

Water Districts Do What, Now??

Why should you vote for a Water District Commissioner?

Water District

Per Washington State Title 57, water districts can form under RCW 57.08 or if they provide both water and sewer, under RCW 57.02. There are 6 water districts and one water/sewer district in Kittitas County. They are special purpose districts established to deliver safe, reliable drinking water to a discrete geographic population, to conserve and maintain water resources. Water districts are accountable to the County (RCW 36.94) in which they reside and must abide by county water regulations.

Water districts are typically governed by 3 or 5 elected commissioners who serve nonpartisan 6 year terms. As for all special districts considered municipal governments, water districts must abide by public meeting laws and submit to a state audit every 3 years.

The water district is responsible for issuing an annual water quality report to its customers, notifying customers in the event of water regulation violation or risk to public health.

Its Board of Commissioners must develop and update a comprehensive plan of improvements (RCW 57.16.010) which must also be approved by the county in which it resides as well as by the state agency whose approval may be required by applicable law.

For a general comprehensive plan of a water supply system, the water district commissioners shall determine the present and future needs of its customers; select a water supply suitable and adequate for present and future need; and consider a plan for acquiring water and for retaining and storing water, and erecting pipe lines to convey water throughout the district. The commissioners determine a general plan for distributing water water throughout the water district and a long-term plan for financing the planned projects, including the potential creation of local improvement districts and determine whether the whole or part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from customer revenues or general obligation bonds. The Board also oversees the District manager.

Only registered voters within the district boundaries are eligible to vote for water district commissioners.

How are water districts funded?

While the Board of Commissioners may choose to raise funds through issuance of bonds or tax levies, most water districts rely on customer fees to support daily operations.

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