

Election of County Surveyors

Legislation was enacted in 2014 to require the election of county surveyors in all counties under 150,000 unless certain actions are taken. This requirement does not apply if the steps below were taken or if the office of county surveyor has been consolidated with the office of the county engineer, clerk, assessor, clerk of the district court, or register of deeds. (See Neb.Rev.Stat. § 22-417.)

In counties with an elected surveyor as of January 1, 2020, the county board could, following a public hearing, adopt a resolution to continue to elect the county surveyor. The resolution had to be adopted prior to February 1, 2020.

In Kearney County, where the race for county surveyor appeared on the 2018 general election ballot, the office is considered an elective office even though there no one filed for the office and the county board filled the vacancy by appointment.

If the county board did not pass a resolution to continue to elect the county surveyor, the question of electing a county surveyor must be presented to voters at the November 2020 general election.

If a majority of votes cast are against the election of the office of county surveyor, the elected office ceases to exist at the end of the term of the incumbent in January 2023 and the office becomes an appointed position. The appointee serves the same four-year term as an elected surveyor.

If a majority of votes cast are in favor of the election of the office of county surveyor, the office continues to be elected.

Beginning in 2021, the question of electing a county surveyor can be placed before voters at the next statewide general election by county board action or a petition. If the county board wants to place the issue on the ballot, it must adopt a resolution on or before September 1 prior to the election. If a petition process is used, it must be signed by at least 10 percent of the registered voters in the county and presented to the county clerk or election commissioner on or before September 1 prior to the election.

If a majority of votes cast are against the election of the office of county surveyor, the office ceases to exist as an elected office at the end of the term of the incumbent or remains as an appointed office.

If a majority of votes cast are in favor of the election of the office of county surveyor, the office continues to be elected or, if there is not an elected surveyor in office at the time of the election, the office is filled by election at the next statewide general election.