

FACTS SUPERVISORS SHOULD KNOW

1. A Soil Conservation District (SCD) is a political subdivision of the State. District boundaries are the same as county boundaries.
2. A supervisor is one of five supervisors who constitute the governing body of the district, known as the Board of Supervisors. The county governing body appoints one supervisor. The other four are appointed by the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC). One each from nominees submitted by the county Farm Bureau, the county UM Extension, and two at-large members.
3. The MD state law that established SCDs specifies that “The Supervisors shall be interested and knowledgeable in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources and shall be persons who are by training and experience qualified to perform the specialized skilled services which will be required of them in the performance of their duties.” Geographic location of residence and/or place of business within the district are also considered. **A supervisor must be a resident of the district.**
4. The Board of Supervisors is responsible for the soil conservation and water quality and drainage programs carried out by the district.
5. Each Board of Supervisors meets regularly, usually once a month. Occasionally, a special meeting is called. A supervisor is expected to attend all meetings of the board. **MD state law provides that failure to attend at least 50% of regular meetings results in resignation as a supervisor.**
6. Supervisors do not receive a salary but are entitled to a per diem allowance, up to \$25 as provided in the annual state budget with an additional stipend from the SCD governed by SSCC approved limit, for each day spent in the performance of their duties. They are also entitled to the prevailing rate per mile for the use of their automobile. The Maryland Department of Agriculture allocates available state funds to the districts for eligible expenses.
7. The 23 SCDs in MD participate in the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) to foster cooperation between districts, coordinate the programs of the districts, and exchange information between the districts. The MASCD holds a summer meeting each year for all supervisors and an abbreviated meeting concurrent with legislative session for SCD chairs and interested board members and staff. Supervisors keep abreast of issues and current activities by attending these meetings.
8. Each person appointed as an SCD supervisor is considered to be the holder of an office of profit created by MD state law. State law prohibits any person from holding two such offices at the same time. Acceptance of a second office is equivalent to automatic resignation from the first. **The SSCC does not knowingly appoint as a supervisor any person that holds another office of profit.**
9. **Each supervisor is required to take an Oath of Office before the Clerk of the Court of the Circuit Court as follows:**

“I, _____, do swear, (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and laws thereof, and that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the office of District supervisor of the _____ Soil Conservation District according to the Constitution and laws of this State.”