

**ANYWHERE FIRE DISTRICT
POLICY FOR CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Policy is to establish written guidelines and procedures for the conduct of Fire District elections. It is further intended to conform with the laws, rules and procedures of New York State and to supplement those laws where necessary.

AUTHORITY: This Policy is adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Anywhere Fire District pursuant to its authority under New York State law.

PROCEDURE: The Officers and employees of the Anywhere Fire District and Department shall carry out and obey all provisions of this Policy.

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 regulations are, and shall remain, in force and effect until amended by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

1. Definitions:

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

Board of Elections - shall mean the County Board of Elections.

Board of Fire Commissioners - shall mean the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Anywhere Fire District.

Chairman - shall mean the individual(s) 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.

District - shall mean the Anywhere Fire District.

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

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 specified above, or even the presence of an individual candidate or his/her likeness.

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 Law of the State of New York.

Petition - shall mean a petition of nomination, pursuant to New York State Town Law Section 176(7) and a resolution of the Board, the filing of which Petition is required for a candidate for District office.

Petition Form - shall mean the official form of Petition to be used for any election. This Form shall be prepared by the Board of Fire Commissioners and distributed by the District Secretary.

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

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.

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.

Registered Voter - shall mean a resident 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).

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

3. A candidate who wishes to run for District office must procure an official Petition Form as well as a copy of these regulations from the District Secretary. Petition Forms shall be made available by the District Secretary commencing forty-five (45) days prior to the date of any Election. ***{Or, delete petition language if appropriate for your District.}***

4. A valid Petition must be filed with the District Secretary no later than twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election. A valid Petition is one which is on the official Petition Form and contains the signatures, dates of signatures, printed names and addresses of at least twenty-five (25) Registered Voters. A Petition must be submitted as one, single document, regardless of the number of pages it may contain. Petitions may not be submitted in a "piecemeal" fashion.

5. A Registered Voter [***may or may not, your choice***] sign multiple Petitions for the same office. In the event that the District Secretary shall discover multiple signatures on Petitions then the signature(s) dated last shall be voided. In the event that the District Secretary is unable to tell which signature was first in time, then all such signatures shall be voided. ***{Delete the last two sentences if multiple signatures are allowed.}***

6. A Petition 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 (*state the time here, e.g., 5:00 PM*) on the date so designated. To this end, the Secretary must be available for receipt of same at the District office at scheduled and posted hours preceding and up until this time.

7. The District Secretary shall, upon receipt of a Petition, examine same for completeness in accordance with law and these regulations. Any Petition that does not meet these requirements shall be rejected. The District Secretary shall cause a review to be made to confirm that each Petition contains at least twenty-five (25) valid signatures. This review shall consist of a comparison of the Petition to a list of Registered Voters as supplied by the Board of Elections and any further check with the Board of Elections as may be deemed appropriate by the District Secretary. Any non-valid signatures shall be voided and the Petition rejected if such voiding shall cause the number of valid signatures to drop below twenty-five (25).

8. 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.

9. 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)).

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

Dated: November 19, 2015

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANYWHERE
FIRE DISTRICT

By: _____
Fire District Secretary