

358.9 Selection of trustees — term of office.

1. *a.* At the election provided for in section 358.7, the names of candidates for trustee of the district shall be written by the voters on blank ballots without formal nomination, and the board of supervisors which had jurisdiction of the proceedings for establishment of the sanitary district, together with the board of supervisors of any other county in which any part of the district is located, shall appoint three trustees from among the five persons receiving the greatest number of votes as trustees of the district. One of the trustees shall be designated to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday following the next general election, one to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday two years later, and one to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday four years later. Thereafter, each term shall be for a term of years established by the board of supervisors, not less than three years or more than six years. Successors to trustees shall be elected by special election or at a special meeting of the board of trustees called for that purpose. For each special election called after the initial election, a candidate for office of trustee shall be nominated by a personal affidavit of the candidate or by petition of at least ten eligible electors of the district and the candidate's personal affidavit, which shall be filed with the county commissioner of elections at least twenty-five days before the date of the election. The form of the candidate's affidavit shall be substantially the same as provided in section 45.3.

b. In lieu of a special election, successors to trustees shall be elected at a special meeting of the board of trustees called for that purpose. Upon its own motion, the board of trustees may, or upon petition of landowners owning more than fifty percent of the total land in the district, shall, call a special meeting of the residents of the district to elect successors to trustees of the board. Notice of the meeting shall be given at least ten days before the date of the meeting by publication of the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The notice shall state the date, times, and location of the meeting and that the meeting is called for the purpose of electing one or more trustees to the board.

2. If the petition to establish a sanitary district requests a board of trustees of five members, the board of supervisors shall select five trustees from among the seven persons receiving the highest number of votes at the initial election. Two trustees shall be designated to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday following the next general election, two trustees to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday two years later, and one to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or holiday four years later. Thereafter, each term shall be for a term of years established by the board of supervisors, not less than three years or more than six years. Successors to a five-member board selected under this subsection shall be chosen by election and after the initial election, a candidate for office of trustee shall be nominated by a personal affidavit of the candidate or by petition of at least ten eligible electors of the district and the candidate's personal affidavit, which shall be filed with the commissioner of county elections at least sixty-nine days before the date of the general election. The form of the candidate's affidavit shall be substantially as provided in section 45.3.

3. Upon request of a three-member board of trustees or petition of the number of eligible electors of the district equal to at least five percent of the residents of the district filed at least ninety days before the next general election, the board of supervisors shall provide for the election of a five-member board of trustees with staggered terms of office of not more than six years. The five-member board of trustees shall become effective on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday after that general election. The board of trustees or a petition of the number of eligible electors of the district equal to at least five percent of the residents of the district may also request the board of supervisors to implement a plan to reduce the number of trustees from five to three. The board of supervisors shall allow incumbent trustees to serve their unexpired terms of office.

4. Vacancies in the office of trustee of a sanitary district shall be filled by the remaining

members of the board for the period until a successor is chosen in the manner prescribed by this section or by section 69.12, whichever is applicable.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.9; 82 Acts, ch 1199, §66, 96]

84 Acts, ch 1009, §1; 84 Acts, ch 1051, §3; 85 Acts, ch 135, §2; 92 Acts, ch 1204, §19, 20; 93 Acts, ch 24, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1045, §1; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §121