

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

- **As a Candidate, it is your responsibility to make sure you are a registered voter in the jurisdiction you are seeking election to.**
- The declaration of candidacy at the top of the petition form must be completed prior to circulation for signatures ([SDCL 12-6-8](#)). **The declaration of candidacy cannot be signed prior to January 1, 2024.** The name will appear on the ballot in the exact form indicated in the declaration of candidacy ([SDCL 12-16-1](#)).
- Petitions may not be circulated before January 1, 2024 and may be filed no later than July 1, 2024. Petitions are filed with the county auditor. If the conservation district lies in more than one county, the petitions are to be filed with the Secretary of State's office in Pierre. Petitions which are mailed by **REGISTERED MAIL**, prior to 5:00 p.m. on the last day to file will be considered timely filed. Certified mail received after the deadline will **NOT** be considered timely filed.
- Conservation district supervisors shall be nominated by a petition signed by **fifteen or more voters** in the district for which the candidate seeks election. It is prudent to submit any petition to the filing authority with ample time prior to the deadline to allow you to collect additional signatures if there are not enough valid signatures presented on your initial petition.

CIRCULATOR REQUIREMENTS

- A petition circulator is a person of at least eighteen years of age and a resident of the state of South Dakota. No registered sex offender may circulate a petition except if the sex offender is in the employ of, and under immediate supervision of, another person and where the circumstances preclude any contact with children ([SDCL 12-1-32](#) through [12-1-34](#)).
- The petition circulator must personally witness each signature on the petition being circulated. The petition's verification must be completed following circulation and must include the circulator's printed name, residence address, city, state, complete date and be signed under oath before a South Dakota notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths ([SDCL 18-3-1](#)). **A candidate may not notarize his/her own petition but may circulate and sign his/her own petition** ([SDCL 12-6-8](#)).
- Each petition signer must be a registered voter in the conservation district for which the petition is circulated. Fifteen (15) valid signatures are required to file the petition. Fifteen (15) is the minimum number. Candidates are strongly encouraged to collect more signatures than needed in case of invalid signatures.

Use the Voter Information Portal (V.I.P) to check a voter's registration
<https://vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLogin.aspx>

- Signers must sign their names as they are registered to vote or as they usually sign their names.
- The signer's printed name must also appear.
- Each signature line must show a complete residence address. This can be street and house number or rural route and box number (only if a resident of a second- or third-class municipality, which are those with less than 5,000 populations) in addition to the city or town. Zip codes are optional. A signer in a first-class municipality may not use a PO Box. This would include the following first-class municipalities:
Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Box Elder, Brandon, Brookings, Harrisburg, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, Tea, Vermillion, Watertown and Yankton
- If the signer does not have a residence address or post office box number, a description of the residence location must be provided.
- Each signature line must show the month and day it was signed.
- A voter may only sign one petition for each open position ([SDCL 12-6-8](#)). Ex: if two candidates are running for one position then a voter may only sign one of their petitions.
- Numbers to designate the month are permissible. Abbreviations commonly used are also acceptable.
- If photocopies are made of the originally signed petition sheet for circulation, the original petition sheet must be submitted with the photocopied sheets.
- The county of the signer's voter registration must be included.
- All six boxes of a signature line must be completed. If all the information for those six boxes is included but a signer wrote the information in the wrong box, that is acceptable. Example: A signer prints his/her name in the signature box and signs his/her name in the printed box.
- The date, address, county of registration, and printed name may be added by the circulator prior to the petition being filed. Ditto marks may **not** be used.
- State law prohibits a person from conducting petition signature gathering within 100 feet of a polling place ([SDCL 12-18-3](#)).

WARNING: State law requires that each petition sheet be self-contained. This means that the petition heading, instructions to signers, signature lines and circulator's verification must all be printed on each sheet prior to circulation. The sheet may be printed on front and back. You CANNOT tape, staple or glue the front and back sides together. You CANNOT include sheets with signature lines only. If you have any questions about how to correctly prepare a petition sheet, please contact the person in charge of that election.

For additional information or petition forms, contact your local conservation district office. This information may be found at <https://www.sdconservation.org/>

South Dakota Conservation Districts

American Creek Conservation District
Aurora County Conservation District
Badlands Conservation District
Beadle County Conservation District
Bennett County Conservation District
Bon Homme Conservation District
Brookings Conservation District
Brown County Conservation District
Brule-Buffalo Conservation District
Butte Conservation District
Campbell County Conservation District
Charles Mix Conservation District
Clark County Conservation District
Clay County Conservation District
Clearfield-Keyapaha Conservation District
Codington Conservation District
Corson County Conservation District
Custer County Conservation District
Davison County Conservation District
Day Conservation District
Dewey Conservation District
Deuel Conservation District
Douglas County Conservation District
East Pennington Conservation District
Edmunds County Conservation District
Elk Creek Conservation District
Fall River Conservation District
Faulk County Conservation District
Grant Conservation District
Gregory County Conservation District
Haakon County Conservation District
Hamill Conservation District
Hamlin Conservation District
Hand County Conservation District
Hanson Conservation District
Harding County Conservation District

Hughes County Conservation District
Hutchinson County Conservation District
Hyde County Conservation District
Jackson County Conservation District
Jerauld County Conservation District
Jones County Conservation District
Kingsbury Conservation District
Lake County Conservation District
Lawrence Conservation District
Lincoln Conservation District
Marshall Conservation District
McCook County Conservation District
McPherson County Conservation District
Mellette County Conservation District
Miner Conservation District
Minnehaha Conservation District
Moody Conservation District
Pennington Conservation District
Perkins County Conservation District
Potter Conservation District
Roberts Conservation District
Sanborn Conservation District
Spink County Conservation District
Stanley Conservation District
Sully County Conservation District
Todd County Conservation District
Tri-County Conservation District
Turner Conservation District
Union Conservation District
Walworth County Conservation District
Yankton County Conservation District
Ziebach County Conservation District

2024 How to Circulate a Nominating Petition for Conservation District Supervisor



South Dakota Secretary of State

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