

VACANCIES & COMMON ISSUES

Vacancies & termination of office: A vacancy occurs upon the following:

- Death
- Mental illness
- Resignation
- Removal from office (for malfeasance, missing meetings)
- Unexcused absence from three meetings
- Supervisor moves out of the district
- Conviction of a felony or violation of duties
- Court nullifies election or appointment

Filling vacancies mid-term: Vacancies are filled by the conservation district board by appointment. Individuals are appointed to fill a position only until the next general election. At the general election, any individual can file to fill the unexpired term (2 years). If no one files an oath of candidacy prior to an election during the open time frame, the board may appoint a member. A supervisor appointed under this scenario serves as if elected (4 years).

Some problems that have occurred in the past:

1. CDs hold elections by area rather than district-wide.
2. Filling vacant positions for entire terms, rather than until the next general election. This throws off the termination dates.
3. Associate supervisors holding district office positions or voting.
4. CD supervisors that don't fill out oath of candidacies. This often gets overlooked and incumbent supervisors wishing to continue to serve may be replaced by another person filing an oath of candidacy.
5. Urban supervisors aren't reappointed after the three-year term is up.
6. No oaths of office.