
California Special Districts Association

SAMPLE POLICY HANDBOOK

POLICY TITLE: Filling of Vacancy(s) on Board of Directors (Trustees)

POLICY NUMBER: 4097

4097.1 The District Board of Directors (Trustees) are elected (or appointed) in accordance with the Principal Act of the District. From time to time a vacancy may occur on the Board for a variety of reasons. This policy is established to provide general guidelines and procedures for filling a vacancy on the Board. Under state law, the District has a total of sixty (60) days in which to take action.

4097.2 The Board of Directors shall be informed immediately of the resignation or death of a member of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consider whether to act to fill the vacancy, either by appointment or by calling a special election.

4097.3 The District shall notify the county elections official of the vacancy no later than fifteen (15) days after the District Board is notified of the vacancy or the effective date of the vacancy, whichever is later.

4097.4 In cases where the Board determines to appoint a replacement to the Board, the District may publish a public notice of a vacancy and the process for considering candidates in a local newspaper of general circulation. The Board may establish an application and interview process including requiring a resume or application form detailing qualifications and experience of the candidates.

4097.4.1 The District shall post a notice of vacancy in at least three conspicuous places in the District at least fifteen (15) days before the Board makes an appointment. If the Board makes an appointment, the District shall notify the county elections official within fifteen (15) days of making the appointment.

4097.5 The Board may review and invite those candidates that a majority of the Board determine are the most qualified or all of the candidates for an interview before the Board at a public noticed meeting. The Board may then consider the interviewed candidates and vote to determine if a majority of the Board can agree on a selected replacement candidate.

4097.6 If the Board of Directors chooses to call an election, the Board must do so within sixty (60) days of notification of the vacancy or the effective date of the vacancy, whichever is later.

4097.7 All costs for any election shall be identified for consideration by the Board for the decision of appointment or election.

4097.8 A selected replacement Director shall serve out the balance of the term of the position and be subject to reelection under the Principal Act of the District.

4097.9 If the Board fails to take action in the sixty (60) day period, state law provides that the Board of Supervisors may appoint a successor to fill the vacancy.