

9220 Governing Board Elections

Board Member Qualifications

Any person is eligible to be a member of the Governing Board, without further qualifications, if the person is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of California, a resident of the school district or, if applicable, the trustee area, a registered voter, and not legally disqualified from holding civil office. Any person who has been convicted of a felony involving the giving, accepting, or offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, under California law or the law of another state, the United States of America, or another country, is not eligible to be a candidate for office or elected as a Board member except when the person has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

A district employee elected to the Board shall resign from district employment before being sworn in or shall have the employment automatically terminated upon being sworn into office. (Education Code 35107)

The Board encourages all candidates to become knowledgeable about the role of board members. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with information that will enable them to understand the responsibilities and expectations of being a Board member, including information regarding available workshops, seminars, and/or training. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with the county election official's contact information and general information about school programs, district operations, and Board responsibilities.

Consolidation of Elections

To reduce costs associated with conducting elections, the Board may consolidate Board elections with the local municipal or statewide primary or general election in accordance with Elections Code 1302.

In addition, if a regularly scheduled Board election held other than on a statewide election date, results in a decrease in local voter turnout of 25 percent or more compared to the average local turnout for the previous four statewide general elections, the Board shall take action to consolidate Board elections with statewide elections. (Elections Code 14051, 14052)

In order to consolidate elections based on either circumstance described above, the Board shall adopt a resolution and submit it to the County Board of Supervisors for approval not later than 240 days prior to the date of the currently scheduled district election. (Elections Code 10404.5)

Whenever a regularly scheduled Board election is changed due to consolidation of elections, the terms of office of incumbent Board members shall be extended to align with the next applicable election. (Elections Code 10404.5)

Elections Process and Procedures

The district is divided into trustee areas and each trustee area shall be represented by a Board member who resides in and is elected by voters residing within that trustee area. Trustee areas shall be balanced by population as required by state and federal law.

Prior to March 1, following the year in which the results of each decennial federal census are released, the Board shall adjust the boundaries of the district's trustee areas based on population figures as validated by the Population Research Unit of the Department of Finance. (Education Code 5019.5)

To ensure ongoing compliance with the California Voting Rights Acts, the Board may review the district's board election method to determine whether any modification is necessary due to changes in the district's

9220 Governing Board Elections (continued)

population or any of its racial, color, or language minority group composition. The review shall be based on the Superintendent or designee's report to the Board after the release of each decennial federal census.

When the district's election method is to be changed, the Board shall hold public hearings in accordance with Elections Code 10100 before adopting a resolution at an open meeting specifying the change(s), and shall, in accordance with Education Code 5019, obtain approval from the county committee on school district organization having jurisdiction over the district.

The election method or trustee-area boundaries in effect at the beginning of a Board member's term shall be used when any vacancy that occurs during that term is to be filled, even if, during the term, the district has adopted "by- trustee area" election method or trustee area boundaries have been adjusted.

Any petition for a special election ordered pursuant to Education Code 5091 shall contain the county election official's estimate of the cost of conducting the special election, expressed on a per-student basis. (Education Code 5091)

Campaign Conduct

All candidates, including current Board members running as incumbents, shall abide by local, county, state, and federal requirements regarding campaign donations, funding, and expenditures.

In order to help protect the public's trust in the electoral process as well as the public's confidence in the Board and district, the Board encourages all candidates to sign and adhere to the principles in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices pursuant to Elections Code 20440. Candidates may not use district or school logos on campaign materials.

Statement of Qualifications

On the 125th day prior to the day fixed for the general district election, the Board secretary or designee shall deliver a notice, bearing the secretary's signature and district seal, to the county elections official describing both of the following: (Elections Code 10509)

1. The elective offices of the district to be filled at the general election and which offices, if any, are for the balance of an unexpired term.
2. Whether the district or the candidate is to pay for the publication of a statement of qualifications pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

Candidates for the Board may submit a candidate statement to the elections official for inclusion in the voter's pamphlet. Candidate statements shall be limited to no more than 200 words. (Elections Code 13307)

When the elections official allows for the electronic distribution of candidate statements, a candidate for the Board may, in addition to or instead of submitting a candidate statement for inclusion in the mailed voter's pamphlet, prepare and submit a candidate statement for electronic distribution.

The district shall assume no part of the cost of printing, handling, translating, mailing, or electronically distributing candidate statements filed pursuant to Elections Code 13307. As a condition of having candidate statements included in the hard copy and/or electronic voter's pamphlet, the district may require candidates to pay their estimated pro rata share of these costs to the district in advance pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

9220 Governing Board Elections (continued)

Tie Votes in Board Member Elections

Before each election, the Board shall decide whether to resolve a potential tie by lot or by a runoff election. If the Board has decided to resolve a tie by lot, the Board shall, immediately after the election, notify the candidates who received the tie votes of the time and place where the candidates or their representatives should appear before the Board. The Board at that time shall determine the winner by lot. If the Board has decided to resolve a tie with a runoff election, the Board shall schedule the runoff election in accordance with law. (Education Code 5016)

Board Approved:

April 13, 2023

May 10, 2018

August 14, 2007

September 25, 2003

Effective Date: July 1, 2004