A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Sunshine Drainage District, Broward County; amending ch. 63-609, Laws of Florida; providing an exception to general law; providing for members of the board of supervisors to be elected by qualified electors of the district; providing for staggered terms; requiring nonpartisan elections; providing requirements for candidates; providing duties of the supervisor of elections; providing a definition; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 16 of chapter 63-609, Laws of Florida, is created to read:

Section 16. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, members of the board of supervisors shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district. Election of board members by the qualified electors shall be the exclusive method for the election of the members of the board of supervisors.

(1) The board shall call an election at which the members of the board of supervisors will be elected. Such election shall be held in conjunction with the general election in November 2024. Candidates may qualify for the offices of board of supervisors, which shall be designated as seat 1, seat 2, and seat 3, each elected at large within the district. A candidate qualifying for election must e an elector and resident of the district. Each board member shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district for a term of 4 years, except that, at the first such election, the two members elected to seat 1 and seat 2 shall be elected for terms of 4 years each, and the member elected to seat 3 shall be elected for a term of 2 years. Thereafter, there shall be an election held every election held every 2 years for expiring terms and all members shall be elected for terms of 4 years each. The candidate receiving the most votes for each seat shall be elected. All elected board members must be qualified electors of the district. Members of the board of supervisors as of October 1, 2023, shall serve until the certification of the November 2024 general election results.

(2) Elections of board members by qualified electors held pursuant to this

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section shall be nonpartisan and shall be conducted in a manner prescribed by law for holding general elections. Board members shall assume the office on the second Tuesday following their election.

(3) Candidates seeking election to office by qualified electors under this subsection shall conduct their campaigns in accordance with the provisions of chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and shall file qualifying papers and qualify for individual seats in accordance with Section 99.061, Florida Statutes. Candidates shall pay a qualifying fee, which shall consist of a filing fee and election assessment or, as an alternative, shall file a petition signed by not less than 1 percent of the qualified electors of the district, and take the oath required in Section 99.021, Florida Statutes, with the Supervisor of Elections of Broward County. The amount of the filing fee is 3 percent of the annual salary of the office. The amount of the election assessment is 1 percent of the annual salary of the office. The filing fee and election assessment shall be distributed as provided in Section 105.031(3), Florida Statutes.

(4) The Supervisor of Elections of Broward County shall appoint the inspector and clerks of elections, prepare and furnish the ballots, designate polling places, and canvass the returns of the election of board members by qualified electors. The county canvassing board shall declare and certify the results of the election.

(5) The terms "qualified elector" and "elector" mean any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a permanent resident of the state, and a resident of the county within which the district lands are location when the registration books are open.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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