

King Conservation District (KCD)
BOARD SUPERVISOR ELECTION
2009

Frequently Asked Questions

The annual King Conservation District (KCD) election for Board Supervisor occurs, by law, in the first quarter of the year.

Frequently asked questions include:

Voting locations and voter eligibility:

Q: When is the election?

A: Thursday, March 19, 2009

Q: When do the polls open and close?

A: Poll hours vary see below for specific location hours.

Q: Where can I vote?

A: In 2009, the King Conservation District has expanded the number of polling locations to thirteen. The thirteen polling location include:

- King County Library/Bellevue Regional Branch - 1111 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue WA 98004 - Poll Hours 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- King County Library/Carnation Branch - 4804 Tolt Avenue, Carnation WA 98014 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- King County Library/Covington Branch - 27100 164th Ave. S.E., Covington WA 98042 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- King County Library/Des Moines Branch - 21620 11th Avenue S., Des Moines WA 98198 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Enumclaw Public Library - 1700 First Street, Enumclaw WA 98022 - Poll Hours 10:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- King County Library/Issaquah Branch - 10 W. Sunset Way, Issaquah WA 98027 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

- King County Library/Muckleshoot Branch - 39917 Auburn Enumclaw Road S.E., Auburn WA 98092 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- King County Library/North Bend Branch - 115 E. 4th, North Bend WA 98045 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m - 9:00 p.m.
- King County Library/Redmond Regional Branch - 15990 N.E. 85th, Redmond WA 98052 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Renton Community Center - 1715 Maple valley Hwy., Renton WA 98057 - Poll Hours TBD
- Seattle Public Library (Main) - 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle WA 98104 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- King County Library/Shoreline Branch - 345 NE 175th, Shoreline WA 98155 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- King County Library/Vashon Branch - 17210 Vashon Hwy. S.W., Vashon Island WA 98070 - Poll Hours 10:00 a.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Q: How is the location of the polling places determined?

A: The polling places are selected by the KCD Board of Supervisors. Locations are chosen based on geographic distribution, voter convenience, internet access for the professional election officials and other variables.

Q: Who is eligible to vote?

A: Most registered voters who reside in King County are eligible to vote. The exceptions include any registered voter who lives inside the city limits of the following cities that are outside of the KCD boundaries: Federal Way, Enumclaw, Skykomish, Milton and Pacific. Voters must present proper identification, such as a driver's license, passport or birth certificate. Election officials will verify whether the voter lives within the district boundaries and is eligible to vote.

About the Board of Supervisors:

Q: Which position is up for election?

A: One of three elected positions on the five-member Board of Supervisors. It is a three-year term.

Q: What does the Board of Supervisors do?

A: 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 Conservation District meets its legal and public trust obligations. The Board of Supervisors conducts regular public meetings to oversee the district's budget and provide 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.

Q: Who is eligible and how does a candidate file for election?

A: Registered voters who live inside the boundaries of the KCD are eligible to run . Candidates must complete a nomination petition form and gather at least 25 signatures of registered voters who reside within the district boundaries. Copies of the petition are available online at www.scc.wa.gov and at the KCD office. The petition must be delivered to the KCD office by March 3. The office address is: 935 Powell Ave. SW, Renton, WA 98057. Phone: 425-277-5581.

The Conservation District Election Process:

Q: What authority dictates the conservation district election process? What does it require districts to do when conducting an election?

A: The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 89.08 defines the conservation district election process rather than standard election law under title 29. The RCW directs that the election be held in the first quarter of the year, have a minimum of one polling place that must be held open for a minimum of two hours and must give timely and adequate notice to CD constituents of the district and must follow standard polling procedures for qualifying voters, securing ballot boxes and employing two poll watchers on duty when the polls are open.

Q: What is a special purpose district and why does it have an election schedule process different from that of other elections?

A: A special purpose district has a particular focus and function, such as an irrigation district, school district or fire district. Usually there is a geographical component to the special purpose district's purview/area of responsibility. Special purpose district issues and assessments typically are not of interest to everyone across the county and thus appear only on ballots of those they affect.

Q: Why aren't the conservation district elections on the general ballot like other special purpose districts?

A: Unlike other special purpose districts, the conservation districts have relatively sizeable populations as they are comprised of citizens throughout the county.

Because there are approximately 1.2 million registered voters in King County, coupled with a per capita fee for inclusion on the general ballot, it is cost-prohibitive to be included in the general ballot. Also, the RCW permits candidates to file up to fifteen days prior to the election which provides insufficient lead time to be included on a county-wide ballot.

Q: How has the KCD managed elections in the past and what is different in 2008?

A: Because the KCD is not staffed to provide regular polling officers, in the past it has hired and trained poll watchers each year to meet the legal requirements. These officers are third party individuals who monitor the process and the polling station separate from the District staff who serve as administration. This had been adequate in the past with three or even five polling stations, but was very challenging when the polling locations were expanded to seven in 2007.

For 2008 the working with Bellevue-based Election Trust, has again expanded the number of polling locations. Election Trust provides innovative yet transparent election management solutions to clients in both the public and private sectors.

More information?

Additional information on the 47 conservation district elections held during the first quarter of the year is available online at www.scc.wa.gov.

For questions regarding the KCD election, email jeffrey.possinger@kingcd.org.