they do get per diem and expenses. For more information, visit your SWCD's web site at _____, or call their office at _____.

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Sample Strategies

After identifying your district's needs and the qualities of a good Supervisor candidate, and developing a recruitment prospectus and job description, it is time to develop your recruitment strategy.

The following strategies are only a beginning for what your district can develop. There are advantages and disadvantages for each. Choose the methods that best suit your needs. Ongoing recruitment using a variety of strategies normally produces a greater number of potential candidates who represent more diverse skills, interests, and backgrounds.

Develop a Referral Network: Rather than relying on personal contacts provided only by a board development team and other board members, districts need to build a third-party referral system for both recruitment and funding sources. Long term relationships should be established with corporations, small businesses, banks, schools, religious, and service organizations. These relationships can yield valuable contacts for potential board members that have qualifications needed on your district board.

Letter to Organizations: Direct correspondence to community organizations about potential candidates for SWCD Supervisor is an effective way to attract qualified individuals. The letter should include qualifications the board is looking for in potential candidates.

Newspaper Releases/Advertisements: Well written and attractive newspaper advertisements in community newspapers can create interest in a district board member position. Emphasize that Supervisors have local influence on natural resource program activities and needs, and input to state and federal agencies. Also emphasize your district's name, to avoid confusion among voters and potential candidates in other counties.

District Recruitment Brochure: An effective way of informing potential candidates about district programs and activities, and about the powers and authorities of a district board member is through a well developed, clearly written information brochure. Create interest throughout the community by distributing the information brochure throughout the community in businesses, to organizations of all types, and through cooperators who have received district coordinated services.

Recommendations from Staff and Cooperating Agencies: Staff that have provided direct services to cooperators are a source of ideas for potential candidates that have qualifications being sought by a district board. Staff also have contacts throughout the community that may be different from the current board members' contacts.

Recruitment at Annual/Special Meetings: A pool of potential candidates exists in those individuals interested enough in the conservation district program to attend the annual meeting, special meetings or recognition events. Keeping an attendance list at events will provide names and addresses of people attending your events. This strategy is most appropriately used in conjunction with other strategies listed.

Job Description & Recruitment Prospectus Distribution: A wide distribution of the recruitment prospectus and job description can attract qualified candidates to your district board. This strategy provides the most complete set of information to a prospective candidate about the expectations of serving on a conservation district board. A simple and cost effective way of distributing the information is by posting it to your web site.

Personal Contacts: A personal contact to a variety of community and organization leaders by district board members can be an effective method to create a pool of candidates different than that of a current circle of friends and relatives. Every effort should be made to personally contact a number of organizations about the district's activities. Besides recruitment, this strategy may provide leads for joint projects and funding opportunities between your district and the other organizations.

WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

Announcing the Filing Period

News Release: **FILE BEFORE JUNE 2 TO RUN FOR SWCD SUPERVISOR**

People concerned about water quality and soil health in _____ County should consider filing by June 2, 2026, to run for the position of supervisor of the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

“Supervisors play an important role in how a wide variety of natural resources are managed in our county, including wetlands, rivers, lakes, forests and farmland (add any other appropriate area),” said _____, (supervisor/staff) with _____ SWCD.

Those interested in running for supervisor should file at the county auditor’s office between May 19 and June 2.

SWCDs are special-purpose units of government that manage and direct conservation programs at the local level. Important programs and priorities of _____ SWCD include _____ (add one or two programs that are appropriate). An elected board of supervisors governs each of Minnesota’s 88 SWCDs.

“Serving as a supervisor is a terrific opportunity for people who want a voice in how we manage our environment,” (NAME) said.

This year, _____ SWCD has _____ supervisor positions up for election. SWCD candidates appear on the ballot for the Nov. 3, 2026, general election. SWCD candidates outside of Minnesota’s metro area are elected countywide but must reside in one of the supervisor districts up for election. These include _____ (describe supervisor district locations). SWCD supervisors serve four-year terms.

SWCD supervisors meet monthly to discuss business, including state-grant allocations to landowners; district conservation priorities; coordination with other local units of government and state agencies; and legislative priorities. Supervisors do not receive a salary but receive compensation for attending meetings and expense reimbursements.

Additional information about _____ SWCD can be found online at _____ or by calling the office at _____. (LIST social-media sites here.)

###

Letter to the Editor: **HELP CONSERVE OUR COUNTY'S SOIL AND WATER**

This November, voters in _____ County will head to the polls to elect a variety of governmental positions, including for supervisors of the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). If you live in one of the supervisor districts up for election – and are interested in being involved with local water quality and natural-resource issues – I encourage you to consider running for supervisor. Individuals can file with the county auditor from May 19 thru June 2.

Positions on this year’s ballot will include supervisor districts ____ and _____. Supervisor district ____ includes the townships of _____ and supervisor district ____ includes the townships of _____.

SWCDs are local units of government, and supervisors are elected to four-year terms that are staggered to have two or three supervisors up for election every two years. We hold monthly business meetings and attend various conferences throughout the year. While we are not paid a salary, supervisors receive compensation for attending meetings and are reimbursed for expenses.

As chair of the _____ SWCD, I can attest to how rewarding it is to serve on the _____ SWCD Board of Supervisors. We play an important role in addressing a wide variety of resource-management issues aimed at protecting and improving water quality, properly managing wetlands and enhancing soil health. Our SWCD employees work with landowners and other government units in rural and urban settings to provide financial and technical assistance for conservation efforts.

[cite an example of an action taken by the SWCD board, a policy decision or a partnership with another organization, that produced significant results – something that makes you proud.]

Learn more about SWCD elections and the SWCD’s work by visiting our website at _____ or calling our office, at _____. (LIST social-media sites here.)

###

WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

At Election Time

News Release: MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR SWCD BOARD

This year, the _____ Soil & Water Conservation District has _____ (number) Supervisor positions up for election. SWCD candidates appear on the ballot for the general election which will take place November 3, 2026. Candidates are elected county wide*, but must reside in one of the supervisor districts up for election. The supervisor districts and candidates running for election this year include:

SWCDs are special-purpose units of government that manage and direct conservation programs at the local level. Important programs and priorities of _____ SWCD include _____ (add one or two programs that are appropriate). An elected board of supervisors governs each of Minnesota's 88 SWCDs.

An elected board of supervisors governs each of Minnesota's 88 SWCDs. SWCD supervisors meet monthly to discuss business, including state-grant allocations to landowners; district conservation priorities; coordination with other local units of government and state agencies; and legislative priorities. Supervisors do not receive a salary but receive compensation for attending meetings and expense reimbursements.

To learn more about the SWCD, please visit our web site at _____. Remember to vote for SWCD Supervisor at the November 3 Election.

** Except for SWCDs in the seven county metro area, where candidates are elected by the voters within that supervisor district of the SWCD.*

###

Letter to the Editor: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS

This November, voters in _____ County will head to the polls to elect, among other positions, Supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Positions on this year's ballot will include those representing supervisor districts ___ and _____. Supervisor district ___ includes the townships of _____ and supervisor district ___ includes the townships of _____.

As chair of the _____ SWCD, I can attest to how rewarding it is to serve on the SWCD board of supervisors. We play an important role in addressing a wide variety of resource management issues aimed at protecting and improving water quality, properly managing wetlands, and enhancing soil health. Our SWCD employees work with landowners and other units of government, in both rural and urban settings, to provide financial and technical assistance for these efforts.

SWCDs are local units of government, and Supervisors are elected to four year terms. Our terms are staggered so either two or three Supervisors are up for election each two years. We hold monthly business meetings and also attend various conferences throughout the year.

Learn more about SWCD elections and the work of the SWCD by visiting our web site at _____.

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Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
www.maswcd.org