

Elections Requirements by District Types

Disclaimer: This information is not meant to convey all information relevant to voting and director-eligibility requirements in the special districts listed below. Some districts have exceptions or variations (to the extent allowable by statute) to the general rule. To ensure you have the most relevant information, please reach out to your local district for a full list of voting or director eligibility requirements.

District Type	Who can vote?			Who can be a director?			
	Landowner	Registered voter	Resident of District	Landowner	Registered voter	Resident of District	Exceptions/Other
Community Services		X			X	X (if by division)	Cannot be the general manager, treasurer, or any other compensated employee of the district.
Public Utility		X	X		X	X	
Municipal Utility		X			X	X	
Irrigationⁱ (Irrigation Only)	X			X ⁱⁱ	X*		
Irrigation (Irrigation plus other services)		X	X		X	X	
County Water		X	X		X	X	
California Water	X ⁱⁱⁱ			X			
Water Storage	X ^{iv}			X			Landowner must be a natural person ^v , otherwise the landowner may designate a representative to be eligible to become a director.
County Drainage		X	X				Board is comprised of members of the relevant city/cities and county governing bodies.
Municipal Water		X	X		X ^{vi}		
Water Conservation	X		X		X	X (county resident)	
Resource Conservation		X	X	X ^{vii}	X	X	

* Exceptions apply and the requirement may be subject to some amount of flexibility or conditions. See relevant statutes for more information.

ⁱ Salyer Land Co. v. Tulare Water Dist., 410 U.S. 719 (1973) (allowing certain special districts with narrow purposes to restrict eligibility to vote and to serve as a director to landowners, including corporations, regardless of residence); Choudhry v. Free, 17 Cal.3d 660 (1976) (The court held that the landowner requirement for directors was unconstitutional due to the size and range of public services provided by the district. Other districts will be determined on a case-by-case basis).

ⁱⁱ *Id.* at § 21100 (a). In order to qualify to be a director in districts with 15 or fewer landowners who are voters, a candidate only needs to be a landowner, not a voter, of the district. *Id.* § 21100(b).

ⁱⁱⁱ Cal. Water Code §35003. Each voter is given one vote per dollar worth of their property. The district's assessment book is used as evidence of ownership and value of property. If this book does not exist, then votes will be determined on an acreage basis where a voter is entitled to one voter per acre of land.

^{iv} Cal. Water Code §§41000-01 "Each voter may vote in each precinct in which any of the land owned by him is situated and may cast one vote for each one hundred dollars (\$100), or fraction thereof, worth of his land"; Cal. Water Code §41004, a land-owning corporation can vote through an officer or agency of the corporation who is authorized in writing to do so.

^v "Natural person" means human being, as opposed to a corporation, which under certain aspects of the law can also be called a "person".

^{vi} Cal. Water Code §71250, 71250.5, if a director moves outside of the district and then does not move back into the district within 180 days then it is presumed a vacancy exists.

^{vii} Cal. Water Code §9352. ("directors shall (1) reside within the district and either own real property in the district or alternatively have served, pursuant to the district's rules, for two years or more as an associate director providing advisory or other assistance to the board of directors, or (2) be a designated agent of a resident landowner within the district.")