

RESOLUTION 20-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CENTRAL COUNTY WATER CONTROL DISTRICT PROVIDING ELECTION GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURES DURING THE ANNUAL LANDOWNERS MEETING ; ESTABLISH REGISTRATION FOR VOTING REQUIREMENTS AND COUNTING/TABULATION OF BALLOTS PROCEDURES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Central County Water Control District ("District") is a Florida water control district operating and organized under Chapter 298, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 70-702, Laws of Florida, as amended; and

WHEREAS, from time to time this district is required to conduct an annual landowners meeting where an election takes place; and,

WHEREAS, the District Board of Supervisors ("Board") wishes to clearly and correctly inform the public regarding applicable election procedures and guidelines, and establish guidelines and features for Board of Supervisors landowner elections; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

Section 1. *Qualifying periods* for candidates for election to the District Board shall be established annually by published Resolution of the Board for elections conducted by the District. The Resolution shall provide dates for the qualifying period to begin and end, and require a date certain for candidates to deliver written notice of their intent to run to the District Offices. This information shall be posted at designated CCWCD locations, posted on the CCWCD website, and posted in the newspaper of general circulation in the area.

Section 2. *Notice of the Annual Landowners' and Organizational Meetings* ("Election Notice") shall be published by the CCWCD, in accordance with the requirements of the District Charter and sections 298.11 and 298.12, Florida Statutes. The Election Notice shall identify those seats of the Board available for election, qualifying periods, and the location/times that polls open and close.

Section 3. *Registration for voting* – during years in which Seats of the Board are elected via vote of the landowners on a one acre, one vote basis, the registration for voting shall be as follows:

1. All voters must present a government issued, picture identification and a receipt or proof of payment of their annual assessments before voting.
2. Landowners having acquired title to property during the month of any election must present proof of landownership prior to casting their vote.
3. Voters will be requested to sign the Hendry County Property Appraiser's roll alongside their name and property, then given a ballot for voting.

Section 4. *Absentee voting* is prohibited by law.

Section 5. *Proxy voting* is prohibited by CCWCD charter.

Section 6. *Provisional ballots* shall be used in all cases where a person's eligibility to vote cannot be determined during polling hours. Voters whose eligibility to vote cannot be determined during poll hours will be provided a provisional ballot to cast alongside other votes.

Section 7. *Poll watchers* may be utilized by candidates, at the candidates' expense, to reduce concerns related to the election process. Any poll watchers will be required to observe voting facility setback requirements established by the CCWCD

Section 8. *Counting and tabulation of ballots.* The District shall employ an independent third-party accounting firm that shall be responsible for overseeing the election process, ensuring proper procedures and guidelines are followed, counting and tabulating ballots to determine: (i) the total votes cast for each position; (ii) the votes cast for each candidate; and (iii) the total number of votes cast. The Independent third party shall announce the outcome of the elections upon completion of the counting and tabulation process.

Section 9. *Election results* will be announced at the annual landowners' meeting. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes for a particular seat of the Board shall be announced by the independent third-party responsible for counting and tabulating ballots, as well as the total numbers cast for each position and candidate.

Section 10. Nothing in this Resolution shall supersede applicable state law, nor the authority of the Hendry County Supervisor of Elections to conduct elections by qualified electors in accordance with the Florida Election Code. During years of qualified elections, to the extent any provision of this Resolution conflicts with a guideline or procedure of the Hendry County Supervisor of Elections or the Florida Election Code, the policy of the Hendry County Supervisor of Elections and/or Florida Election Code shall govern.

Section 11. *Severability.* Should any portion of this Resolution be deemed invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate and independent provision; and such holding shall not affect the validity of remaining portions of this Resolution.

Section 12. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22 day of APRIL, 2020.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CENTRAL COUNTY WATER CONTROL**

DISTRICT


By: JUAN MATA, President

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY AND FORM:


By: JOHN J. FUMERO, District Attorney