



December 1, 2022

TO: County Commissioners, Councilmembers, and Executives

FROM: Eric Johnson, WSAC Executive Director

RE: Elections Process Announced, Nominations Sought for Board of Natural Resources' County Representative

With the notice that Clallam County Commissioner Bill Peach will retire at the end of December, his county representation on the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) will terminate at that time as well. In anticipation of his departure, the Washington State Association of Counties has established an election timeline to have a new representative in place for the January 2023 BNR meeting. [RCW 43.30.205](#) is the statutory authority for this position and provides the basic process for appointing a county representative.

WSAC is soliciting nominations and letters of interest from eligible members to fill a four-year term beginning January 2023.

The BNR has policy authority over the State Forestlands held in trust for counties and taxing districts. Income flowing from these lands is distributed annually to counties based on various formulas and results collectively in millions of dollars to county budgets. For more information about the BNR, visit <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/board-natural-resources>.

Election and Eligibility Requirements

RCW 43.30.205(2)(a) states that "The county representative on the board shall be selected by the legislative authorities of those counties that contain state forestlands acquired or transferred under RCW 79.22.010, 79.22.040, and 79.22.020. In the selection of the county representative, each participating county shall have one vote. The Washington state association of counties shall convene a meeting for the purpose of making the selection and shall notify the board of the selection."

RCW 43.30.205(2)(b) states that "The county representative must be a duly elected member of a county legislative authority who shall serve a term of four years unless the representative should leave office for any reason."

Counties Eligible to Vote

The following twenty-one counties are eligible to vote for the county representative to the BNR: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Okanogan, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom.

Candidates

Eligible members who wish to become a candidate for the county representative seat must complete and submit an application form to WSAC by 5 p.m. Friday, December 9th. While only specific county legislative authorities are allowed to vote, all duly elected members of a county legislative authority are eligible to apply.

The BNR meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The first meeting for the new county representative will be on January 3, 2023. It is important that the county representative does not miss a meeting. Please make sure you are available on 1/3/2023 for the first meeting of the year if you decide to apply.

To apply, click here: <https://form.jotform.com/223324725825052>

Elections Process and Timeline

WSAC will convene a meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 11:00 AM via zoom to allow candidates to present their interests to voting members. Members can also ask questions of the candidates. An electronic calendar invitation will be sent to all voting-eligible County Commissioners and Councilmembers, including the meeting link.

Ballots will also be distributed by email to each Board or Council Chair of each county eligible to vote on 12/14/22. Each county will receive one ballot. While counties are allowed only one vote each, they may fractionalize their vote if desired or needed.

Each county is responsible for its process of completing the ballot. Completed ballots must be emailed to Paul Jewell (pjewell@wsac.org) by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28, 2022.

Timeline Recap

12/9/22	Nominations are due to WSAC no later than 5:00 PM.
12/14/22	WSAC meeting for nominee interest statements and ballots sent via email to each eligible county Board or Council Chair.
12/28/22	Ballots are due to WSAC no later than 5:00 PM.
12/30/22	WSAC will certify the election results and announce the new county BNR representative.

If you have questions about eligibility, the election process, or responsibilities as the county representative to the BNR, please contact Eric Johnson at ejohnson@wsac.org or (360) 489-3013.