



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TITLE: Supervisor Elections

SPONSORING CDs (or entities): Pacific CD

AREA: ☐ Northwest ☐ Southwest ☐ North Central ☐ South Central ☐ Northeast ☐ Southeast

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- ☐ **Policy** (setting a new or amended internal policy directive)
- ☒ **Position Statement** (declaring an official WACD position)
- ☐ **Recognition** (recognizing an entity for notable contributions)
- ☐ **Study** (identifying research or investigation deemed necessary by WACD members)

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

- ☒ **WACD**
- ☐ **WSCC**
- ☐ **OTHER STATE AGENCY** _____
- ☐ **NRCS**
- ☐ **NACD (See Page 2)**
- ☐ **NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER** _____

TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION (check all boxes that apply):

- ☐ **Technical change.** (Changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes no substantive change(s) to existing policy.
- ☐ **Substantive change to existing policy.** If in doubt, check the box.
- ☒ **New policy.**

BACKGROUND DESCRIBING THE ISSUE/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The long term contributions of conservation districts is due significantly to the participation and contribution of landowners. Many times these owners bring generations of institutional, technical, and anecdotal knowledge to the board of supervisors. They are the core of why our CDs are successful, and we believe it is imperative that we avoid any policies which act to discourage participation of the landowners. A recent study by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy on the costs and benefits of CD elections being moved to the November ballot found that imposing general election and related requirements could result in up to 69% of current supervisors being unwilling to continue to fill these volunteer positions on CD boards. In addition, it is common that it is difficult to recruit these landowners to serve on CD boards, and adding more burden will only act to discourage new landowners from serving.



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PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WACD will actively oppose any legislation, policy, or other proposals to place the elections of CD Supervisors under the 29A election process without the authorization of the individual conservation district. WACD will oppose any requirement for CD supervisors to submit personal financial affairs statements (F1).

This would involve engaging legislators, agencies, NGO's, the public, and CDs to promote the current CD supervision election process and to oppose a mandate requiring all CDs to hold elections through the Title 29A election process.

IS THERE A WACD FINANCIAL IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY? (Funding required, staff time, etc.)

☐ **NO**

☒ **YES** (briefly explain to the best of your ability): There will be an unknown amount of staff time, but this time is already covered as part of WACD's admin costs. There will be large savings to CDs if August and November election costs are avoided.