

King Conservation District
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King Conservation District invites candidates for the 2011 public election for board of supervisors position; applications due by Feb. 1

Introduction of secure, on-line 30-day voting period Feb.15-March 15

RENTON—The King Conservation District (King CD) is inviting prospective candidates to submit applications for the board of supervisor position #2 in advance of a month-long, district-wide public election period beginning February 15, 2011. The King CD focuses on delivering natural resources information and technical assistance to landowners within its boundaries (most of King County).

February 15 marks the start of the district's introduction of a 30-day online "early voting" period ending at 9 pm March 15. The district will also offer an in-person balloting poll-site at the King CD's Renton office on March 15 (9am-9pm).

Completed application materials from prospective candidates must be delivered to the King CD office no later than February 1. Registered voters who reside within the district's boundaries are eligible to submit an application. Individuals interested in running for the open position (serving a three-year term on voluntary basis) are encouraged to contact the King CD for more information on the board's duties and responsibilities.

Copies of the application form are available online at www.kingcd.org or at the King CD office at 1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130, in Renton. Contact Susan Wermus in the King CD office at 425-282-1899 or susan.wermus@kingcd.org for more information.

Election features new, convenient and secure on-line voting option

King CD, working with election supervisor Election Trust LLC (Bellevue) and Scytl Secure Electronic Voting USA (Washington, DC), is introducing the on-line balloting program to provide residents within the King CD an alternative to in-person balloting at the limited number of voting centers offered in past years.

“The district is harnessing a secure and proven internet balloting platform to enhance the voting process for residents within the district,” said Bill Knutsen, chairman of the King CD board of supervisors. “Rather than having to drive to one of a few polling locations scattered throughout the district on a single election day, the month-long online ballot access provides an opportunity for expanded voter participation, which has long been a goal of the King CD.”

Knutsen explained that adding the annual board of supervisors election to the King County Elections ballot has not been a viable option due to both its cost and timing of conservation district elections. However, the Election Trust/Scytl online voting solution is available to the King CD thanks to recent Washington State conservation district election rules changes.

“Our election code has finally caught up with modern remote electronic balloting technology,” he said.

To ensure security, on-line voters will be required to complete a web-based voter application form and sign an affidavit (similar to traditional mail-in voting) in order to be authenticated and subsequently be emailed online balloting credentials. These authentication forms will be available through a Voter Application Portal available at www.kingcd.org beginning February 14, 2011. The completed authentication documents may be submitted in one of three ways — scanned and emailed; faxed or snail-mailed. Early voting credential requests will be processed within 24 hours of receipt.

No early voting applications will be accepted after 5pm on March 14 – non-credentialed voters wishing to access a ballot after that time will need to vote at the King CD Renton offices in person on March 15. Ballots submitted after 9 pm on March 15 will not be valid.

Registered voters who reside within King County are eligible to vote in the election, with the exception of residents of cities that do not fall within the King CD’s boundaries (Federal Way, Enumclaw, Skykomish, Milton and Pacific).

Elections for the King Conservation District and the other 46 conservation districts in Washington State are conducted pursuant to guidelines established by RCW 89.08 with oversight from the Washington State Conservation Commission, an agency created to assist and guide conservation district activities in Washington State.

King CD board members serve voluntary, three-year terms

The all-volunteer, five-member board includes three elected members and two who are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. All supervisors serve three-year terms. As public officials, their responsibility is to ensure that the King CD meets its legal and public trust obligations. The board of supervisors conducts regular public meetings to oversee the district’s budget and provide policy guidance and oversight to district staff.

Supervisors are expected to help identify critical resource conservation needs in their district, communicate with the public and seek feedback about conservation programs from district residents.

For more information on the 2011 election and the King Conservation District, visit www.kingcd.org

About the King CD

The King CD provides information and technical assistance programs that are available to all landowners within the district's boundaries on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis. King CD programs are hands-on, site specific, action and results oriented; and it initiates community outreach activities that include workshops, education programs, site visits, farm plans, and consultation on land, water, and wildlife management.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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