

Oak Creek Water District

Serving West Sedona Quality Water Since 1953

March 2022 www.oakcreekwater.org

Board Elections: There will be 4 of the 7 Board member positions up for election in November and the other 3 will be up for election in November of 2024. These are four-year terms. Now is the time to start thinking if you want to be of service to our District. These Board member positions are crucial in keeping Oak Creek Water District the most affordable and most purist water system in the State of Arizona.

Essentially each Board member is representing about 150 water customers. They are residents and customers just like you. They act like a second set of eyes to review what the District staff has done, issues they have encountered and what the future plans are and making sure that we are all on the same page in reaching the goals mentioned earlier. They receive Board meeting packets prior to the monthly meetings for review and have a chance to ask questions and get clarification prior to the meetings. If Board members have special skills, whether it be legal, financial, human resources, we encourage them to help with specific issues that come up.

If you are not the type to run for a Board member position that's understandable. We will still hope you start participating in monthly meetings throughout the year. It's never surprising when we get great feedback or a different viewpoint on an issue from a resident in attendance.

Election candidate packets, prepared by Yavapai County, will be available soon. Nomination papers can be submitted starting June 11, 2022 with the deadline being July 11, 2022. Based on our District size all candidate will need a required 5 signatures. Early voting will begin October 12, 2022 with Election day being November 8, 2022.

***** CONSTRUCTION *****

Arsenic Removal System and Tank Rehab: Construction Bids due March 17, 2022.

Water Main Replacement: Based on utility potholing and geotechnical soil borings, water main locations are being reviewed and will most likely be placed in the same trench as the original water mains but shifted a few feet. The cost of avoiding rock versus the future contractor required to install temporary above ground water mains is being analyzed. Based on current increase in material costs globally, the District will have two options: to cut back on the project limits or request more grant/loan funds. USDA recommended us to bid the entire project out and then work on additional funding if necessary. This will continually be discussed at future board meetings. Revised plans, 75% complete, will be on the website soon. Also there will be 11 x 17 printed out versions of these plans for viewing in the Office.

Service Response Time: This year more and more of our customers are experiencing the effects of the housing crisis on the District response time to service you. This is a major issue. Until we can find affordable housing for our operator customers might have to wait an extra day for their water to be turned off or back on due to a leak on their property. The District used to be able to turn customers water back on after lack of payment immediately upon receipt, but now customers are waiting an extra day. This is just a few examples of what has been going on. This Short Term Rental issue is serious and effecting our District. With construction coming up, this could be a major issue for more and more customers. Please contact this office or come to a Board Meeting if you have a solution. Screaming at this office is not a solution. Just saying.