1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to the Sunshine Drainage District,

3   Broward County; amending ch. 63-609, Laws of Florida;

4   providing an exception to general law; providing for

5   members of the board of supervisors to be elected by

6   qualified electors of the district; providing for

7   staggered terms; requiring nonpartisan elections;

8   providing requirements for candidates; providing

9   election duties of the supervisor of elections;

10   providing a definition; providing an effective date.

11

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

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14   Section 1. Section 16 of chapter 63-609, Laws of Florida,

15   is created to read:

16   Section 16. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the

17   contrary, members of the board of supervisors shall be elected

18   by the qualified electors of the district. Election of board

19   members by the qualified electors shall be the exclusive method

20   for the election of the members of the board of supervisors.

21   (1) The board shall call an election at which the members

22   of the board of supervisors will be elected. Such election shall

23   be held in conjunction with the general election in November

24   2024. Candidates may qualify for the offices of board of

25   supervisors, which shall be designated as seat 1, seat 2, and

26 seat 3, each elected at large within the district. A candidate
27 qualifying for election must be an elector and resident of the
28 district. Each board member shall be elected by the qualified
29 electors of the district for a term of 4 years, except that, at
30 the first such election, the two members elected to seat 1 and
31 seat 2 shall be elected for terms of 4 years each, and the
32 member elected to seat 3 shall be elected for a term of 2 years.
33 Thereafter, there shall be an election held every election held
34 every 2 years for expiring terms and all members shall be
35 elected for terms of 4 years each. The candidate receiving the
36 most votes for each seat shall be elected. All elected board
37 members must be qualified electors of the district. Members of
38 the board of supervisors as of October 1, 2023, shall serve
39 until the certification of the November 2024 general election
40 results.
41   (2) Elections of board members by qualified electors held
42 pursuant to this section shall be nonpartisan and shall be
43 conducted in a manner prescribed by law for holding general
44 elections. Board members shall assume the office on the second
45 Tuesday following their election.
46   (3) Candidates seeking election to office by qualified
47 electors under this subsection shall conduct their campaigns in
48 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes,
49 and shall file qualifying papers and qualify for individual
50 seats in accordance with Section 99.061, Florida Statutes.

51 Candidates shall pay a qualifying fee, which shall consist of a
52 filing fee and election assessment or, as an alternative, shall
53 file a petition signed by not less than 1 percent of the
54 qualified electors of the district, and take the oath required
55 in Section 99.021, Florida Statutes, with the Supervisor of
56 Elections of Broward County. The amount of the filing fee is 3
57 percent of the annual salary of the office. The amount of the
58 election assessment is 1 percent of the annual salary of the
59 office. The filing fee and election assessment shall be
60 distributed as provided in Section 105.031(3), Florida Statutes.
61   (4) The Supervisor of Elections of Broward County shall
62 appoint the inspector and clerks of elections, prepare and
63 furnish the ballots, designate polling places, and canvass the
64 returns of the election of board members by qualified electors.
65 The county canvassing board shall declare and certify the
66 results of the election.
67   (5) The terms "qualified elector" and "elector" mean any
68 person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United
69 States, a permanent resident of the state, and a resident of the
70 county within which the district lands are location when the
71 registration books are open.
72   Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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