

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR NOMINATION OF SUPERVISOR FOR APPOINTMENT OR REAPPOINTMENT

A vacancy on a district board of supervisors presents a unique opportunity for that board. The board should use this opportunity to nominate for appointment a supervisor candidate who can provide knowledge and leadership to improve the district's ability to address more of the natural resource needs for more of the constituents of the district. The NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission approved the following guiding principles to guide local soil and water conservation districts when evaluating candidates for appointment and recommending supervisors for reappointment. It is suggested that recommended supervisor satisfy at least 5 of the Guiding Principles.

1. An effective board of supervisors requires motivated members with strong leadership skills and diverse knowledge of natural resource needs in the district. **Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?**
2. A strong district is led by supervisors who are effective at approaching elected and appointed officials to advocate for resources and policies needed to meet the conservation priorities in the district. **Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?**
3. **Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented by a supervisor?**
4. North Carolina agriculture is growing increasingly diverse. Often, non-traditional agricultural operations require focused outreach from leaders they believe understand their unique needs. **Will the appointment provide a better opportunity to work with a segment of agriculture not currently being served?**
5. Many districts have built relationships with other organizations who share interest in natural resource conservation. **Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners (e.g., land trust, forest landowners, grant making organizations, environmental advocacy groups)?**
6. Although most districts have traditionally focused assistance to agricultural land users, districts have authority and programs available to work with all land uses to address natural resource concerns. **Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?**
7. Often a district can improve its ability to reach traditionally underserved groups and its overall public support by increasing the diversity of its board. **Will the appointment improve the gender/ethnic/racial diversity of the board?**
8. One key to a successful district is the willingness of the district supervisors to study and learn from the successes of other districts and other organizations. It is often instructive to observe a supervisor candidate's involvement in other organizations (e.g., trade groups, civic clubs, church). **Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?**
9. The success of a district's programs will often depend on its ability to gain sponsorship and support from private businesses and individuals. **Will the appointment strengthen the District's opportunity to raise funds?**
10. Among the most visible district activities are environmental education, marketing, and public outreach. These programs are often key to achieving widespread public support for the district. **Will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?**