

# State Fair Election Procedure

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## Membership

The State Fair Board includes seventeen members. Of these members, seven are elected, one from each of seven districts.<sup>1</sup> Districts include the following counties:

<b>District 1</b>	<b>District 3</b>	<b>District 4</b>	<b>District 5</b>	<b>District 6</b>
Benton	Adams	Bartholomew	Clark	Boone
Carroll	Allen	Dearborn	Crawford	Brown
Jasper	Blackford	Decatur	Daviess	Clay
Lake	DeKalb	Fayette	Dubois	Clinton
Newton	Delaware	Franklin	Floyd	Fountain
Porter	Grant	Hamilton	Gibson	Greene
Pulaski	Huntington	Hancock	Harrison	Hendricks
Starke	Jay	Henry	Jackson	Montgomery
White	LaGrange	Jennings	Jefferson	Monroe
	Noble	Johnson	Knox	Morgan
<b>District 2</b>	Stueben	Madison	Lawrence	Owen
Cass	Wabash	Ohio	Martin	Parke
Elkhart	Wells	Randolph	Orange	Putnam
Fulton		Ripley	Perry	Sullivan
Howard		Rush	Pike	Tippecanoe
Kosciusko		Shelby	Posey	Tipton
LaPorte		Switzerland	Scott	Vermillion
Marshall		Union	Spencer	Vigo
Miami		Wayne	Vanderburgh	Warren
St. Joseph			Warrick	
Whitley			Washington	<b>District 7</b>
				Marion <sup>2</sup>

## Terms

### *Length of Term*

The term of the elected member begins October 1 after the expiration of the term of the member whom the individual is elected to succeed.<sup>3</sup> The terms expire on September 30 of the fourth year.<sup>4</sup>

### *Reelection*

A member may be reelected for a new term.<sup>5</sup>

### *Cap on Years to Serve*

An individual may not serve as a member for more than eight years in any twelve year period.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> IC § 15-13-5-2(a)(4).

<sup>2</sup> **IC 15-1.5-1-5.**

<sup>3</sup> IC § 15-13-5-3(a)(1).

<sup>4</sup> IC § 15-13-5-3(b).

<sup>5</sup> IC § 15-13-5-3(c).

<sup>6</sup> IC § 15-13-5-3(d).

## Vacancies

Any vacancies on the board will be filled by the Governor.<sup>7</sup> The period of the unexpired term for which an individual serves after appointment may not be considered in determining the number of years they have served in a twelve (12) year period for purposes of the term cap.<sup>8</sup>

## Certification to Vote

### *Who Must Apply*

If an organization wants to be certified to vote, the organization must apply to **ISDA's Director**.<sup>9</sup>

### *Certification Checklist*

**ISDA's Director** shall certify the organization only if **all** the following apply:

- organization is an agricultural interest (part of one of the entities below)
  - The Farm Bureau, Inc.
  - The Farmers' Union
  - The Grange
  - The National Farmers Organization
  - A county or other regularly organized agricultural fair, including county 4-H fairs
  - The beef cattle industry
  - The dairy cattle industry
  - The grain growers' industry
  - The home economic clubs
  - The horticulture industry
  - Horse associations
  - The poultry industry
  - The sheep industry
  - The swine industry
  - The vegetable growers' industry
  - County cooperative extension boards, OR
  - Soil and water conservation districts<sup>10</sup>
- organization is regularly organized within the district;
- organization has at least ten (10) active members;
- organization has elected officers;
- organization has an annual meeting;
- organization has been in existence for at least one (1) year before the application for certification is filed with the **ISDA Director**
- before July 1 of the election year, organization files with ISDA's Director:
  - the name of the organization;
  - the names and addresses of the organization's officers;
  - the name, address, and title of the individual authorized by the organization to vote for them;
  - the number of the organization's active members;
  - a certification that the organization is eligible to be certified; and
  - information required by ISDA's Director<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> IC 15-13-5-4(a).

<sup>8</sup> IC 15-13-5-4(c).

<sup>9</sup> IC 15-13-5-9.

<sup>10</sup> **IC 15-1.5-1-1.**

<sup>11</sup> IC 15-13-5-10.

## ***Expiration of Certification***

A certification expires July 1 of the fourth year after it is issued by **ISDA's Director**.<sup>12</sup>

## ***Types of Organizations to Certify***

### **STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

If the organization has an affiliated organization:

1. in any county of a district, only the county affiliates may be certified.
2. within the district, only the district organization may be certified. The district organization may cast only one vote in a district election.

If (1) and (2) do not apply, the organization may be certified. The organization may cast only one vote in a district election.<sup>13</sup>

### **DISTRICT LEVEL ORGANIZATIONS**

1. If the organization has an affiliated organization in any county of a district, only the county affiliates may be certified.

If (1) does not apply, the organization may be certified. The organization may cast only one vote in a district election.<sup>14</sup>

### **COUNTY REPRESENTING AN AGRICULTURAL INTEREST**

The **ISDA Director** may not certify more than two organizations in a county representing an agricultural interest described in any subdivision of IC 15-1.5-1-2.<sup>15</sup>

If more than two organizations in a county representing an agricultural interest apply for certification, the **ISDA Director** may certify any two organizations, considering the following criteria:

- Order of application for certification
- Number of members of each organization
- How long each organization has been in existence
- Activity of each organization in promotion of agricultural interests, and
- Diversity of representation of interests within the agricultural community<sup>16</sup>

## **Convention**

### ***Notice***

Before September 1 of the year the term of a member representing a district expires, the **ISDA Director** shall notify each agricultural interest certified within the member's district that a convention will be held to elect the member to represent the district.

The **ISDA Director** shall state the following in the notice:

- the time and the place of the convention, and
- the name of the presiding officer

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<sup>12</sup> IC 15-13-5-10(b).

<sup>13</sup> IC 15-13-5-11.

<sup>14</sup> IC 15-13-5-12.

<sup>15</sup> IC 15-13-5-13(a).

<sup>16</sup> IC 15-13-5-13(b).

The **ISDA Director** shall choose a time and a place that will encourage maximum participation in the convention by certified agricultural interests.<sup>17</sup>

### ***Sending Credentials***

The **ISDA Director** shall send copies of the credentials of each individual entitled to vote in a convention to the following:

- The board member representing the district, and
- The individual who will preside over the district convention.<sup>18</sup>

### ***Presiding Officer***

The **ISDA Director** shall choose the individual to preside at a district convention from among the members of the State Fair Commission. As the Director “or the director’s designee” is a member of the Commission, the Director may simply delegate someone from ISDA to be the presiding officer.<sup>19</sup>

The presiding officer of the convention may vote in the case of a tie vote on any matter.<sup>20</sup>

### **Convention for election of member's successor**

During the month of September before the term of a member representing a district expires, the individuals designated to vote for the organization within an election within the district shall meet in a convention to elect the member’s successor.

Voting shall be by voice concurrent with the submission of a signed written ballot by each person voting indicating the person's vote.<sup>21</sup>

### ***Convention Election***

#### **SUFFICIENT CREDENTIALS TO VOTE**

Except if contested, the credentials issued are conclusive of the right to vote at the convention.<sup>22</sup>

#### **CONTESTING VALIDITY OF CREDENTIALS**

A person may contest the validity of the credentials of an individual by

- alleging facts constituting fraud or misrepresentation in securing the credentials
- the affidavit must be filed with the presiding officer of the convention not later than the date of the convention

If a person contests the validity of a delegate’s credentials, the validity of the credentials is determined by a majority vote of all delegates representing the county of the delegate whose credentials are contested.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> IC 15-13-5-14.

<sup>18</sup> IC 15-13-5-15.

<sup>19</sup> IC 15-13-5-16(a).

<sup>20</sup> IC 15-13-5-16(b).

<sup>21</sup> IC 15-13-5-17.

<sup>22</sup> IC 15-13-5-19(a).

<sup>23</sup> IC 15-13-5-19(b), (c).

## ***District Convention***

### **CREDENTIALS TO VOTE**

Except as provided in section 16 [*Presiding officer at convention*], an individual may not vote at a district convention if the individual does not have valid credentials issued under this chapter.<sup>24</sup>

### **CRITERIA FOR INDIVIDUAL TO BE ELECTED TO REPRESENT DISTRICT**

To be elected to represent a district, an individual must:

- be a resident within the district; and
- have the other qualifications to be a member of the board under this chapter.<sup>25</sup>

### **REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTRICT**

If an individual receives a majority of the votes cast at a convention, the individual is elected to represent the district.<sup>26</sup>

## **Elections**

### ***Certify the Election***

The presiding officer of a convention shall certify the election under section 21 [*Criteria for individual to be elected to represent district*] to the commission and to the board.<sup>27</sup>

### ***Create Rules***

The **ISDA Director** shall adopt rules for the business of a convention.<sup>28</sup>

ISDA may create administrative rules to help implement certifying elections.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> IC 15-13-5-20.

<sup>25</sup> IC 15-13-5-21(a).

<sup>26</sup> IC 15-13-5-21(b).

<sup>27</sup> IC 15-13-5-22.

<sup>28</sup> IC 15-13-5-18.

<sup>29</sup> IC § 15-13-5-23.