

# BECOME A SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

**SWCD Commissioners make a positive impact on Iowa's land and people.**



## HOW DO SWCD COMMISSIONERS HELP AND SERVE?

- Set local priorities for natural resources protection.
- Make decisions that will make their county a better place to live.
- Increase local awareness of natural resource concerns and opportunities.
- Give back to their communities.

## WHAT ARE THE MAIN DUTIES OF SWCD COMMISSIONERS?

- Collaborate with local, state and national partners.
- Work with farmers and urban residents and hold monthly meetings.
- Advocate for soil and water conservation programs, practices and advancements.
- Promote conservation through demonstration, education and outreach.
- Guide technical and financial resources to meet local needs and opportunities.

## ABOUT DISTRICTS AND COMMISSIONERS

- Districts are organized on a county-wide basis and each is governed by 5 Commissioners.
- Iowa Code 161A empowers Iowa's Commissioners.
- Commissioners are reimbursed for expenses as local budgets allow but are not paid for their service.
- Commissioners are protected from personal liability.



*Pottawattamie has an East and a West District.*

**3,000**  
SWCDs and  
**17,000**  
Commissioners in the U.S.



**SWCDs were formed across the nation during the Dust Bowl to connect landowners with resources for conservation.**



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[www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org)



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE &  
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

[iowaagriculture.gov](http://iowaagriculture.gov)

# STEPS TO BECOMING

## A SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



### DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY

If you're eligible to vote in a general election, you're eligible to be a commissioner. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office to determine your township and if that township is up for election. Iowa law allows two commissioners per township. Visit [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org) for the contact information of your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office.



### OBTAIN PAPERWORK AND SUBMIT BY AUGUST

A completed, notarized Affidavit of Candidacy & Nomination Petition for Non-Partisan Offices with 25 signatures from residents of your county must be obtained at and returned to your County Court House. Forms are also online at [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org). Banks and county court houses may offer notary services. Appointments and small fees may apply. Forms are due 69 days prior to the general election, August 26, 2026.

Paperwork is due to the County Commissioner of Elections no later than 5PM on the 69th day before the general election.



### BE A CANDIDATE ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

In Iowa, a general election is held in November during even-numbered years. This year's general election is November 3, 2026. Commissioners run as nonpartisan candidates and serve four-year terms. There are no limits to how many terms a commissioner may run.



### SHARE WITH THOSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Let family, friends and other residents in your county know you are running for commissioner. Share with them your interest in soil and water conservation and remind them to flip over their ballot and vote for commissioner in your county.



### TAKE YOUR OATH AS COMMISSIONER

If elected, your term will begin on the first day of January that is not a Sunday or holiday following the election. You will attend monthly meetings to execute your duties as a commissioner. Local, state and national partners provide education and support to accomplish these duties.



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