

31-302. Same; governing body; election; terms; vacancies; contracts for services. (a) Any benefit district created pursuant to K.S.A. 31-301, and amendments thereto, shall be governed by a board of directors. Except as provided in subsection (b), the members of the board of education of the unified school district who reside within the boundaries of such benefit district shall be the board of directors of such benefit district.

(b) (1) If the territory of a benefit district created pursuant to K.S.A. 31-301, and amendments thereto, is located partly within Osage county and partly within Lyon county, such district shall be governed by a five-member board of directors. Except as provided by paragraph (3) of this subsection, members shall be elected for four-year terms.

(2) The members of the board of directors, as it existed prior to the effective date of this act and the fire chief of the district shall appoint three persons as members of the board as follows: One person shall be a resident of the fire district and a resident of Osage county; one member shall be a resident of the fire district and a resident of the unincorporated area of Lyon county; and one member shall be a resident of the fire district and a resident of the city of Reading. Such members shall be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of this act. The terms of all members of the board, both elected and appointed, shall expire on the second Monday in January of 1993.

(3) An election shall be held in the benefit district on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of 1992 and of each even-numbered year thereafter for the purpose of electing the members of the board. At the first such election, two members shall be elected from the district at large to serve for two-year terms. Three members shall be elected for four-year terms and of such members: One member shall be a resident of the fire district and a resident of Osage county; one member shall be a resident of the fire district and a resident of the unincorporated area of Lyon county; and one member shall be a resident of the fire district and a resident of the city of Reading. All members not filling a vacancy and not holding office for a shorter term in compliance with this paragraph shall hold office for a term of four years from the second Monday in January next after their election and until their successors are elected and qualified. Members of the board shall be qualified electors of the district.

Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the remaining members of the board.

(4) Elections to choose members of the board shall be conducted, the returns made and the results ascertained in the manner provided by the general election law. Any person desiring to be a candidate as a member of the board in any election, shall file with the county election officer of the home county wherein the district is located, by 12 o'clock noon, June 10, prior to such election, a statement directing such officer to place such person's name on the ballot as a candidate in such election indicating the position for which such person is filing. There shall be no fee imposed for such filing. The county election officer in preparing the ballots shall rotate the names of candidates for each member position in such a manner that each candidate shall be given an equitable opportunity to have such candidate's name appear first on the ballot. The county election officer shall cause to be ascertained the names of all qualified electors within the district, and shall furnish lists thereof to the judges of such election. Notice of the time and place of holding each election, signed by the county election officer, shall be given in a newspaper of general circulation in the district at least 10 days before holding the election. At all elections held under the provisions of this act, only persons who are residents of the district, and who are qualified electors under the constitution, shall be entitled to vote. In addition, if a position on the board has a special residency requirement, only persons who also meet such requirement shall be entitled to vote for that position.

(5) For the purposes of this subsection home county means Lyon county.

(6) All moneys and records of the benefit district in possession of the former board of directors shall be turned over by the board to the successor board of directors. All legal obligations and contracts entered into by the former board shall become the obligations and contracts of the new board.

(c) The board of directors of the benefit district is authorized to execute contracts with the city for the furnishings of fire-fighting services to the district upon such terms and for such compensation as may be agreed upon, to adopt budgets, to receive and expend moneys and otherwise to act to carry out the provisions of this act.

History: L. 1951, ch. 238, § 2; L. 1965, ch. 266, § 1; L. 1992, ch. 161, § 1; April 30.