

1 shall serve until their successors are elected and have qualified.

2 As nearly as possible, the terms of an equal number of directors on
3 any such board shall expire on each of the dates;

4 2. The bylaws of the district shall specify the length of the
5 term of office of its directors, which term shall not exceed six (6)
6 years. At the annual meeting of each year after the year of the
7 election of the original board members, elections shall be held to
8 elect directors to fill any position on the board, the term of
9 office of which has expired, and any director so elected shall hold
10 office until a successor is elected and has qualified. A director
11 may be elected to succeeding terms without limitation; and

12 3. For the purpose of election of board members and for such
13 other purposes as the bylaws may prescribe, annual meetings of
14 participating members shall be held by each district each year
15 following the year of incorporation of such district. The board of
16 directors shall cause notice of the time and place of each annual
17 meeting and the purpose thereof to be given to each of its
18 participating members. Each participating member shall be entitled
19 to a single vote, regardless of the number of benefit units to which
20 the member has subscribed.

21 B. 1. A requirement for qualification to serve as a board
22 member for a rural water district or a nonprofit rural water
23 corporation shall be a written pledge that upon election such board
24 member shall attend a minimum of six (6) hours of workshop training

1 to be offered periodically on a regional basis within twelve (12)
2 months following election of such board member, and to be organized
3 by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board in cooperation with the
4 Oklahoma Rural Water Association or a qualified state supplier with
5 the purpose of study and instruction in areas of district financing,
6 law, and the ethics, duties and responsibilities of district board
7 members. Beginning July 1, 2001, all new and existing board members
8 shall be required to obtain continuing education by attending a
9 minimum of six (6) hours of workshop training every three (3) years.

10 2. The district or corporation shall reimburse all reasonable
11 expenses incurred by any board member for attending such training
12 workshop.

13 3. To avoid members having to interfere with their jobs or
14 employment, such training sessions may be divided into three-hour
15 segments, and insofar as possible be scheduled for evening sessions.
16 Technology center school facilities, college facilities or other
17 public facilities may be utilized in all parts of the state for
18 convenience of the members. Such workshops must be offered within
19 seventy-five (75) miles of the members' residences.

20 C. Should any pledging board member fail to attend the workshop
21 training as required in subsection B of this section, he or she
22 shall be deemed ineligible to serve as a board member commencing at
23 the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board following the
24 twelve-month period. The remaining board members shall select from

1 the membership, as provided by the district or corporation bylaws,
2 another qualified member to fill the vacancy and that person shall
3 pledge to attend the workshop training provided for in this section.
4 The appointed member shall only serve until the next regularly
5 scheduled election of board members and an election shall be held to
6 fill the unexpired term of the vacated position.

7 D. Upon the election of a board member, the provisions of
8 Sections 481 through 487 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes
9 relating to nepotism shall not prohibit any employee already in the
10 service of the district from continuing in such service or from
11 promotion therein. Provided, however, the board member related to
12 the employee shall be excused from the board meeting during any
13 discussion of or action taken on any matter that could affect the
14 employment or compensation for employment of such employee.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
18 OVERSIGHT, dated 03/04/2026 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.

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