

**South District 12 4-H Council**  
**COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTION CODE**

Amended 11/15/2008

**§ 1.0 General Provisions**

- (1) This code governs the election process for the twenty counties in South District 12 to include: Atascosa, Brooks, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen, Starr, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala.
- (2) This code is governed by the South District 12 4-H Council Standing Rules. Any changes to the Standing Rules will be effective immediately and this code can be revised to reflect those changes.
- (3) The Standing Rules will supercede this code in the case of conflicting guidelines.

**§ 2.0 Voter Qualifications and Registration**

- (1) Each county council in South District 12 is allowed two voting delegates with no more than two delegates per county.
- (2) Voting delegates must be 12 years of age as of the August 31 preceding the election.
- (3) Voters must be registered prior to the election by their county agent.
- (4) Voters must present proof of registration in order to receive a ballot.
- (5) Substitution of voters must be approved by the agent and Election Officers.
- (6) Voters cannot serve as candidates as per Section (9) of the Standing Rules.

**§ 3.0 Election Officers and Observers**

- (1) Two county Extension agents, the District Administrator, a regional 4-H Specialist or Director, and the current District Council President will serve as election officers.
  - (a) The duties of the Election Officers are to insure that both Election Code and Standing Rules are upheld in connection with the election of district officers.
  - (b) This Election Convention Committee shares in responsibility for insuring that both the Election Code and Standing Rules are upheld in connection with the election of district officers.
- (2) One designated adult leader will serve as an observer and may assist with the election.
- (3) An election judge may be appointed by the incumbent Council. The election judge may not serve as a voting delegate or candidate in the election but must meet the same qualifications as voters specified by Section 2.0 of this Election Code.

**§ 4.0 Time and Place of Elections**

- (1) An election will take place annually in July.
- (2) Election of officers will take place as part of the District Election Convention.
- (3) The location of the Convention is to be determined by the Election Convention Committee of agents as assigned by the District Administrator and 4-H Specialist or Regional Program Director.

**§ 5.0 Election Supplies** - All supplies to conduct the election will be provided by the Election Convention committee to include filing documents, notices, ballots, tally sheets, and any other supplies needed to conduct the election.

**§ 6.0 Conduct of Elections**

- (1) Each candidate will be afforded equal time at the podium during the convention to present their platform.
- (2) Presentations must be done in person. No videos or in absentia speeches will be permitted, except as noted in Section 6.3 of the Election Code.
- (3) Only in the case of illness or immediate family emergency may someone speak on a candidates behalf. Any absence by a candidate must be verified by a parent, county Extension agent, and 4-H Specialist/Director before a speech may be given in absentia.
- (4) Voters will vote for one candidate in each race by ballot.
- (5) Incumbent officers will canvas the votes and the election.
- (6) Newly elected officers will be installed and begin office immediately after the installation ceremony.

**§ 7.0 Early/Absentee Voting** - There will be no provisions made for early or absentee voting. Only those votes cast at and during the annual election event will be considered as valid for election purposes.

**§ 8.0 Voting Systems** - Use of paper ballots, voting machines, electronic voting systems, or any other voting system are acceptable for the election if they preserve the secrecy of the ballot and they provide accuracy and reliability.

**§ 9.0 Candidates**

- (1) Any 4-H member wishing to run for office must file prior to the filing deadline determined by the Election Convention committee.
- (2) Candidates must meet eligibility requirements as per Sections (6) (c) and (6) (d) of the Standing Rules.
- (3) A candidate's name can appear only once on the ballot as per Section (6) (f) of the Standing Rules.
- (4) A candidate cannot serve as a voting delegate and cannot vote in the election as per Section (9) of the Standing Rules.

**§ 10.0 Filing Procedures**

- (1) Filing includes completion and submission of the Letter of Intent and a resume.
- (2) Submission of filing documents must be received by the district office prior to the filing deadline.
- (3) Acceptable forms of submission include hard copy, fax, or e-mail.

**§ 11.0 Majority Vote**

- (1) A candidate must earn a majority (>50%) of the votes cast to win the election.
- (2) In the event of a tie for majority, the incumbent president will cast the deciding vote.
- (3) If no candidate earns a majority as defined in Section 11.1 of the Election Code, then a runoff election will be held between the two candidates with the highest number of earned votes.
- (4) All races requiring a runoff election will be held simultaneously and immediately after the general election.

**§ 12.0 Recounts**

- (1) Only the candidate for the office in question may request a recount of votes for the respective race.
- (2) Only the Election Officers, Observer, Election Judge, and candidate may be present for the recount.
- (3) Only one recount will be held per race.

**§ 13.0 Election Contests**

- (1) Any contest to the election process must be filed in the district office in writing within 30 days of the election.
- (2) The Election Officers will evaluate the contest on its merits and determine the outcome, which will be final.

**§ 14.0 Political Campaigns**

- (1) Candidates will be allowed to exhibit a display that illustrates their leadership and community service activities.
- (2) Written permission from voting delegates must be on file before respective names and addresses can be shared with candidates.
- (3) Any political propaganda and paraphernalia distributed by candidates must also be sent to the district office. This includes flyers, letters, or any item sent to solicit votes on behalf of any candidate.

**§ 15.0 Revisions to Election Code** - Revisions to this election code fall under the direction of the Election Convention Committee of county Extension agents under the recommendations and suggestions of the District Council.