

§2004. Trustees

1. Authorization. All the affairs of a watershed district shall be managed by a board of trustees. The board shall consist of not less than 3 trustees, or not less than 5 trustees in watershed districts involving more than one municipality or one or more municipalities and residents of an unorganized territory. In addition, the board shall consist of one trustee representing each participating water district. Trustees, other than those representing participating water districts, shall be elected in accordance with this chapter. The exact number of trustees shall be determined in accordance with section 2002. A watershed district may alter the number of trustees by submitting the proposed alteration to the voters in the same manner as provided in section 2002, subsection 7. No municipality nor unorganized territory within any watershed district may have less than one trustee. A quorum of the trustees may conduct the affairs of the district even if there is a vacancy on the board of trustees.

[PL 1989, c. 106, §5 (AMD).]

2. Recall. Trustees may be recalled under the following provisions.

A. The qualified electors of the watershed district may petition for the recall of any trustee after the first year of the term for which the trustee is elected by filing a petition with the municipal clerk, or the county commissioners in unorganized territory, demanding the recall of the trustee. A trustee may be subject to recall for misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance in office. The petition shall be signed by electors of the political subdivision which that trustee represents equal to at least 25% of the vote cast for the office of Governor at the last gubernatorial election within the political subdivision of the trustee being recalled. The recall petition shall state the reason for which removal is sought. [PL 1987, c. 711 (NEW).]

B. Within 3 days after the petition is offered for filing, the official with whom the petition is left shall determine by careful examination whether the petition is sufficient and so state in a certificate attached to the petition. If the petition is found to be insufficient, the certificate shall state the particulars creating the insufficiency. The petition may be amended to correct any insufficiency within 5 days following the affixing of the original certificate. Within 2 days after the offering of the amended petition for filing, it shall again be carefully examined to determine sufficiency and a certificate stating the findings shall be attached. Immediately upon finding an original or amended petition sufficient, the official shall file the petition and call a special election to be held not less than 40 days nor more than 45 days from the filing date. The official shall notify the trustee, against whom the recall petition is filed, of the special election. [PL 1987, c. 711 (NEW).]

C. The trustee against whom the recall petition is filed shall be a candidate at the special election without nomination, unless the trustee resigns within 10 days after the original filing of the petition. There shall be no primary. Candidates for the office may be nominated under the usual procedure of nomination for a primary election by filing nomination papers, not later than 5 p.m., 4 weeks preceding the election and have their names placed on the ballot at the special election. [PL 1987, c. 711 (NEW).]

D. The trustee against whom a recall petition has been filed shall continue to perform the duties of office until the result of the special election is officially declared. The person receiving the highest number of votes at the special election shall be declared elected for the remainder of the term. If the incumbent receives the highest number of votes, the incumbent shall continue in office. If another receives the highest number of votes, that person shall succeed the incumbent, if qualified, within 10 days after receiving notification. [PL 1987, c. 711 (NEW).]

E. After one recall petition and special election, no further recall petition may be filed against the same trustee during the term for which the trustee was elected. [PL 1987, c. 711 (NEW).]

[PL 1987, c. 711 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 711 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 106, §5 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.