

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, 2020.** 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, 2020 and may be filed no later than July 1, 2020. 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, 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 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 can be found at <https://www.sdconservation.org/>

South Dakota Conservation Districts

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| American Creek Conservation District | Hutchinson Conservation District |
| Aurora County Conservation District | Hyde County Conservation District |
| Badlands Conservation District | Jackson County Conservation District |
| Beadle Conservation District | Jerauld County Conservation District |
| Bennett County Conservation District | Jones County Conservation District |
| Bon Homme Conservation District | Kingsbury Conservation District |
| Brookings Conservation District | Lake County Conservation District |
| Brown-Marshall Conservation District | Lawrence Conservation District |
| Brule-Buffalo Conservation District | Lincoln Conservation District |
| Butte Conservation District | Marshall Conservation District |
| Campbell County Conservation District | McCook County Conservation District |
| Charles Mix Conservation District | McPherson County Conservation District |
| Clark County Conservation District | Mellette County Conservation District |
| Clay County Conservation District | Miner Conservation District |
| Clearfield-Keyapaha Conservation District | Minnehaha Conservation District |
| Codington Conservation District | Moody Conservation District |
| Corson County Conservation District | Pennington Conservation District |
| Custer County Conservation District | Perkins County Conservation District |
| Davison County Conservation District | Potter Conservation District |
| Day Conservation District | Roberts Conservation District |
| Deuel Conservation District | Sanborn Conservation District |
| Dewey County Conservation District | South Brown Conservation District |
| Douglas County Conservation District | Spink Conservation District |
| East Pennington Conservation District | Stanley County Conservation District |
| Edmunds County Conservation District | Sully County Conservation District |
| Elk Creek Conservation District | Todd County Conservation District |
| Fall River Conservation District | Tri-County Conservation District |
| Faulk County Conservation District | Turner County Conservation District |
| Grant Conservation District | Union County Conservation District |
| Gregory County Conservation District | Walworth County Conservation District |
| Haakon County Conservation District | Yankton County Conservation District |
| Hamill Conservation District | Ziebach County Conservation District |
| Hamlin Conservation District | |
| Hand County Conservation District | |
| Hanson Conservation District | |

2020 How to Circulate a Nominating Petition for Conservation District Supervisor



South Dakota Secretary of State

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