

**West Sand Lake Fire District No. 1
Election Guidelines**

PURPOSE

Pursuant to the powers granted to the Board of Fire commissioners by New York State Law, and in the interest of fairness and orderly process, the following procedures are and shall remain in force and effect until amended by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

DEFINITIONS

A. *Ballot Clerks*, shall mean those individuals who from time to time may be designated by the Board of Fire Commissioners as Ballot Clerk of any Fire District election as prescribed by Section 175(1) of the Town Law of the State of New York.

B. *Board of Elections*, shall mean the County Board of Elections.

C. *Board of Fire Commissioners*, shall mean the Board of Fire Commissioners of the West Sand Lake Fire District No. 1.

D. *Chairman*, shall mean the individual who from time to time may be designated by the Board of Fire Commissioners as the Chairman of any Fire District election as prescribed by Section 175(1) of the Town Law of the State of New York.

E. *District*, shall mean the West Sand Lake Fire District No. 1.

F. *Election*, shall mean any election of the District, whether annual or special.

G. *Electioneering*, shall mean any conduct by a candidate or any other person which is intended to or has the effect of calling attention to any particular candidate or issue that is on the ballot. This shall include the display of buttons, signs or banners, conversation of the type described above or even the presence of an individual candidate or their likeness.

H. *Election Inspectors*, shall mean those individuals who from time to time may be designated by the Board of Fire Commissioners as Election Inspectors of any Fire District election as prescribed by Section 175(1) of the Town Laws of the State of New York.

I. *Letter of Intent*, shall mean a letter requesting nomination, pursuant to New York State Town Law Section 176(7).

J. *Polling Hours*, shall mean the hours during which the Fire District Election shall be conducted as designated by the Board.

K. *Polling Place* - shall mean that place (or places) designated by the Board as the location(s) where a Fire District election is to be held and any area within 100 feet of such location as determined by the Chairman of the Election.

L. *Poll Watchers* - shall mean individuals, other than a candidate, who have been designated by a candidate to observe the conduct of the Election for regularity. Poll Watchers, when permitted, shall sit in a place designated by the Chairman and not communicate in any way with persons casting or waiting to cast their ballots.

M. *Registered Voter* - shall mean a resident of the West Sand Lake Fire District elector who shall be registered to vote with the County Board of Elections no later than twenty-three (23) days prior to the date of the election, in accordance with New York State Town Law, Section 175-a(2)(a).

Guidelines:

A. The Chairman shall have overall charge and supervision of all District elections and will be assisted by the Ballot Clerks and Election Inspectors.

B. A candidate who wishes to run for District office must submit a letter of intent stating what position they are running for. The letter must be submitted to the District Secretary no more than **forty-five (45) and no later than twenty (20)** days prior to the date of any Election.

E. A letter of intent shall be deemed timely filed with the District Secretary provided that it is actually in the Secretary's possession no later than the close of regular business (4:00 PM) on the date so designated. To this end, the Secretary must be available for receipt of same *at a pre-announced location with scheduled and posted hours preceding and up until this time.*

F. The District Secretary shall, upon receipt of a letter of intent, examine same for completeness in accordance with law and these regulations.

G. The Fire District Secretary shall prepare the ballot for the election. The Secretary shall place the names upon the ballot in order based upon a random selection process. A space must be reserved for potential write-in candidates.

H. Upon the holding of an Election, the Chairman shall direct the Election Inspectors and Ballot Clerks in their duties. The Chairman shall also supervise the Polling Place and its environs to make sure that no Electioneering is conducted within the Polling Place or within one hundred (100') feet of same. The Chairman shall cause to be placed, at least one-half hour before the opening of the polls, distance markers, at a distance of one hundred feet from the polling place. Such distance markers shall be so placed and shall remain until such polls are closed. The one hundred foot distance shall be deemed to include a one hundred foot radial measured from the entrances, designated by the Chairman, to the building(s) where such election is being held. While the polls are open no person shall do any electioneering within the polling place, or in any public street within the one hundred foot radial, or within such distance in any place in a public manner. Electioneering includes, but is not limited to, the display of a banner, button, poster or placard on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or issue to be voted upon. The decision as to whether conduct constitutes Electioneering shall be solely that of the Chairman. Any activity which the Chairman shall deem improper shall be promptly stopped or the matter shall be immediately reported by the Chairman to the Police. Persons should be reminded that willful violation of these Electioneering rules constitutes a crime under New York State Law (Town Law §175(4)).

I. Poll Watchers may be permitted to observe the election proceedings subject to the approval of the Chairman. Each candidate may select one individual to act as a Poll Watcher on his/her behalf. That person must sit where directed by the Chairman and not communicate with anyone in the vicinity other than the Chairman. In the event that a Poll Watcher shall act in a manner which is inappropriate in the opinion of the Chairman, then that Poll Watcher must leave the Polling Place and may not be replaced.

J. At the close of Polling Hours at a District Election, the Chairman shall cause the Polling Place to be closed. Any Registered Voters then present shall be permitted to cast their ballots. After the last ballot is cast, the Chairman shall then reopen the Polling Place so that the ballots may be canvassed publicly. Thereafter, the Chairman shall publicly announce the results.

K. Within seventy-two hours thereafter, the Chairman, Election Inspectors and Ballot Clerks shall execute and file a certificate of the result of the canvass with the Board of Fire Commissioners and with the Town Clerk of each town in which said District or any part thereof may be located.

L. No absentee ballots are permitted in West Sand Lake Fire District #1 elections.