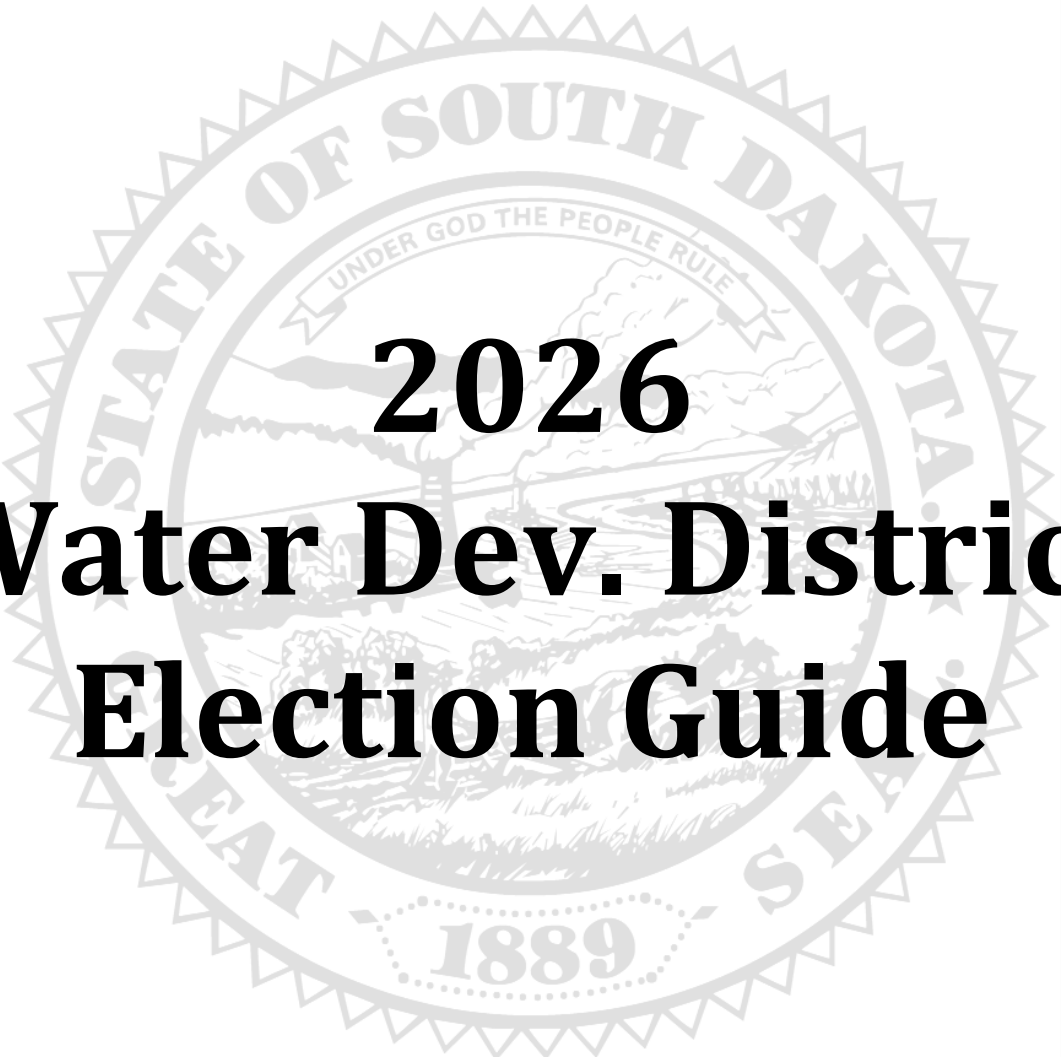


The seal of the State of South Dakota is a circular emblem. It features a central illustration of a landscape with a river, a bridge, and a plow. Above the illustration is a banner that reads "UNDER GOD THE PEOPLE RULE". The outer ring of the seal contains the text "STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA" at the top and "1889" at the bottom, separated by decorative elements.

2026 Water Dev. District Election Guide

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monae L. Johnson".

Monae L. Johnson

South Dakota Secretary of State

Division of Elections
State Capitol, 500 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 204
Pierre, SD 57501 • (605) 773-3537
www.sdsos.gov

Last Updated: October 28, 2025

Water Development District Directors - 2026 Election

SDCL 46A-3B

<https://www.sdarws.com/wdd.html>

The terms of office for all directors from odd-numbered WDD Director areas expire at the end of 2026. There is 1 Director per Area. The descriptions of territory encompassed by each area in each district can be found in ARSD [74:05:05](#).

Positions in Each WDD Area:

James River - Areas 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
Central Plains - Areas 1, 3, 5, 7
South Central - Areas 1, 3, 5, 7
West River - Areas 1, 3, 5
East Dakota - Areas 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
West Dakota - Areas 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
Vermillion Basin - Areas 1, 3, 5, 7

Petition Filing Information:

- Petition form is: [05:02:08:24](#).
- All WDD candidate petitions are filed with the Secretary of State.
- The term of office is 4 years.
- 25 valid signatures are required.
- Signers must be registered within the specific WDD Director Area.
- This is a non-partisan election, and the party of the signer does not matter.

Who Goes on the Primary Ballot:

- If **3** or more candidates file for a position, there will be a Primary Election.
 - o The two candidates receiving the most votes in the Primary move on to the General Election.
- If **2** candidates file for a position, there will be NO Primary Election. These candidates are automatically placed on the General election ballot.
- If only **1** candidate files for a position, there is no election.

46A-3B-5. Certification of nominating petitions--Ballots--Primary election--Certification of single nominee--Initial election.

If three or more nominating petitions are filed for the position of director, the secretary of state must certify the nomination of candidates to the respective county auditors and the water development district office. The district office shall furnish nonpolitical sample and official ballots in adequate numbers and with adequate time to permit distribution of the ballots, by the respective county auditors, together with other primary election ballots.

Following a primary election, the two candidates receiving the most votes cast in the primary election must be certified and ballots must be furnished in the same manner as for the primary election, but in time to permit distribution of the ballots by the respective county auditors, together with other general election ballots.

If only two nominating petitions are filed, the names of both candidates must be certified and ballots must be furnished as provided in this section.

If only one nominating petition is filed, a certificate of election must be issued to the nominee in the same manner as to a successful candidate after an election.

In the case of an initial election, the Board of Water and Natural Resources shall certify the names of the candidates and furnish ballots in time to permit distribution of the ballots by the county auditors prior to the general or special election.