

Board Bylaws

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS

Any person is eligible to be a Governing Board member, without further qualifications, if he/she is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the state, a resident of the school district, 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 he/she has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

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.

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

When possible, the Board shall consolidate Board elections with the local municipal or statewide primary or general election. Board election procedures shall be conducted in accordance with state and federal law.

Electing Board Members

Board members may reside anywhere within the district's boundaries and shall be elected by all voters in the district.

Campaign Conduct

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 principals in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices pursuant to Election Code 20440.

Statement of Qualifications

The district shall assume no part of the cost of printing, handling, translating, or mailing candidate statements filed pursuant to Election Code 13307. As a condition of having candidate statements included in the 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.

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

On the 125th day prior to the day fixed for the general district election, the Board secretary or his/her 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

Candidate statements shall be limited to no more than 200 words.

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.

Tie Votes in Board in Member Elections

Whenever a tie makes it impossible to determine which of two or more candidates has been elected to the Board, the Board shall immediately notify the candidates who received the tie votes of the time and place where the candidates or representatives should appear before the Board and the tie will be determined by a coin toss. (Education Code 5016)

- (cf. 9224 - Oath of Affirmation)
- (cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)
- (cf. 9110 - Terms of Office)
- (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
- (cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
- (cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 1006 Qualifications for holding office, county board of education
- 5000-5033 Elections
- 5220-5231 Elections
- 5300-5304 General provisions (conduct of elections)
- 5320-5329 Order and call of elections
- 5340-5345 Consolidation of elections
- 5360-5363 Election notice
- 5380 Compensation (of election officer)
- 5390 Qualifications of voters
- 5420-5426 Cost of elections
- 5440-5442 Miscellaneous provisions
- 7054 Use of district property
- 35107 Eligibility; school district employees

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

35177 Campaign expenditures or contributions
35239 Compensation of governing board member of districts with less than 70 ADA

ELECTIONS CODE

20 Public office eligibility
1302 Local elections, school district election
2201 Grounds for cancellation
4000-4008 Elections conducted wholly by mail
10010 District boundaries
10400-10418 Consolidation of elections
10509 Notice of election by secretary
10600-10604 School district elections
13307 Candidate's statement
13308 Candidate's statement contents
13309 Candidate's statement, indigency
14025-14032 California Voting Rights Act
14050-14057 California Voter Participation Rights Act
20440 Code of Fair Campaign Practices

GOVERNMENT CODE

1021 Conviction of crime
1097 Illegal participation in public contract
12940 Nondiscrimination, Fair Employment and Housing Act
81000-91014 Political Reform Act

PENAL CODE

68 Bribes
74 Acceptance of gratuity
424 Embezzlement and falsification of accounts by public officers
661 Removal for neglect or violation of official duty

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 2, Section 2 Voters, qualifications
Article 7, Section 7 Conflicting offices
Article 7, Section 8 Disqualification from office

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 52

10301-10508 Voting Rights Act

COURT DECISIONS

Rey v. Madera Unified School District, (2012) 203 Cal. App. 4th 1223
Randall v. Sorrell, (2006) 126 S.Ct. 2479
Sanchez v. City of Modesto, (2006) 145 Cal. App. 4th 660
Dusch v. Davis, (1967) 387 U.S. 112

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 49 (2002)
83 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 181 (2000)
81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 98 (1998)
69 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 290 (1986)

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Legal Alert on the Impact of Senate Bill No. 415 on School Board Elections, January 2017

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

WEB SITES

California Secretary of State's Office: <http://www.ss.ca.gov>
Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>
Institute for Local Self Government: <http://www.islg.org>

(6/88 3/92) 6/97
Revised 11/12/97
Revised 8/12/98
(2/98 3/01) 11/06
5/9/07
10/13
6/22/16
9/27/17